L.C.A.C.E. PICNIC

AUGUST 8, 1992

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This Months Meeting
OLD SCHOOL
FOREST PRESERVE
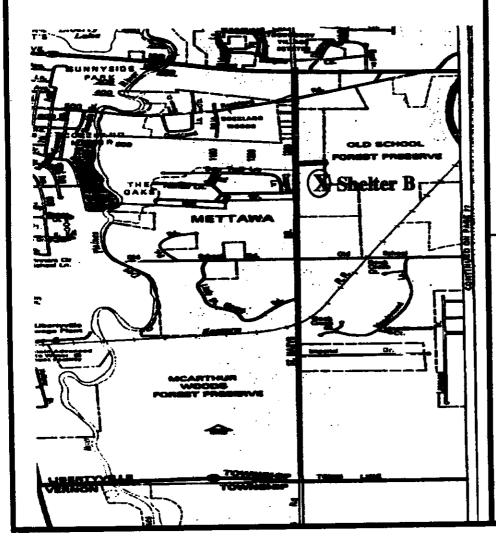AUGUST 8, 1992

Next Meeting
SEPTEMBER 12, 1992

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

Membership
Membership in L.C.A.C.E .is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are $20.00 per individual/family and includes a one year subscription to the News Journal, and access to the club libraries. membership may be obtained at the monthly meetings or by calling or writing the club at the above address,

MEETINGS
L.C.A.C.E. meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month, at the Warren-Newport Public Library, 244 O'Plains Rd, Gurnee,Il. Meetings begin at 11:00 am. We do not require you to be a member to attend our meetings, they are free and open to the public.

NEWS JOURNAL ADVERTISEMENT
For information on placing ads, please wright our Public Relation Chairman at the above address, or call (708) 587-9156.

ADVERTISING
Rates: Full Page-$25.00, Half Page-$15.00, Quarter Page-$10.00, Business Cards-5.00, Discounts are given for an advanced purchase of 12 consecutive ads. Send camera ready copy and payment by the 15th of the month preceding publication to the above address.

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ATARI DESKTOP PUBLISHING

The L.C.A.C.E. News Journal is produced on an Atari Desktop Publishing System (Mega ST4, Atari SLM804 Laser) using Soft Logik's PageStream. Some of the art work has been scanned on Migraph's Hand Scanner and touched up using Migraph's Touch Up.

Deadline Approaching
For Next Months Articles

Remember, the deadline for all articles submitted to *The News Journal* is the 15th of each month. Send your articles, via disk to the clubs P.O. Box, or upload to **Pegasus BBS** (708) 623-9570

V.P. Ram

A friend of mine just recently asked for my opinion about what computer he should buy. I quizzed him about what type of programs and type of peripherals he planned to use. One of his biggest concerns is that the computer he buys will not be obsolete quickly. He wanted to use Windows, Lotus 123, WordPerfect and a CD-ROM player. Convenience in buying hardware and the availability of software was a major concern.

I tried really hard to see if a STe or a TT would fit his requirements. The Windows part was easy since Atari TOS has many of features that people want from this application. With Calligrapher now available, the WordPerfect requirement could be met. But then I got to the Lotus 123 request. He uses many of the features of Lotus 123 for Windows at work and would like to take his work home with him. This is where the Atari version fell short. Since many of his 123 spreadsheets were 3D, these did not translate properly into LDW Power. Unfortunately the best spreadsheet program for the Atari is two years behind the MAC or IBM versions. The programs he wanted for the CD-ROM are not written for the Atari. There was no contest when it came to software availability and selection. Unfortunately, my recommendation was a 486 clone.

I guess the next question is could I ever recommend an Atari machine to someone. My answer would be a definite and enthusiastic yes! The programs that are available for most home uses are very powerful. If desktop publishing is a requirement, then Atari has some of the best programs available and the Atari MIDI applications are very good. I guess for users like me, the choice of an Atari computer makes a lot of sense. I only wish there would be more powerful business programs available and that software in general would become more plentiful. Some of those neat CD-ROM programs would also be nice. I looked at some of the IBM clones and the MAC but quickly came to the realization that there just aren't enough reasons to replace my trusty Atari. Hopefully I will be able to justify my next machine to be another Atari.

