

JIL P.A.C.E. WORLD



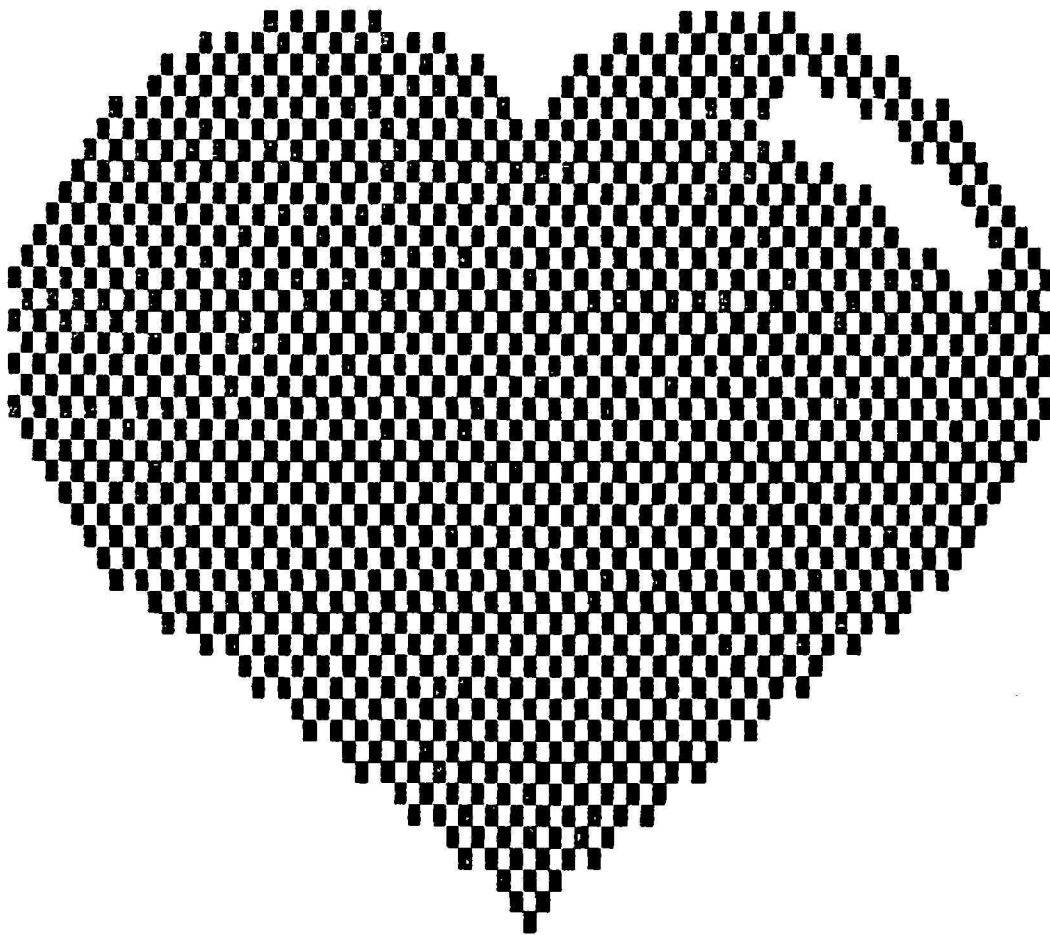
NEWSLETTER OF THE

PENINSULA ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

February 1988

Volume 8 No. 2

Happy Valentine's Day



from PACE

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President's Column

By Jeff Cleveland

Well, I hope everyone out there had a wonderful Christmas. Santa didn't bring me a Mega ST 4 (I could hope, couldn't I?), but he did bring Personal Pascal, a printer stand, and some other neat non-computer stuff. I then bought the ST version of Test Drive, which is a fantastic driving game. (I can now take a Ferrari Testarossa for a quick afternoon drive.) The graphics are spectacular, and I was amazed by the speed of the landscape that whizzes by you when you're doing 160 mph!

You may have noticed that we missed a couple of newsletters again. Hopefully with this one we'll be back on a monthly schedule. The biggest problem with producing the newsletter is reproduction. Joe Cullen, our newsletter editor, no longer has time to photocopy 250 copies of the newsletter on his copier. I have been researching other alternatives, but have not yet been able to find a printer that I felt was affordable. This will be discussed at the Feb. 13 Executive Committee meeting, where we will make a recommendation to be presented to the membership at the February meeting.

