

Clubs and Newsletters

The following note was received from Eric Liber and Fred Kitman of Pittsburgh: Dear Fellow Computer Phreaks:

Just a quick note to let you know that hobby computing and computers are alive and well in Pittsburgh. The name of the organization is the Pittsburgh Area Computer Club. We had our first meeting on October 8, 1975 and even though the weather was inclement we had 15 people in attendance. In addition there is definite interest from at least that many more! Not bad for a beginning.

The name of our acting president is Eric Liber and the name of the secretary/treasurer is Fred Kitman. We can be reached at the address below or at the following telephone numbers: Day: 412-391-3800; Night: 412-276-6546.

The members of the club have a total of 5 computers with 2 Altairs, 1 PDP/11, one Wang and one 8008. Not a bad start!! Pittsburgh Area Computer Club, 400 Smithfield St., Pittsburgh PA 15222.

The Santa Barbara California Club

Doug Penrod, 1445 La Cima Road, Santa Barbara CA 93101 sent in a good letter describing the newly formed club which has been meeting at the Goleta Library. Interested persons from the Santa Barbara area should contact Doug by mail or phone (962-3337). The club is best described by the following paragraph copied from *Datafile*, Volume 1 number 0:

The first meeting of the un-named club of computer hobbyists of the Santa Barbara area was held Wednesday evening at 7:30, 1975 October 8 at the Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview. Attendees ranged from professionals to those with a keen interest but no knowledge so far. Equipment ranged from abacus and slide rule to a Data General Eclipse system. Most expressed an interest in owning a machine of their own, from programmable calculator through microcomputer to minicomputer. Most felt that the most valuable feature of meetings is the "random access" period, during which members mill about and compare notes on their projects and problems, and examine hardware brought for display and consultation. At the first meeting was an HP-65 (Ralph Boland), a MITS Altair 8800 (Doug Penrod), a MITS Scientific Calculator (Doug Penrod), a home brew microcomputer built around an Intel 8008 microprocessor chip (Larry Plate), and a "TV Typewriter" (Grant

Virginia Seminars

David G. Larsen of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg VA 24061 sends in the following notice of two seminars which will be given this coming March on microcomputer themes.

1. *Microcomputer Interfacing Workshop*, March 12-13, 1976. A two-day workshop based on the popular Intel 8080 microprocessor. This course is sponsored by the VPI and SU Extension Division at the VPI Center in Reston VA (near Dulles Airport). This workshop will include many hours of experience in programming and interface construction with over 12 operating microcomputers for participant use. For more information contact Dr. Norris Bell, VPI and SU Continuing Education Center, Blacksburg VA 24061, 703-951-6328.

2. *Digital Electronics for Automation and Instrumentation*, March 21-26, which is a hands on laboratory/lecture course covering basic digital electronics as well as data communications and interfacing using asynchronous serial techniques. It is held at VPI and SU in Blacksburg VA and is sponsored by the American Chemical Society, Education Division, 1155 16th St NW, Washington DC 20036 (202)-872-4528.

Runyan). Brian Johnson gave a lecture on microprocessors and computer principles for beginners, during the random access period. Everyone who is interested in any aspect of computing/calculating is encouraged to join us at our meetings. If you like mathematical games and puzzles, computer history, want to learn how computers work, want to build a computer or calculator, want to learn programming — any aspect of software or hardware, this is the place to meet the people you want to talk to. In addition to informal exchange of information, help, and goodies, we expect to have talks and demonstrations by experts on occasion. We also offer advice on publications and books.

Minneapolis-St. Paul Computer Activities

The BIT USERS ASSOCIATION is an organization of computer hobbyists and small systems engineers serving primarily the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. The members seek to exchange newsletters and technical data with organizations or individuals with similar interests.

The BIT USERS ASSOCIATION was begun in 1973 by users of the BIT 480-483 minicomputers, and remains a source for replacement parts and licenses regarding the said machines. It has expanded to encompass persons with interest in various minicomputers and microprocessors, and is actively engaged in the design and construction of selected peripheral devices suitable for hobbyist use and which can be built at low cost at home. Raster-scan television graphic and uniquely dense alphanumeric television terminals, for example, are in final stages of development.

The sponsor of the BIT USERS ASSOCIATION is the Resource Access Center, a non-profit educational center serving community service agencies. Inquirers are requested to send self addressed stamped envelope, but no other monies please. In Minneapolis, telephone 824-6406 (or message service, 823-8247). BIT USERS ASSOCIATION, RESOURCE ACCESS CENTER, 3010 4th Ave S, Minneapolis MN 55408.

