Clubs and Newsletters

AEDS Convention

AEDS, the Association for Educational Data Processing, is holding its 14th Annual Convention in Phoenix AZ May 3-7 1976. For information contact Rick Meyer, convention chairperson, at Phoenix Union HS, 2526 W Osborn Rd, Phoenix AZ 85017, or call (602) 257-3045.

Amateur Computer Group of NJ

The February issue of the *ACGNJ News*, Volume 2 Number 2, reports on the January ACGNJ meeting, which included a demonstration of the new Intel SDK-8 8080 system design kit along with its documentation, courtesy of Art Chapman of Intel. The newsletter also included technical notes by Roger Amion (on memory expansion via piggyback mounting of ICs) and Art Chapman (a circuit to help program 2708 EROMs), and a compendium of Altair technical information from several sources.

The February *ACGNJ News* also announced the Trenton Computer Festival May 2 1976, beginning at 10 AM in Armstrong Hall at Trenton State College. The building is located in Ewing Township on Route 31. For detailed information, write:

Trenton Computer Festival
Trenton State College
Trenton NJ 08625

For direct contact, phone Dr A Katz at (609) 771-2487, or Sol Libes at (201) 889-2000, extension 248.

1ˢᵗ TRENTON COMPUTER FESTIVAL

exhibits, displays

TECHNICAL TALKS
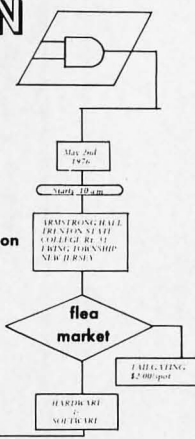
amature computer club convention

home computing

door prizes contests

computer groups

program duplication service

manufacturers booths

flea market

News from the Cleveland Digital Group

Gary Coleman of the Cleveland Digital Group writes that CDG has formed the Midwest Affiliation of Computer Clubs, its first goal being a conference for computer club members June 12 and 13. The conference will offer a place for manufacturers to show their wares and for computer hobbyists to visit and ask questions, etc.

For further information, contact Gary at 14058 Superior Rd, Apt 8, Cleveland OH 44118, or phone (216) 371-9304.

Dr Dobb's Journal of Tiny BASIC Calisthenics & Orthodontia

This is the journal of information about the PCC Tiny BASIC idea: interpretive language software developed by amateurs to implement such languages for microcomputers. The Volume 1 Number 1 issue contained 19 photocopied pages including reprints of the PCC articles on Tiny BASIC as a reference and starting point. Three issues are $3, with xerographic reproduction while circulation is low. Interested parties should write to Tiny BASIC & Orthodontia, Box 310, Menlo Park CA 94025.

The PILOT Information Exchange

PILOT is a language of Computer Aided Instruction (CAI) first created by John Starkweather at the University of California. According to an article by Sylvan Rubin which appeared in the November 1973 issue of *Computer Decisions*, the language is a simple structure oriented to the CAI situation, enabling one to construct interactive sequences of questions and answers which are presented to students.

The article by Dr Rubin and the Number 2 copy of the *PILOT Information Exchange Newsletter* were recently sent to BYTE. The newsletter is coordinated by Gregory Yob, and subscriptions are available at $2 per quantum of information. Contact:

Gregory Yob
c/o LO*OP Center
8099 La Plaza
Cotati CA 94928
(707) 795-0405

And From 65 Notes. . .

The Volume 3 Number 1 issue of *65 Notes*, publication of the HP-65 Users' Club, arrived at BYTE recently. This issue continues the trend of branching out toward the other programmable calculators. In Richard Vanderburgh's "SR-52 Notes," you'll find out about how to create several "pseudo codes," such as "Halt", branch to 000, and set error condition, for the SR-52 programs. These instructions, like their equivalents on

the HP-65, are not documented by the manufacturer and take trickery to accomplish.

This issue also includes several HP-65, HP-55, HP-25 and SR-52 programs. One of the most exciting is Richard Vanderburgh's SR-52 Assembler/Loader program which is probably the first self-assembler for a hand held calculator! It has some restrictions on its operations, but it is an enticing prospect. Also found in the mailing of the Volume 3 Number 1 issue is an index to *65 Notes* for July through December 1975, prepared by Alvin Gaines of Atlanta GA. If you want to find out what people are finding out about hand held programmable calculators, then you should investigate what *65 Notes* has to offer.

