

CompuClub

Where Atari owners belong.

ATARI PC AND OTHER VIEWS FROM C.E.S.

Atari has made more news in this years C.E.S.(Consumer Electronics Show) than ever before in its history!!

Atari is now a full line computer company!

Announced at the last (early Jan) C.E.S. by Atari are the following New products

65XE..the upgraded version (new keyboard, new look) of the 800XL. About \$100.00

65XEM.. the 65XE with a special 8 voice music chip to be available in mid summer

130XE..this is a 128k version of the 800XL. Atari claims full software compatibility. About \$200.00

XEP..This is actually a portable 130XE with a 5" monitor, 128k of RAM, and a 1050 disk drive built in. About \$400.00

Four new monitors including on of the most elegant solutions to a problem we have ever seen from a Computer company. The monochrome monitor includes an 80 col. card to display a full 80 col. from ANY Atari computer. About \$100.00

When? well the computers will be here very quickly were told. Delivery should start in about a month for most of the 8 bit units.

MORE NEW STUFF/ BIGGER IS BETTER

he ST series.

Motorola 68000 chip, 512k of RAM, 16bit, 196,806 ROM, AWESOME !!

These are just a few of the buzz words you will be seeing over and over again as the magazines report on Atari at CES over the next month or so.

The facts:

In about 4-5 months Atari will begin shipping some great new machines, The ST series. this series consists of either two or three machines (depends on who at Atari you speak to). The infomation about the machines is as follows

130ST... 128k, 16 bit, GEM operating system, able to use the new three and one half inch drives. This unit has output to four types of video display TV, RGB, Composit, or Monochrome. It offers 512 colors and three sound channels with MIDI interface. Suggested list price \$399.95

260ST (This is the one in doubt) same as above with 256k RAM. Suggested list price \$499.95

530ST Same as above with 512k RAM. Suggested list price \$599.95

2 new disk drives, 3 1/2" format with storage capacitys from 250k to 500k and at prices less than the price of the 1050! (Note: these drives are for the ST series only!)

A new three and one half inch hard disk (10 meg) for \$400.00

GEM is the graphic envirement mananger developed by Digital Resources Inc. This is a MacIntosh type operating systems which offers a full complement of pull down menus, Windows, and a varity of imput devices i.e. keyboard, mouse, light pen, etc.

Each of he above units has 196,806 bits of data stored in ROM with the possiablity of another 128k loaded in by cartridge.

Other news from the front, includes the fact that Atari has developed a spectacular (according to those who have seen it, I haven't) new peice of software called Infinity.This is a truly relational database with many of the charistics of a Symphony. It is reported to be able to store hundreds of thousands of peices of data. The program was designed to work on the ST series but we are told Atari is developing a version to work on the XE series. Atari has promised us that CompuClub will serve as a Beta test sight for this package and we will keep you fully informed.

Cont'd Page Four.

BOUNTY BOB STRIKES BACK!

by
BIG FIVE
Cartridge
List Price \$49.95
Club Price \$37.45
Arcade

About 14 months ago the best game on the market for Atari was called Miner 2049er. It was far and away better than anything else available at that time. The publishers promised us a sequel to be called Scrapper Caper. In the last 14 months they have renamed it, redesigned it, and improved it. Bounty Bob Strikes Back was finally leased this month. Like its pedecessor it is a GREAT GAME.

Bounty Bob returns in this game to to continue the fight against the mutant organisms that have multiplied and taken over a mine. The mine has twenty five caverns and each is at least as tough as any in the old Miner 2049er. Make no mistake this is a tough game! The price seemed high to me at first but when I looked at the game and realized that this was a 40k bank select cartridge (that means a 40k program will work in a 16k Atari) I began to suspect that it might be worth the money. A quick look at the high score routines made it a sure thing. This one is well worth the \$37.45 we are charging! In fact it may even be worth the \$49.95 list price.

SALE SALE SALE

CompuServe Starter Kits	\$25.00
Koala Pad touch tablets thats 1/2 price)	\$49.95
Shamus (disk only) limited quantities	\$9.95
U.S. Doublers one for two for	\$52.95 \$95.00
Dallas Quest limited quantities	\$20.00
Monkey Wrench II	\$22.45
The pharoah's Curse disk only limited quantities	\$9.95
HAPPY 1050	\$175.00

These prices are good for orders placed by phone or mailed during Feb or March ONLY

KOALA PAD

BY:KOALA

HDWR

List price (Rom)99.95

Club (Sale) \$49.95

If your impressed by uazzling color graphics that ATARI is capable of producing and tried to duplicate some of these only to find out the hours and hours of work required you'll be pleased with the invention of a device called a graphics tablet.