Sometime in January, it was rumored that Optimized Systems Software (OSS), the maker of Basic XL, Basic XE, Action! (my personal favorite), Personal Pascal, and other system software for both 8-bit and ST machines, was in financial hot-water. Well, I recently downloaded a news file from ODDX/PACE that had good

news in it. OSS and ICD (SpartaDOS, P:R: Connection) have joined forces in a collaboration that should benefit all Atari users and bring some fantastic software in the future. The entire file is reproduced elsewhere in this newsletter.

From the V.P. . .

By Maria Campbell

Hello, Everyone, Yeah, it's me again (Grin!). Sorry to have missed the last couple of Swap-N-Share meetings because of work (Darn!)... I've had some calls to see whether I was "dead" or something... let me put your mind to rest, I'm still kicking.

Now on to other things... It has been brought to Jeff's and my attention that some of our members are being "bad" at the meetings. Bad meaning not using your MASTER switches on the school's equipment, moving disk drives and other peripherals without putting them back where they were, and other minor misbehaviors. Now I'm not a person that likes to lecture that much, but this is just a GENTLE REMINDER of the few rules that we have at the school.

On to the rules, Gloria Dei has GRACIOUSLY let PACE use all of its computers, peripherals, and other facilities of the church and school free of charge if we only "behave" ourselves. When using ANY equipment, please use the MASTER switches; all of them are clearly marked. We all sometimes forget (even yours truly), and turn on the

computer or drive from the back and front switches instead of using the master switches. Please, before you leave any system, please CHECK YOUR SWITCHES; Please leave them the way you found them.

And Please, if you are unsure on what to copy and what NOT to copy, ask any PACE officer. PACE will not support copying ANY non-public domain files, disks, tapes, carts, or ANYTHING which isn't public domain, shareware, or freeware. All of our P.D. programs are available for copying or checkout for a 2 disks for \$5 deposit charge, and our commercial programs may be checked out for a period of 1 month for NO CHARGE.

Now, enough of that! On a final and pleasant note, I've heard from Dave and Debbie Koster! They arrived safe and sound to Colorado Springs, Colorado. Everyone is fine, and they miss Virginia and us at PACE very much. Dave is in school for the SPACE PROGRAM (Congrats!, Dave!), and is doing quite well. We miss you guys, and hope to be hearing from you soon. If you'd like to call or write to the Koster's, their phone # and address will be below. If you call, please call on weekends! That's all... see you next time!

****Maria****

Dave and Debbie Koster
6145 Hayseed Court
Colorado Springs, Colorado
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(303) 550-1410

Library News

By Maria Campbell

Greetings to All for the month of February! Have we had enough snow yet?!? There's more to come, believe me. But seriously, it's good to be back on track. For this month we have quite a few "goodies" for everyone.

First of all for 8-bit users: we have 3 new disks for your enjoyment from a sister club in Mount Vernon, Ohio called the Fort Knox Atari Club. They have over 100 disks in their P.D. club library and have sent us 3 EXCELLENT Ham/Radio disks free of charge. These disks have some great programs including Morse Code, Trackers, and MorseWriter to name a few. You "Ham" folks will have a ball with these programs. The Fort Knox Atari Club has something called Fort Knox Software which sells P.D. software to make money for the club, which I think is a pretty neat idea. Maybe PACE should do that too, because a lot of clubs raise extra money that way.

Next for STer's we have the new version of UNITERM (1.820) for modem users, the NEW version of STAR CHARTS, the SMOOTHTALKER demo, and a demo of ORION'S RUN which is indeed fun and PLAYABLE! All of the new ST files are already in your PACE library ready for copy; so be sure that you bring some blank disks to the next meeting... this means STer's AND 8-BITTERS!

Well, that's about it for this month... Short month, short column! Take care!!

OSS & ICD join forces

DATELINE: 1-27-88

Good news for Atari owners! ICD, Inc. and OSS, Inc. (Optimized Systems Software) have just signed an agreement which will "add new life to all Atari computers". Under this agreement, ICD will add the manufacture, marketing, and support of all current OSS software titles for Atari computers to ICD's already powerful Atari product line.

ICD's friendly, helpful staff is now trained in all aspects of support for the complete OSS product line including:

MAC/65
MAC/65 Toolkit
ACTION!
ACTION! Toolkit
BASIC XL
BASIC XL Toolkit
BASIC XE
Writer's Tool
DOS XL
Personal PASCAL for the
Atari ST

Ordering and support for ICD/OSS products are available by calling 815/968-2228 from 8AM to 5PM CST Monday through Friday. Support is also available 24 hours a day 7 days a week on the following Electronic Bulletin Boards: ICD/OSS BBS 815/968-2229 300-9600 baud, CompuServe, GENie, Delphi, and BIX. ICD's 24 hour FAX is connected to 815/968-6888.