Contact Richard J Nelson, 2541 W Camden Pl, Santa Ana CA 92704, for a subscription at $12 per annum.

Lansing MI Activities

Computer Hobbyists Around Lansing is the name of the club which has been formed in that vicinity. If you wish to participate, contact one of the following people:

Joyce Church
Marvin Church
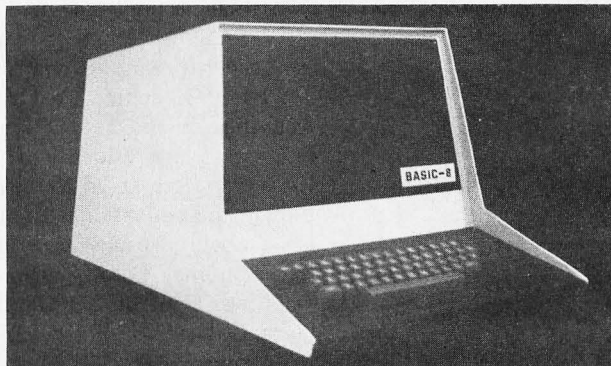4307 Mar-Moor Dr
Lansing MI 48917
Phone: 482-9452

William Serviss
13121 Tucker Dr
DeWitt MI 48820
Phone: 669-3179

Daniel L Herrick
1214 Frederick Dr
PO Box 513
Owosso MI 48867
Phone: 723-3264

LO*OP Center

LO*OP Center, Inc, is an organization run by Liza Loop, dedicated to providing computers upon which children can exercise their minds. According to the brochure sent to BYTE:

"Computers as learning and teaching media can be adapted to handle an infinite variety of subject material, including creative writing and forms of artistic expression ... The staff concentrates on expanding the horizons of children through Computer Assisted Instruction. Special emphasis will be placed on material for young children which encourages creativity and the knowledge that they are in control of the machine. A large library of programs of interest to junior high and

high school age people has already been developed in centers across the country and is available through the LO*OP center."

Activities at the LO*OP center will be of interest to the residents of Sonoma County CA and others at greater distance. In addition to the educational emphasis, the center has a weekly Teacher's Forum and is host to the Sonoma County Minicomputer Club meetings. Contact LO*OP Center, 8099 La Plaza, Cotati CA 94928 (707) 795-0405.

DACS Newsletter

The Volume 1 Number 4 issue of the *Denver Amateur Computer Society Newsletter*, dated February 1976, mentions meetings, classes for beginners, and the group's growth. A lecture by Adam Osborne, Osborne & Associates, arranged and scheduled on short notice February 5, was excellent, and well received by the DACS members, reported the newsletter. Also worth noting is the formation of special interest user groups for the various processors of members. Contact Denver Amateur Computer Society at PO Box 6338, Denver CO 80206.

Hoosier Amateur Computer & Kluge Society (HACKS)

Ray Borrill, who will soon be opening a computer store called "Data Domain," phoned to urge club activity in the vicinity of Bloomington IN. Interested individuals should contact Ray at 111 S College Av, Bloomington IN 47401.

Journal of Community Communications

Lee Felsenstein publishes the *Journal of Community Communications*, a compendium of personal opinions on the social implications of computers. *JCC* is published occasionally by LGC Engineering at $1 per issue, 12 issues for $10. The address is LGC Engineering, 1807 Delaware St, Berkeley CA 94703

The Analytical Engine

The Chesapeake Microcomputer Club is the result of activity in the Washington-Baltimore-Northern Virginia area, documented in *The Analytical Engine*. The Chesapeake Microcomputer Club is to be commended for thinking up an excellent and unique name for the newsletter, one which reflects the origins of computers. The Volume 1 Number 2 issue of *The Analytical Engine* includes a report from the Caretaker Board by Rich Kuzmack, an editorial by Philip N Hisley summarizing the growth of the club, a technical note by Jeff Schmitt on using FIFO memory chips (his example is the Fairchild 3341), a technical note by Alan Hastings showing how to program a software UART with detailed 8080 code for his version, announcement of a club visit to MOS Technology February 18-20, and biographies of the candidates for club officers along with an election ballot. Meetings have been held at "The Other Barn," Oakland Mills Village Center, Columbia MD. For information write Chesapeake Micro Computer, 236 St David Court, X4, Baltimore MD 21030. Editor of *The Analytical Engine* is Philip N Hisley, (301) 667-9690.