While the graphics tablet isn't capable of transferring your mental images onto the video screen it sure simplifies the process of creating full color displays.

The KOALA PAD has two control buttons beside the drawing surface. These buttons come in handy as the secret of producing good drawings on any tablet is to watch the screen instead of the tablet. The surface of the tablet is bumpy making it hard to draw perfect lines but this is a necessary evil with all tablets because of the electronics used to sense your position.

Included with the tablet is a full feature drawing editor cartridge called MICROILLUSTRATOR

MICROILLUSTRATOR allows access to all 128 possible colors although only 4 can be on screen at a time. You can draw circles, discs, boxes and frames in addition to a number of special effect line widths and patterns. There is also a mirror image and magnify mode. All MICROILLUSTRATOR functions are made from a full color, icon menu. This is a nice feature for young children using the program.

To find out more about the KOALA PAD we recommend the following articles, ANTIC MAGAZINE, September 1984 page

38, COMPUTE, October 1984 page 106 and ELECTRONIC GAMES, February 1985 page 18.

... for some real fun...

Our hats off to ANTIC magazine !!

The October issue, page 37 has a graphics converter program written by Charles Jackson that allows you to transfer picture files between MICROILLUSTRATOR (or just about any graphics tablet), MICRO-PAINTER, MOVIE MAKER and FUN WITH ART. With this transfer capability you now can use the best features from many graphic utilities. ANTIC also describes a technique for saving tablet pictures in an uncompact format with the use of the INSERT and CLEAR keys. This is a great article and complete type-in program.

Thanks ANTIC for a job well done.

Microleague Baseball

by

Microleague Sports Assoc.

Disk only

List Price \$39.95

Club Price \$29.95

Sports/Strategy

I have just had the pleasure of playing Microleague Baseball for the first time and I think I'm hooked already. This game offers everything a hot stove league fan could want. Not only is it statistically accurate but it looks like it was written for an arcade game player. This is a game that allows you to manage one of the great teams from history, or any team from the last baseball season. You decide the lineup, choose when to pitch hit, bunt, steal, etc... The computer will act out your orders on screen. The graphics are great! The action is statistically accurate. There are already some leagues around here made up of 7 or 8 guys who play a round robin of games, and then go out to celebrate after their "World Series" ends in early April. This one is a must for the baseball fan who thinks they really understand the game.

YOUR PERSONAL NET WORTH**SCARBOROUGH SYSTEMS**

DISK

List Price \$79.95

Club Price \$59.95

Home/Business Finance

YPNW is one of the very few home accounting packages on the market that is truly easy enough for home use. Yet this same package offers enough in the way of capacity to make it useful to a small business as an informal financial record keeping program. This machine language program is impressive in all areas from its quality packaging to the quality of its instruction. The storage ability of the system is far more than others of its type. You can handle 10 different check books in addition to credit cards and Net Worth allows you to simply reconcile each at the end of each month. Net Worth will also allow you to keep over 400 financial categories and over 3000 records on a single disk. Beyond the usual financial info you can keep a household inventory including the purchase price, current market value, and whether or not an item is insured on the same data disk. In short this is one of the most complete programs of its type on the market and we recommend it strongly.

ASYLUM

by

SCREENPLAY

GRAPHIC ADVENTURE

LIST PRICE \$39.95

CLUB PRICE \$29.95

Disk or cassette

Asylum has been released for over a year and for one reason or another we have not taken the time to review this fine adventure. The scenario opens with you in an institution where the inmates are suffering from D&D fever, a mental disorder caused by too many role playing games. The disease is widespread and more and more of the world's population is going over the brink of reality into a fantasy world. The only thing you live for is to pick up things or light torches and find treasures. The people who have designed these institutions say the only cure is to get through the maze and into reality. The next problem lies in the fact you are not insane and you know the world is doomed unless you can get out.

Asylum is by far one of the best graphic adventures that I have had the pleasure to review. The strengths of this program are many; to name a few, you have a smooth scrolling 3-D maze, highly detailed graphic representations of rooms and objects that you encounter. One of the finer features is a parser that accepts full sentences with objects and verbs. If this is not enough, you may view the large vocabulary at your fingertips just by a single keystroke. Asylum is challenging and

entertaining. You will enjoy many hours of exploring the maze of asylum, it's rooms and characters. But beware, the author has many tricks up his sleeve. Only the truly devious will escape the Asylum.

**TIPS and BUGS:
SUMMER GAMES**

There is a glitch in Epyx's Summer Games. The pole vault event may be one of the hardest of the eight events, if you try to vault the way the instructions suggest. But did you ever think, maybe we could vault under the bar. Let's set the bar at the 6.20 height, grip the pole low, and vault as you usually would. If your timing is right and you let go of the pole at the right time you will get a successful vault. Don't tell the kids maybe we can win one event anyway.