The San Jose, CA numbers for OSS will no longer be providing

support.

Orders for OSS products may be placed now. All products will be shipping in quantities soon. For more information call any of our product support lines or write to:

ICD/OSS
1220 Rock Street
Rockford, IL 61101

Reading the ST Mouse on an XE

By Jeff Cleveland

Those people who own both an ST and an 8-bit probably already know that the ST mouse has the same connector as Atari joysticks. So, I plugged my mouse into my 130XE and wrote a program to try to read it.

I first tried reading it from the paddles 0 and 1, which are both on port 1, but got no reading. No matter how much I moved the mouse, the paddle values didn't change. That meant that the ST mouse is a digital mouse, not analog.

I then modified the program to print values returned from the STICK function in Action! (or Basic). The mouse didn't return regular joystick values for the eight directions. Instead, it returns a 2-bit value for each axis, X and Y. The X axis is in the first two bit of the returned value and the Y axis is on the third and fourth bits as follows:

```
Bit number: 87654321
STICK result: 00001111
             bits 1 & 2: X axis
             bits 3 & 4: Y axis
```

The direction the mouse has been moved can be found by

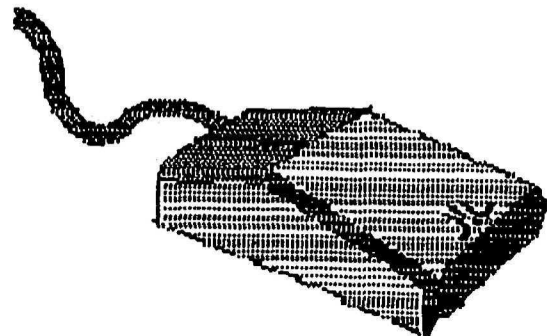
comparing the current reading with the past reading. Each time the mouse moves, only one of the bits changes value. Values proceed in this order: 00 01 11 10. By knowing what the last value was, direction can then be obtained by finding out if the new value is above or below the old value.

For example: If the stick function returns a 1 for the Y axis, and the next reading returns a 3, then the mouse has been moved up, because 3 is above 1 in the list (in a positive direction), and up is a positive direction for the Y axis. Notice that the values are not in numerical order. This eliminates the use of an if--then less-than greater-than comparison. The following Action! procedure uses an array of numbers to compare to in order to find direction.

```
PROC mouse()
BYTE ARRAY mser=[ 2 3 1 0 ]
BYTE i,dx1,dx2,dy1,dy2

dx1=STICK(0)&3           ;and
with 3 to wipe out Y bits
dy1=(STICK(0)&12) RSH 2 ;wipe
out X bits and shift Y bits to
X position
dx2=STICK(0)&3           ;second
reading
dy2=(STICK(0)&12) RSH 2
IF dx1<>dx2 THEN
  i=0
  WHILE dx1<>mser(i) DO
;find first reading
  i==+1
  OD
  IF i<>0 THEN
    IF mser(i-1)=dx2 THEN
      PRINT("left")           ;put
you left code or proc call
here
    ELSE
      PRINT("right")         ;go
```

```
right
  FI
  ELSE
;wraparound end of array
  IF mser(3)=dx2 THEN
    PRINT("left")           ;go
  left again
  ELSE
    PRINT("right")         ;go
  right again
  FI
  FI
  FI
  IF dy1<>dy2 THEN           ;now
check for up-down
  i=0
  WHILE dy1<>mser(i) DO
;find first reading
  i==+1
  OD
  IF i<>0 THEN
    IF mser(i-1)=dy2 THEN
      PRINT("up")           ;go
    ELSE
      PRINT("down")         ;go
  down
  FI
  ELSE
;wraparound end of array
  IF mser(3)=dy2 THEN
    PRINT("up")           ;go
  up
  ELSE
    PRINT("down")         ;go
  down
  FI
  FI
  FI
  RETURN
```





PACE OFFICERS GIVE THEM A CALL!

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LIBRARIAN:	MARIA CAMPBELL,	596-5179
EDITOR:	JOE CULLEN,	838-5326



**PACE meets the first and third Fridays of each month at 6:00PM in the Gloria Dei Lutheran School, Foxhill Rd and Willow Oaks Blvd, Hampton, VA.
Call one of the officers listed above for further details!**

Next Meeting: February 20

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