BYTE'S BUGS

Here lies documentation of known bugs detected in previous editions of BYTE . . .

RS-232 Levels

In Gary Liming's article, "Data Paths," in February 1976 BYTE, there is an error in the statement of the RS-232 voltage levels at the top of the first column on page 39. The RS-232 specification, according to a Xerox excerpt supplied by Ron Finger of Anchorage AK, provides that the mark (logical 1) state shall be a voltage more negative than −3 volts with respect to ground; that the space (logical 0) state shall be a voltage more positive than +3 volts with respect to ground. The maximum magnitude in either direction is specified as 25 volts with respect to ground.

Donald Zanolla of Burbank IL points out the following discrepancy in the sample code given on page 62 of BYTE January 1976, "Taking Advantage of Memory Address Space."

The symbol X could not be used in a program assembled by the Motorola 6800 assembler; the example would be correct if a different symbol such as "XX" were used in its place, ie:

```
LDX       XX       fetch first operand
                   (16 bits);

STX       A16
          .
          .
          .
```

Connecticut Microists

George Ahmuty, 6011 Wendy Ln, Westport CT 06881, is interested in contacting other Connecticut "Microists" and forming a club. George can be reached by phone at 227-8534.

News of NECS

The March 3 meeting of the New England Computer Society, held at the Mitre Corporation's Cafeteria (Building C) in Bedford MA, 8 PM, heard a talk by Tom Miller, system architect for Texas Instruments, on the design of the TMS9900 processor. This microprocessor is scheduled to be available through TI distributors in May, with a price of $99.32 in quantities of one. (BYTE published Robert Baker's "Microprocessor Update" on the TMS9900 in the April 1976 issue.) The large quantity price strategy of TI, according to Mr Miller, was to make the TMS9900's price be about twice the price of an 8 bit processor in equivalent volume. The appearance of a TMS9900 based processor in the personal computing market cannot be far away, and Mr Miller strongly implied that TI is trying to encourage that particular use of their new processor. The talk's technical content included the machine's general architecture and a series of 10 to 15 slides on the practical details of TTL interfaces to the chip in small systems contexts.

Other activities were Dave LeVine's report on group purchase activities, including a one time purchase of IM6100 parts for club members at the 100 piece price, arranged with a local distributor. Dave Day presented an introductory session on hardware practices, oriented toward the members with no detailed hardware background. Doug Johnson presented a concurrent introduction to software concepts applicable to microcomputers.

Inquiries about NECS should be directed to PO Box 198, Bedford MA 01730.

Long Island Computer Association (LICA)

The Long Island Computer Association held its first meeting on January 16 1976 and formed a steering committee. The club is open to anyone, amateur or professional, with an interest in computers, applications, programming or related subjects. Meetings are held at the New York Institute of Technology, Building 500, Route 25A and Whiteney Ln, Old Westbury NY, usually on the third Friday of each month. For further information, contact Gerald Harrison, evenings until 9 PM at (516) 938-6769, or write Gerald at 36 Irene Ln E, Plainview NY 11803.

Kansas City Club?

Earl G Day, 13208 W 94th Ter, Lenexa KS 66215, would like to contact individuals interested in forming a computer club in the Kansas City area. Earl's phone number is (913) 492-9315.

Ithaca NY Computer Group

Steve Edelman, 204 Dryden Rd, Ithaca NY 14850, sent BYTE a note announcing formation of the Ithaca Computer Group. One of the first activities was to arrange a bulk purchase of 91L02A RAM chips for members. The Ithaca Computer Group meets "semi sporadically, but mostly on the second Sunday of the month." For information call Steve at (607) 272-2339.