The Incredible Laboratory

Sunburst Communications, Inc.
List price \$39.95
Club price \$29.95

Starting to feel like you and your family are becoming one with your MTV? Then it's time to grab a beaker of Goose Grease and head to The Incredible Laboratory. Here everyone from Cyndi Lauper to Lawrence Welk fans get a chance to sharpen their problem-solving skills. In yet another award-winning software package from Sunburst (this outfit must have its trophy shelves overflowing) players are given the opportunity to learn note taking skills (relearn in the case of us older players). You must discover which of a bevy of assorted substances (from the afore mentioned Goose Grease to Green Mold) creates each of six basic features in a monster. The novice mad scientist (you) then gets to select and mix up the chemicals. Then some rather awesome graphics take over -the Bunsen burners heat up and from an ominous vapor your personal nightmare nasty emerges (never knew that you had a proclivity for lizard feet clad in high heels, did you?). A challenge option allows you to test your observations. In a humorous take-off on the old game show routine "Will the real monster please step forward?" the player can determine whether he/she is enough of a Dr. Frankenstein to go on the the apprentice level. There you are permitted to go crazy with groupings of noxious chemicals. Don't get whipped up in too much frenzied experimentation or your data collecting will suffer! Once again the challenge option allows to test your abilities alone or with an opponent. Now you're ready for the scientist level but this time all of the chemicals will produce entirely different monster parts each this level is selected. The Incredible Laboratory is one place where students of all ages can develop some serious problem solving skills and have one heck of a good time to boot.

by
Linda Chester

LOOK ON COMPU SERVE: NEAT STUFF

UP 'n DOWN

by SEGA
cartridge/arcade
list Price \$29.95
Club Price \$22.45

reviewed by Wally Newell
Up'n Down has to be one of the worst games I have seen in a long time. Winner Second runner up DOG OF THE MONTH

If you're a subscriber to CompuServe you'll want to take a look at one of the new files offered in the ATARI-SIG download files. This is a neat little demo called CESDMO.XMO. To access this file go directly to the ATARI-SIG by typing GPCS-132 at the '!' prompt. This file is in the graphics and sound section. If your not on CompuServe yet you're missing some fun. This month we're having a sale on the CompuServe Starter kits to make it even easier. \$25.00 for Feburary ONLY !!!

CLUB NOTES

We have been receiving a lot of calls complaining that people cannot get through on our '800' lines. It seems there always busy. Well, I certainly wouldn't complain about that, but I can see were you might. As part of a solution, let me suggest, that we will no longer take long questions on the '800' lines. If you have a quick question or an order fine. But if it is not very quick then please use the '617-879-5232' line. By the way, I will be on the 617-879-5232 line almost exclusively. The people on the '800' lines will be Julie and Debbie to take orders.

Our disk catalog developed a few bugs on the way to the disk duplicator last month and ther has been a delay in getting them out to new members. They should be in the mail within a day or two of this newsletter though.

Its been about 2 years since we raised our shipping charges and in that time the price of boxes, tape, shippers, and UPS have gone up several times so..... in about a month or two (We belive in plenty of warning) we will raise our shipping charges by \$.50 per order. Still quite a deal, when you can get a monitor and a disk drive shipped for \$2.50. That's all the bad news you will hear for a few months, on to the good.

Atari approved our User Group Application, and we are now on-board with them. In fact, its beginning to look like we might be a test sight for the new super business program from Atari, "Infinity." We'll keep you posted.

Thom

Newsstand Watch

This month all three Atari magazines. have something worth reading. Of course the most interest has to go to the new Atari Explorer, this is the successor to the Atari Connection that the old atari was putting out. This new periodical has as you might expect the most info about the new Atari lineup and in general continues with the helpful line taken by the Connection.

Antic this month offers a type it in program to dump pictures to your printer. In addition they are continuing their series on the bus connector in the back of the XL line, as well as several other interesting articles.

Analog is offering a through review of a group of little known word processors and the first non Atari written review of the new products to appear in any of the major magazines. But perhaps the most important thing to many of you is the fact that Analog has come up with a source for Printer/Drivers for Atari Writer. Gary Furr, the designer of the AtariWriter wrote and sold a set of routines that allowed the word processor tow work with various non-atari printers. These routines are now available from directly from Gary, with documentation.