Remember that the August meeting will not be held at the library. It's picnic time! We will start around 11am at shelter B at the Old School House forest preserve on St. Mary's Road in Libertyville. The main dish (hotdogs, hamburgers, etc.) and drinks will be provided by the club. There is no cost except for a dish to pass (salads or deserts) and all family members are welcome and encouraged to come. My kids want someone to play baseball with! See you at the picnic!

by

Larry Grauzas

A mail-in campaign to poll support for an independent Atari 8-bit magazine, to be called ATARI CLASSICS, was conducted during the three month period of January 15 to April 15, 1992. The goal of the Campaign was to collect 500 hard commitments from individuals willing to spend &25.00 annually for a subscription to such a publication .The Campaign was conducted by a Campaign Committee consisting finally of six people, two in the U.S. and the other four in various countries around the world. The Campaign was managed and largely financed from the U.S.

The Campaign Committee is pleased to announce that the mail-in WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS!! As of this date a total of 556 written commitments have been secured, and late returns are still wondering in. Some statistics: 1512 campaign information packets were mailed (1100 in the U.S., 412 internationally) to individuals and usergroups. This involved a total of about 12,000 individual xerox copies, 2000 envelopes, 4000 printed labels, and an estimated total expenditure of US$1650 by the Committee. The entire effort was financed out of the packets of individual members of the Committee, all of whom are dedicated 8-bitters. Internationally, returns were received from the following countries: Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Italy, Norway, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Romania, and Sweden.

T.he overall rate of returns was 37%; the return rate in the U.S. was 36%, and 37% for international respondents. All the information collected from the postcard returns has been compiled in a database in TurboFile format on an XL computer.

Not every 8-bit enthusiast was reached by the Campaign effort. Only about half the usergroups we had originally intended to send mailings to were actually contacted, and a number of individual requests for information packets were received after the official close of the Campaign and were turned away. The Committee regrets any disappointment caused by these unintended omissions and begs your understanding of the chaotic conditions and limited resources available for the pursuit of this effort.

The Committee acknowledges with deep appreciation the following 8-bit vendors who supported our effort by running ads, forwarding lists of names, and distributing Campaign literature: BaPAUG Publishing, B&C ComputerVisions, Best Electronics, Computer Software Services, Current Notes Inc., Gralin International, K.O. Distributors, and Unicorn Publications.The Campaign Committee consisted of the following people:

Jeff McWilliams	(U.S.A.)	Campaign Manager
Ben Poehland	(U.S.A.),	Logistical Support
Mike Jewison	(Canada),	Distribution
Colin Hunt	(England)	Distrib U.K.and Europe
Dawn Scotting	(New Zealand)	Distribution
Dave Blears	(Australia)	Distribution

Its work now completed, the Committee is now disbanded. The comraderie shared between the various Committee members will remain a fond memory, and it is hoped the accomplishments of the Campaign Committee will stand as an example of what the 8-bit community can achieve when its members exercise initiative and pull together toward a common goal.

What's next? Jeff McWilliams and Ben Poehland are presently engaged in forging the sinews of what will -we hope- become ATARI CLASSICS. The intention is to take advantage of all the best features of other well-regarded periodicals (ANTIC, ANALOG, AIM, Current Notes, PSAN, etc..) while hopefully avoiding their mistakes. The subject content of the magazine will be taken from comments on the return cards and from discussions in public forums on the various telecommunications networks.

All interested 8-bitters are encouraged to offer their opinions/suggestions, whether they participated in the Campaign or not. At this stage of things Jeff and Ben want to see as much diversity of opinion as the 8-bit community cares to offer.

Communicate your ideas/suggestions to the Info-ATARI8 newsgroup on INTERNET or the 8-bit Forum on Compuserve. You may also submit your ideas directly to:
Jeff McWilliams, 2001G Woodmar Drive, Houghton MI 49931-1017 (INTERNET: jjmcwill@mtus5.mtu,edu)
or to:
Ben Poehland, 179 Sproul Rd./Rt. 352, Frazer PA 19355-1958 (GEnie: B.POEHLAND, INTEREST:

We shall not acknowledge individual communications, but be assured your ideas will be considered. We anticipate this phase should take about 4-6 weeks. Stay tuned for futher announcements as we progress. The number of returns recorded in this report will be taken as the official tally of Campaign returns. However, returns received after the release of this report will be accepted by Jeff McWilliams and dully logged into the Atari Classics Campaign database. So, if you are still in possession of an information kit and have not returned your card because you thought it was too late, please send it in! You will still be counted when we present our results to Unicorn Publications. The Committee urges all interested parties to freely download/re-post/reprint/mail unaltered electronic or hardcopies of this Report.