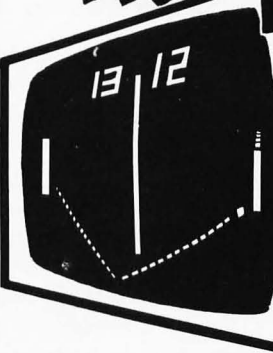
Nashua NH Area Computer Club

Dwayne Jeffries, 181 Cypress Lane, Nashua NH 03060 notes formation of a computer club in the Nashua NH area. For information and details, contact Dwayne.

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computerized

New for your TV! PING PONG




Assemble your own electronic Ping-Pong unit that connects to any TV. It's easy!


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\$1 for schematic diagram & info pack (refundable on purchase).





P.O. BOX 4204B
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040

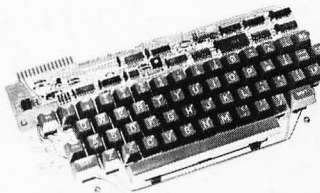
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MIKRA-D Inc.,
P.O. Box 403,
Holliston MA 01746

Miami Area Computer Club

Terry Williamson, P.O. Box 430852, S. Miami FL 33143 went to the MITS Caravan seminar in Miami recently. As often happens when people get together with common interests, Terry got involved in conversations with several other personal computer addicts at the MITS show. The net result is the forming of a Miami area computer club. For details contact Terry by mail or at 305-271-9909. Thanks to MITS for catalyzing another computer club.

North Texas Group

The Computer Hobbyist Group of North Texas is the name of the computer club in the Dallas-Fort Worth Area. In a recent letter to BYTE, Bill Fuller (hardware editor of TCHGNT newsletter) comments:

"... thanks for the plugs in BYTE for the Texas Club. We went from 35 to 75 since BYTE appeared and that's why I'm so darn busy."

The club puts out a newsletter with information on activities, and has arranged for some demonstrations by computer company representatives and by members who have built computers. Meetings are held monthly. For latest details, contact Bill Fuller at 2377 Dalworth 157, Grand Prairie TX 75050.

Tiny Basic

People's Computer Company has been promoting programming in BASIC. Several companies have produced inexpensive micro-processor chips. One of these, Intel, has made the Intel 8080 chip. Currently available versions of BASIC take 4 to 8K words of memory.

PCC is working on a TINY BASIC. It will be oriented to:

- kids having fun
- teaching BASIC
- games
- elementary school arithmetic
- mathematical recreations
- send us your ideas ...

It will run on an Intel 8/Mod 80 or an ALTAIR 8800. It will use 16 bit (double word) integer arithmetic. Its design will be public so that others may reorganize the IO

and mathematical subroutines for floating point. Specialized functions may be added by the user.

The proposed syntax and grammar for TINY BASIC is described in the PCC newspaper Vol. 4, nos. 1 and 2. The design philosophy is to keep it simple and use as little memory as possible. Speed is sacrificed.

PCC would greatly appreciate any help and ideas. Sixteen bit (double word) addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimal-binary and random number routines are needed.

Bernard R. Greening
People's Computer Company
P.O. Box 310
Menlo Park CA 94025

Washington DC Area Club Activity?

Robert Jones of Washington DC is interested in organizing a computer club for the nation's capital. If you are interested, contact him at: 4201 Massachusetts Ave, Apt. 168 W, Washington DC 20016.

Reston VA Club?

In Reston VA, Andrew Convery reports that he is interested in assembling a local club. Contact him at 2315 Freetown Ct, Apt 11C, Reston VA 22091. His home phone is (703) 860-1849, and his work phone is (703) 241-3551.

News of NECC

The New England Computer Club held its first meeting on November 5, 1975, at the Jarrell-Ashe plant in Waltham MA with about 200 people showing up. As is typical of "first meetings," the most important objective was accomplished — the assembly of a mailing list of interested individuals, and identification of a small group willing to put together a more formal organization. Future meetings have tentatively been scheduled for the Mitre Corporation cafeteria in Bedford MA.

One key goal is setting up a series of seminars on the technology of hardware and software. Other expected activities are "show and tell," trading posts for equipment exchange among individuals, and talks by manufacturers or computer users concerning applications of the technology. A newsletter will be financed by the sale of 30 Intel 8080 systems manuals donated by the local representative.