Supported are the following printers:

Atari 1020 & 1027,IDS-480 Microprism, EPSON MX 80/100, EPSON RX 80/100, EPSON FX 80/100,C.Itoh ProWriter 8510, Okidata 80,82/83,84,82/93, Mannesmann Tally Spirit 80, Mannesmann Tally 160/180L, Diablo 620, Panasonic , NEC 8023A, Gemini 10 & 10X, BMC PB 401, Silver Reed 770

According to Analog cost is \$10.00 (cashiers check or money order) from Gary W. Furr P.O. Box 1073 Mountain View, CA 94042

Specify which driver you require.

**EITORIAL:
SOFTWARE RENTALS**

One of the most misunderstood and yet talked about subjects in the computer world is why does the software need to be priced so high. We have seen over the past few months many good programs start to drop into a more affordable price range, thus allowing us to buy more and enjoy more. Yet we still have a problem, and prices could be better.

One of the ways we can help the software house is by supporting a new bill before the Senate. This piece of legislation would prohibit rentals of computer software unless authorized by the manufacturer of the software. It would not affect rental offers or down-load systems as long as the software house OK'd the transfer.

In our opinion commercial software rentals are often an invitation for program piracy. It's true the fees charged are usually small but the software developer receives little or no compensation thus forcing them to charge more per product sold, slowing development of more products.

The Computer Software Protection Act has been introduced by Senator Charles Mathias (MD) and Senator Patrick Leahy (VT), the Senators have worked closely with an organization called ADAPSO, which is a trade organization of about 700 companies in the computer industry and whose president is Jerome Dreyer. The bill is expected to be acted upon early in 1985, and is alot like the protection law passed in 1984 for the recording industry.

If this bill is acted upon we should all be the winners through better products at a more reasonable price.

Cont. from Pg. 1

Other News from CES.

Datasoft has purchased the group of programs called Alternate Reality. They should be marketed by the third quarter.

Broderbund has delayed Print Shop until March 1.

Epyx has announced that they will be marketing both Ballblazer and Rescue at Fractulas written by Lucas Films. Neither program has a release date yet and both will be on disk

Several new companies (to the Atari market) are promising products for The new Atari machine after seeing them at CES. Its expected that re will be about 25 to 30 titles for the new ST machines when they are released.

BACK TO BASICS
accounting packages

by Peachtree

disk only

List Price \$99.95 per module

Club Price \$74.95 per module

GL, AR, AP Three pack \$150.00 Club

This is far and away the most sophisticated accounting package available for the Atari to date. The same system is offered quite successfully on the IBM, APPLE, and Commodore systems. The system offers all the features most of us have been looking for with the most important feature, true business software support available through Peachtree, a major name in the business accounting field. The tutorial that comes with any of the package make accounting fairly easy, even for those of us who get uncomfortable when we see a piece of ledger paper. Printed forms are all you could ask for in a package of this price. In short this is truly the only choice for the serious business who wants to keep his books with his Atari. For those of you who have worked with the Atari Bookkeeper the specs. on this system are some of the best news yet.

TWO drives required

Maximum number of accounts in chart of accounts 254

GENERAL LEDGER:

maximum number of checks: 1,500 per disk

Approximate number of entries (to two accounts, with no cash entries) per month 850.

Approximate number of entries (to two accounts, with 30 cash sales entries) per month: 760

ACCOUNTS REVEIVABLE:

Maximum number of customers: 175

Approximate number of payments: 450.

Approximate number of payments 450

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Maximum accounts in A/P Chart of accounts: 65

Maximum number of vendors: 200

*Approximate number of invoices (distributed to one account) 350

*Approximate number of payments (distributed to two accounts) 110

* The disk space is dynamically distributed. Actual capacities will depend on the ratios of account distribtions and the number vendors. Capacities given are with the maximum number of vendors on file.

TAX ADVANTAGE

by

Arrays Inc./Continental Software

List price: 69.95

Club price: 52.95

Disk only/financial

Welcome citizens, to that not so great time of year when all of us common folk are at the mercy of the IRS. Over the last three years I have been fortunate enough to use Tax Advantage and save a good deal of hard earned cash. My experiences with Tax Advantage have always been favorable, I wouldn't do my taxes without it.

This is a feature packed piece of software that is a bargain for anyone who needs the services of an accountant only at tax time. Many hours spent at the accountants office can be saved, and this is money in your pocket. Those of us who wish to fill out and file our returns on our own may do so with this package. You may fill in and itemize each line, and maintain an electronic record, which obviously is its strongest point. If you have a printer, you may be able to write the cost of this software off. Tax Advantage will allow you to fill out most of the forms and schedules normally required to file a return. You also can very quickly plan your taxes throughout an entire fiscal year and then be even more tax efficient in 1986.

The manual is simple and easy to use; if you have used the program in previous years, just a simple review should be all that's necessary. The documentation is written for both the newcomers to the electronic world of computers or a long time user. I find that Tax Advantage pays for itself many times over and could even justify my owning a computer for that purpose alone.