Permission is also hereby granted to publish this Report in unaltered form in any newsletter, magazine, or other printed media. Tell your friends!

Feds Tap Into Major Computer Crime Ring

by Mike Brown (from information by M. Thyfault)

Law enforcement officials are taking the gloves off- and plugging their modems in- in the battle against high technology crime.

Last week, in one of the largest such cases ever, a federal grand jury in Manhattan indicted five computer "crackers", part of a group that calls itself MOD, for Masters of Deception, on charges of computer tampering, computer fraud, wire fraud, illegal wiretapping, and conspiracy.

Some of the crackers are accused of stealing phone service and selling information on how to obtain credit reports. The victims (a dozen were named in the indictments, but numerous others are likely to have been hit as well) include three Bell operating companies, numerous credit bureaus, and BankAmerica Corp.

For the first time, investigators used court-authorized wiretaps to monitor data transmission over phone lines.

The wiretapping comes as the FBI is unsuccessfully lobbying Congress to mandate that telecom equipment and service companies build into new technology easier ways for securities agencies to tap into computer systems.

Ironically, the success of this wiretap, some say, may undermine the FBI's argument. "They did this without the equipment they claim they need," says Craig Niedorf, founder of the hacker newsletter "Phrack".

If convicted, the alleged hackers, all of whom are under 22 years old, could face 55 years each and a fine of $250,000.00 or twice the gross gain or loss incurred. One charged with possessing an access device could face an additional five years.

The vulnerability of the victim's network should be surprising, but experts say corporations continue to pay scant attention to security issues. For instance, despite the fact that the credit bureaus are frequent targets of computer crime and claim to have made their networks more secure, in this case, most of the victims didn't even know they were being hit, according to the FBI.

Two of the victims, value-added network service provider BT Tymnet and telco Southwestern Bell, both take credit for helping nab the ring. "We played an instrumental role in first recognizing that they were there," says John Guinasso, director of global network security for Tymnet parent BT North America. "If you mess with our network and we catch you-which we always do-you will go down."

How True! A child's greatest period of growth is the month after you've purchased new school clothes.

CASINO 1-2 players, horizontal game
  $39.95   Stereo? No

OVERVIEW: Video gambling games are hard to promote. On the one hand, an accurate simulation lets players experience high-rolling thrills without using real money. On the other hand, if there are no real winnings, why bother? Other questions about how much strategy can be developed or transferred for games like Roulette or Craps are left to professional gamblers.

LYNX CASINO doesn't resolve this paradox, but it does offer a risk-free alternative to Atlantic City or Reno. This title is a collection of five familiar casino games: Blackjack, Craps, Roulette, Slot Machines, and Video Draw Poker. You start off with $1000, though the cashier can give you two loans of $500 each; when your money's all gone, the game ends. You can also ComLynx with a friend for a mini-electronic junket.

GAMEPLAY: The best thing about LYNX CASINO is that it faithfully captures the experience of casino gambling. Not only are authentic rules, odds, and payoffs used, but each game allows of the same options that its real-life counterpart offers. For instance, Craps supports everything from the usual Pass/No Pass to Hard Way and Horn Bets, while Roulette uses a Double Zero wheel and allows numerous number combinations, and Blackjack is played with six decks. The only major discrepancy is that you're always the dice shooter on Craps.

The user interface changes with each game, but is generally consistent. Statistics are kept for each game session, allowing pros to analyze their playing skills. As a result, LYNX CASINO can be played on two levels: casual players can have fun just placing bets, while self-proclaimed experts can exercise existing gambling strategies or trying to develop new ones. While this card may not make you rich, it can be treated almost as a simulation, and the only regret I have is that more games weren't included.

GRAPHICS/SOUND: Graphics in LYNX CASINO are decent overall, with a touch of cartoon whimsy. You guide your on-screen personage among the games and roaming bystanders, while still images show scenes of other gamblers and the staff. Most of your time is spent at the tables and machines, which are well drawn with good use of color and detail. Sound effects are not so interesting; a variety of background tunes play during the game, though they can be turned off if desired. Other than that, game sounds are few, brief, and fairly simple.