HOMEPAK

by

BATTERIES INCLUDED

LIST PRICE 49.95

CLUB PRICE 37.45

DISK ONLY

HomePak is a drastic departure from the run of the mill home management software. This is a three part program which offers a modem program (HOME TERM). A word processor (HOME TEXT) and an information management package (HOME FIND). You will quickly learn to both love and hate this package. I found the package very weak in several areas; however in all fairness, I must say, for the price you're paying, this trilogy of programs is a bargain. The package is well put together and fairly well thought out. My major complaint with all three pieces of software is the lack of buffer or user workspace.

This lack of buffer is important for several reasons; 1. when you use a word processor for even the simplest of applications you find that you will quickly eat up what little RAM you may have available. The user manual states that in HomeText (the word processor) you have only 8350 bytes of buffer available, on my old 800 w/Mosaic 64k Select it is only 6620. I find that was not the only difference between the manual and the facts. I am rather discouraged by the poor documentation, I'll expand on that later. 2. Another feature I consider annoying is the redefined character font. It seems that the author of this program was not satisfied with the standard Atari character font and designed his own; this would be fine if it were easier on my eyes, but it isn't!! You do have the option of turning this new font off but that does not free up the memory it was using. Please, more buffer and less frosting, the font is cute at best.

The text processor fairly easy to use and as complete as most of the competition. I rate it in the middle of the pack and call it fair. If you are intending to use this word processor "right out of the box", you can with out too many frustrations. A major plus is the ability to change the screen defaults to accommodate your own personal needs. The ability to change the text and background color is also big plus and should be in all word processors for the Atari. Some televisions are susceptible to radio interference from the other peices of computr hardware that we use and by changing the contrast, or the color of the text and background, you may be able to relieve the eyestrain caused by this interference. (NOTE: there is a tip showing you how to do this with Letter Perfect elsewhere in this newsletter) Also, on some TV sets you may find a

condition called overscan, causing you to lose the vertical line of letters closest to the left edge of the screen. HomePak allows you to compensate for this by moving the left margin over one column to the right. You will find many neat features such as windows from which to make such selections as block move, string search and replace. HomeText has header and footer capabilities. You have options from which to select and format your thesis, resume', term paper, or simple letter like forced page ejects, automatic page numbering, and the most critical feature that I look for, the ability to configure the program for your particular printer. All of which is fully implemented with this package. Lastly, you have the ability to preview your text prior to printing, the only obstacle is you must have at least 5400 bytes of buffer free to work with, remember I said my 800 only had 6620 bytes free when empty. So, draw your own conclusions.

The speed of moving about the limited amount of text the buffer would hold was quick. Block commands were executed quickly, and without hesitation.

HomeFind is even more unique than HomeText. This is the first conversational database I have ever seen; the manual calls it a "'natural language' information manager". The manual also states it was written to make the novice user feel comfortable with storing information electronically. However I found that the program required some in depth study and use before I could use it effectively. There are no report generators provided, so don't expect it to be much more than a recipe, maintenance, or dates to remember type file.

After you have experimented with HomeFind for a while you will note how unique this database really is. To enter record's you are required to give a record name followed by an "'". When you wish to add a field you

must type the record (object) name plus the apostrophe followed by the field name plus apostrophe and then the data itself. The first time you read this you will probably scratch your head and wonder what the heck you are doing. I assure you that it isn't that hard to understand and you should master this program within a few short hours. The most powerful feature I found was the ability to call up all the the information on a particular subject by just typing the name of the subject. Now, if this isn't enough you can also format the data to produce labels, even though you do not have a

label or report generator. You may also write letters to different people or companies and merge the letter from HomeText with address's in Homefind. Although HomeFind is unique and could be quite useful it to is limited by the lack of memory. Using HomeFind you will notice that you are limited to only 9700+ bytes of storage per disk. This lack of storage is very wasteful of memory and coupled with the fact that you cannot use the data disk with other files means this package will do more for disk sales than for your record keeping.

Now we come to the last and perhaps the best of the three programs that make up HOMEPAK. unfortunatly, the first thing that you will notice about HOMETERM is the lack of memory again!! You only have 7700 bytes of available memory for a capture (snapshot) file. Several time while testing this packgae I have run of memory while on a large bulletin board accessing the list of available files for downloading, or on a large database file that I wish to store for offline study. A small buffer like that is just not adequate for my needs. Other than that one flaw I enjoyed HomeTerm as an easy to use and full featured home terminal program. The fact that you can use it with virtually any modem, makes this a pretty impressive terminal program.

HomePak is full of many pluses and a few important flaws. The ability to modify most of the program to fit your specific needs is a big plus. I also found that the manual could have been written in a little more detail. The instructions given for HomeFind could have been structured better, and the comparisons should be made between the XL series & the 400/800 computers in reference to buffer space. Consider this package carefully, for it may be

the buy of the century or just another program depends solely on your needs. Normally I wouldn't take time to speak out in one of these columns, but I feel this is an exception. I have been very aggravated by the promotional campaign for HomePak. I belong to the CompuServe Atari Sig and each time I logged on and read messages for the past three months I found myself in the midst of a barrage of HomePak hype. I know that for a product to be successful you have to let the public know it exists and I know the author works on the Sig but give me a break! I do want to spend \$6.25/hr. + connect charges to hear about HomePak over and over for months before its even released. Please guys give us a break and lighten up on the commercial messages.

DOG OF THE MONTH

LITTLE WASKAL

by
MICROLIGN ENGINEERING, INC.

List price \$ 18.00
Club Price \$ Priceless

We recently came across an advertisement for a device to check your joystick. This device claims easy operation, audible tone, led display, custom test leads, complete tune-up and trouble shooting instructions. And, it even comes complete with two A-A batteries. You can have all this for a mere \$18.00, plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling.

We will offer you an alternative to this device, and ask that you consider both before making up your mind. The program below also tests your joystick. We offer many of the same features as the LITTLE WASKAL

```

2 GRAPHICS 3:POKE 752,1:POKE 710,0:POKE 708,66:POKE 709,152:GOTO 999
5 A=24:B=14:N=108:GOTO 200
6 A=24:B=6:N=91:GOTO 200
7 A=25:B=10:N=96:GOTO 200
9 A=16:B=14:N=60:GOTO 200
10 A=16:B=6:N=72:GOTO 200
11 A=15:B=10:N=64:GOTO 200
13 A=20:B=15:N=121:GOTO 200
14 A=20:B=5:N=83:GOTO 200
15 A=20:B=10:N=0
200 IF C<>A OR D<>B THEN COLOR 4:DRAWTO 20,10:COLOR 2:DRAWTO A,B
230 COLOR 1:PLOT 20,10:PLOT A,B:SOUND 1,N,10,12
300 POKE 710,66-STRIG(0)*66
500 POKE 656,1:POKE 657,5
510 ? "STICK(0)=";STICK(0),
520 ? "STRIG(0)=";STRIG(0)
999 C=A:D=B:GOTO STICK(0)
    
```

This program is a modified version of one found in the Second Book of Atari published by Compute Books. Since we didn't include two A-A batteries with our program we added some extra color and sound. With this program you can even play songs while testing your joystick.

If you like follow the example below...(the arrows indicate position of the stick)

```

ROW↓   ROW↓   ROW↓   YOUR↘   BOAT→   GENT-▶   -LY ↗
DOWN→  THE↑   STREAM.....↑
    
```

As for us we chose the type in program and kept our \$20.00. We had money for gasoline for our outboard motor...BYE !!!!

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* *This rate is limited to USA and
* its possessions. Canadian Rates add
* $5.00 for postage and handling.
* Overseas add $10.00/18 issues.
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JOYSTICK TROUBLE?

CHECK IT OUT WITH.....

THE **LITTLE-WASKAL**, A CONTINUITY TESTER DESIGNED FOR JOYSTICKS. FOR USE WITH ANY "ATARI" COMPATIBLE SWITCH-TYPE JOYSTICK. THIS ALSO INCLUDES COMMODORE-VIC, SEARS TELE-GAME, AND ALL SWITCH-TYPE REPLACEMENT JOYSTICK CONTROLLERS

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PAT. PEND.

LITTLE Waskal

TM * ATARI, COMMODORE-VIC, & SEARS TELE-GAME ARE TRADEMARKS OF THOSE COMPANIES

MICROLIGN
ENGINEERING, INC.

The Pond

Sunburst
Disk only
List Price \$39.95
Club Price \$29.95

Chances are that by now you have a real good case of the mid-winter blahs. Fortunately, SunBurst and CompuClub have come to the rescue again! We have some educational software this month guaranteed to get you and your computer racing. The Pond, one of many award-winning programs from Sunburst Communications, offers kids from 7 to 70 a nifty challenge in problem solving. Nobody gets bored with this one! Your mission is to come to the aid of a small green web-footed amphibian of the suborder Diplasiocoela (yep...it's a frog) who is lost in a pond of lily pads. To do this you must figure out a pattern of jumps that will get the frog across the pond. If you miss, the unhappy hopper hits the water with a SPLASH! The practice option provides six levels of difficulty to get you primed for the real challenge of a game. Here you collect points by matching your frog with your opponent's little entry. The successful player will win a frog's undying affection by negotiating the lily pads with the fewest number of moves. In the process the player learns to recognize patterns and formulate and test hypotheses.

by
Linda Chester

WORD FLYER

By ELECTRONIC ARTS
Disk only
Education
List Price \$40.00
Club Price \$30.00

Word flyer was developed by Childware, which is a programming group within ELECTRONIC ARTS. The goal was to help young children practice reading and vocabulary skills by matching words or colors and words.