SUMMARY: There's not much that needs to be said: LYNX CASINO is a well-done, no-nonsense video version of the Vegas experience. If you want to refine your Craps stratagem or just want to blow some imaginary money, this game will easily fit the bill.

GAMEPLAY:	8	GRAPHICS:	7
SOUND:	5	OVERALL:	7

Rating values1   10-8 Great!
                  7-5   Good.
                  4-2   Poor.
                  1   Ick. Shoot it.

The following is a list of upcoming Lynx games, as received by Pacific Distributing on 06/09/1992. Note that the prices are suggested retail; your mileage may differ depending on how much of a bloodsucking leech your local Lynx dealer is.

NAME	SUG. RETAIL
Basketbrawl	$39.99
Lynx Casino	$39.99
Hockey	$39.99
Hydra	$39.99
Kung Food	$39.99

August Release Date

Dirty Larry, Renegade Cop	$39.99
Hyperdrome	$39.99
NFL Football	$39.99
Pinball Jam	$39.99
Pit Fighter	$49.99
Shadow of the Beast	$39.99
Steel Talons	$39.99
World Class Soccer	$29.99

September Release Date

Baseball Heroes	$34.99
Daemonsgate	$39.99
Dinolympics	$39.99
Dracula the Undead	$49.99
Jimmy Connors Tennis	$39.99
Malibu Beach Volleyball	$39.99
Power Factor	$39.99
Switchblade II	$39.99

October Release Date

Lemmings	$39.99
Ninja Nerd	$39.99
Rai-Den	$39.99
Road Riot 4WD	$39..99
Rolling Thunder	$39.99
Vindicators	$29.99

November Release Date

Blood and Guts Hockey	$39.99
Gordo 106	$39.99
Ninja Gaiden III	$49.99

December Release Date

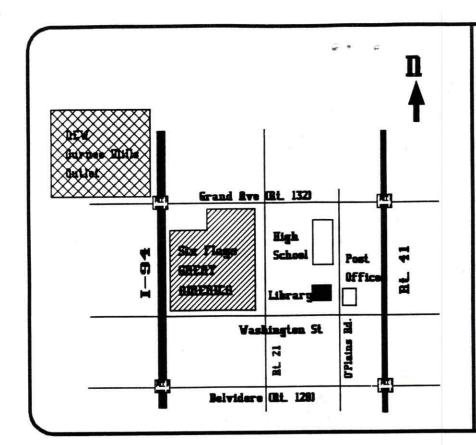|	
720	$39.99
Cabal	39.99
Eye of the Beholder	$49.99
Full Court Press Basketball	$39.99
Heavyweight Contender	$39.99
Sace War	$39.99
Super Asteroids / Missile Command	$39.99

The following is the new prices for existing Lynx games:

NAME	SUG.. RETAIL
A.P.B.	$39.99
Awesome Golf	$39.99
Batman Returns	$49.99
Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure	$39.99
Blockout	$19.99
Blue Lightning	$39.99
California Games	$39.99
Chip's Challenge	$29.99
Crystal Mines II	$39.99
Electrocop	$19.99
Gates of Zendocon	$19.99

Gauntlet: The Third Encounter	$19.99
Hard Drivin'	$39.99
Ishido	$29.99
Klax	$19.99
Ms. Pac-Man	$29.99
Ninja Gaiden	$39.99
Pac-Land	$29.99
Paperboy	$29.99
Rampage	$34.99
Rampart	$34.99
Roadblasters	$39.99
Robo-Squash	$19.99
Robotron: 2084	$19.99
Rygar	$34.99
Scrapyard Dog	$39.99
Shanghai	$29.99
(Todd's Adventures in) Slime World	$29.99
S.T.U.N. Runner	$39.99
Super Skweek	$39.99
Toki	$39.99
Tournament Cyberball	$39.99
Turbo Sub	$39.99
Viking Child	$39.99
Warbirds	$39.99
Xenophobe	$29.99
Xybots	$39.99
Zarlor Mercenary	$19.99

Frankly, I dunno if Atari will have 75 titles out by Christmas. It'd sure be nice, but Maybe 55-60 would be a more realistic number...?

Next Meeting

Saturday
August 8, 1992

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FOR MORE INFOCALL
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Mail Last Issue 89293-06/93

Winthrop Harbor IL 60096