On lower levels the object is to recognize letters of the alphabet and higher levels introduce the child to a built in list of words from the programs' 2000 word dictionary. This is all done with a full color display and added sound. Most review of WORD FLYER state that the graphics are not overpowering, this is an understatement.

I can see what was attempted. There are many so called educational products that have tried to disguise the learning process with color graphics and have ended up sliding into a full blown arcade game with learning the last objective. I don't feel that WORD FLYER quite did this, however the graphics are just too simplistic with not enough animation to catch the interest of even the youngest child.

I also feel that word recognition with nothing else isn't much of a learning exercise. If the child doesn't know what the word is to begin with what good is it to recognize that word and match it with another that is equally meaningless.

We give ELECTRONIC ARTS and their Childware group a rousing..."NICE TRY--NOW FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED."

MONKEY WRENCH II

\$22.45

A SALE !!

This cartridge (for either the right, left, or center slot of any Atari will give you access to 33 features including:

- *line numbering
- *re-numbering basic lines
- *deletion of line numbers
- *variable and current value display
- *location of every string occurrence
- *string exchange
- *move lines
- *copy lines
- *up and down scrolling of basic programs
- *special line formats and page numbering
- *disk directory display
- *margin change
- *home key functions
- *cursor exchange
- *upper case lock
- *hex conversion
- *decimal conversion
- *machine language monitor
- *dos functions
- *function keys

In addition the Monkey Wrench II contains a machine language monitor with 16 commands that can be used to interact with the 6502 processor in your Atari

MILLIPEDE

BY:ATARI
Cartridge
List Price \$49.95
Club Price \$29.95

It's like Centipede revisited. This time there's more bugs, spiders, flies and all kinds of critters to test your reflexes.

There is no time to rest in this one. Great full color, and I mean full color, graphics and a multitude of sounds make for non-stop excitement.

You can wipe out an army of bugs by shooting one of the DDT pods that appear on the screen. You should only use these after the game gets going to get the maximum advantage. I have't even told you about the swarms of bees that occasionally swoop down and across the screen. You'll be lucky to survive these. Just keep firing, they'll pass by soon...won't they?

Millipede is a great extension of Centipede with more color, more action, and more excitement. I highly recommend this to any arcade game fan.

TIPS: ADD COLOR TO LETTER PERFECT V 6.0

The new version of letter perfect (6.0) allows you to configure the program disk for your print-out format. If you need more than one printer format or possibly own more than one printer you will have a copy of the letter perfect program for each type of print-out. I have changed the screen color for each type of print driver. To do this, first make a copy of letter perfect and format it for your desired type of print-out. Then read sector 1 of this copy in a sector editor utility (DISKY, DISK WIZ or sym.), and make the following changes.

SECTOR 1, BYTE 76=242 (\$F2 HEX)
BYTE 77=4 (same in hex)

SECTOR 1, START AT BYTE 114 enter the following:

dec. 169 10 141 197 2 169 240 141 198 2 76 0 57
hex. \$A9 \$0A \$8D \$C5 \$02 \$A9 \$F0 \$8D \$C6 \$02 \$4C \$00 \$39

The second number is the luminance of the text and the seventh number is the background color.

Be sure to make this modification only to a copy of letter perfect. Never write to your original program disk.

COMPUTER WISE

You can't totally enjoy any hobby until you know the lingo of that hobby. Below are some of the terms most often used by computerists...

ANSI - A hacker who can't sit still.
 BATCH - A minor gripe.
 BUFFER - A nude computer user.
 CURSOR - A hacker who BATCHES a lot.
 DISK DRIVE - A popular address in Carmel.
 END USER - Programmers who sit a lot.
 FREQUENCY - A disease suffered by video game freaks.
 GIGABYTE - A painful sting on the giga.
 INDUSTRY STANDARDS - Nonconforming guidelines.
 LINE FEEDS - "I've never met anyone as interesting as you before, etc."
 MACHINE LANGUAGE - Zoom, putt-putt, chug-a-lug, clank, clang, clunk.
 OHM - Is where the 'eart is... "OHM SWEET OHM!"
 QWERTY - To be a little strange.
 RAM - Where most of the bugs are kept.
 ROM - Where you put the bugs that won't fit in RAM.
 SOFTWARE - What programmers wear under their hardware.
 TERMINAL INTELLIGENCE - To be so smart it kills you.
 AUTO-EXECUTE - What a car does when the warranty expires.
 DAISY CHAIN - What L'il Abner gave his wife.
 SERIAL PORT - Where foreign breakfast foods are unloaded.

These computer BUZZWORDS are reprinted from the January issue of THE PORTLAND ATARI CLUB newsletter and some were originally from the SAN LEANDRO COMPUTER CLUB and DAL-ACE user groups. Thanks to Portland. Any other offerings will be gratefully accepted!



by
 ACTIVISION
 Cartridge only
 List Price \$39.95
 Club Price \$29.95
 Arcade

Ghostbusters is a game that requires both patience and skill. Unlike the typical game, Ghostbusters offers a variety which few can match. You begin your game by going in debt to purchase the automobile of your choice along with the equipment to assist you in your newly founded ghost busting franchise. After you've selected the necessary equipment, the challenge begins. With ghost vacuum and traps in hand, you set out to rid the city of ghosts and slimers. Venturing out to selected buildings you seek to destroy the ghosts that inhabit them. You are paid handsomely when the mission is accomplished. By capturing these ghosts, you may enter the house of Zuel where your battle has just begun. I highly recommend that Ghostbusters be added to your library as it is a game that is truly out of the ordinary.

SYNCHRON

SYNAPSE

Disk only/List \$39.95/Club\$29.95

YOU FORGOT YOUR MOM'S BIRTHDAY???
 SHAME--SHAME--SHAME!!

After all you own an ATARI, one of the greatest personal management tools around. What you forget, your ATARI will remember.

How do you get it to do that? With the right software, that's how!

And what is the right software for remembering dates, appointments, special occasions---SynChron is a dandy solution!

SynChron is a general-purpose record keeping program with easy to use plain english prompts and simple to follow menus. You create a two year calendar data disk and enter information for selected dates. These dates are highlighted to help you keep track of it.

There are a couple of features that I wish the author would have included, one biggie would have allowed information to be moved from one day to the next. I use SynChron as a 'things-I-gotta-do-today' file and quite often have stuff left over at days end. When this happens the only way I can catch the left-overs is to totally re-enter the data.

Colorful symbols can be added to create key words for easily finding information. You can also print information on your printer.

I also don't know exactly what the author had in mind with some of the symbols. You can generate a MALE or FEMALE symbol within the text, cute but I haven't found a real use for these.

You can also protect your files from prying eyes with the use of your own password. No one else can read your

files, neither can you if you forget the password. (Maybe we need a program to keep track of our passwords??) The password scheme is nice for diaries and such.

While SynChron is not as full featured as I would have liked it to be it is still worth the price. The full color calendars, scrolling text window and printer capability make it a good addition to your software library.

WHAT ARE THE FIVE

BEST ATARI COMPUTER BOOKS

According to the publisher of the CompuBook Newsletter (tm), YOUR ATARI COMPUTER (\$17.95) heads the list of the five best Atari computer books. The authors' (Lon Poole and others) style of the microcomputer book writing produced a definitive guide to ATARI 400/800 operations and programming (including the 600XL and 800XL) as well as the common external devices and accessories.

Next on the list is ATARI ROOTS (\$14.95) by Mark Andrews. This one of the few ATARI/6502 assembly language introductions that provides a clear and readable discussion on the power of assembly language programming.

Compute! Magazine has again come up with another winner (COMPUTE'S THIRD BOOK OF ATARI -\$12.95). Like the previous anthologies of articles published by Compute! (Compute's FIRST AND SECOND BOOK- also \$12.95 each) it covers the full range of Atari-related subjects. Atari users would do well to own the entire set. The newest book to make the list, written by the Weber Systems staff, is ATARI XL USERS HANDBOOK (\$14.95). Although it necessarily includes introductory articles for first time Atari owners, it goes on to cover more advanced topics such as file handling, graphics and sound, DOS 2.0 and DOS 3.0 and useful PEEKS and POKES.

Finally, ATARI BASIC SOURCE BOOK (\$12.95), written by the creators of ATARI BASIC (Bill Williamson, Kathleen O'Brian and Paul Laughton), is an excellent addition to any advanced programmer's library. The

book combines source code listings of the BASIC ROM with and explanation of the ATARI BASIC interpreter.

Incidentally, if you are looking for a basic reference on the development of the computer industry, FIRE IN THE VALLEY (\$9.95) is CompuBook's choice as the most complete and factual story on the making of the personal computer (by P.Freiberger and M.Swaine).

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