



Don Alexander of Columbus OH was named the grand prize winner in the MITS World Altair Computer Convention demonstration contest. Don is shown here with his computer controlled amateur radio Teletype station. The radio equipment is the stack at the left. At the right is his homebrew video display output on an OEM monitor, and in the background at the right is his Altair 8800 on top of which is perched the radioteletype converter unit. The station is completed by the keyboard unit in the front, and a Model 19 Teletype machine (only a corner is visible at right) which logs station contacts during contests.

— Photo by Andrea Lewis

The Albuquerque Happenings

At the recent World Altair Computer Convention, BYTE was represented by editor Carl Helmers, publishers Manfred and Virginia Peschke, circulation manager Deborah Luhrs, and Tully Peschke. The convention was capably organized and carried out under the direction of David Bunnell. Approximately 700 enthusiastic people from places as far away as Iran, Austria and West Germany came to Albuquerque NM for what was effectively a giant computer club meeting. Southern California Computer Society was present and accounted for with a chartered plane flight and many of the people who are responsible for that organization's existence. One of the major activities of the convention was a computer systems

To our complete surprise, BYTE received an award at the MITS convention, prepared and delivered by a large SCCS contingent. This photo shows BYTE editor Carl Helmers (left) receiving the SCCS "special award" from Lou Fields of SCCS (right) while Dave Bunnell of MITS watches.

— Photo by Robert Prati



demonstration contest. Judges were Les Solomon, technical editor of *Popular Electronics*, Larry Steckler, editor of *Radio Electronics*, Theodor Nelson, author of *Computer Lib/Dream Machines*, and BYTE editor Helmers.

Don Alexander of Columbus OH was named grand prize winner in the demonstration contest with his computer-controlled amateur radio Teletype station. The home built system consisted of an Altair 8800 with 8 K of memory, an ASCII keyboard, a video display, Baudot Teletype and standard transmitter and receiver.

In addition to building the hardware, Mr Alexander developed his own software and wrote the assembler and editor for the system. The program he demonstrated at the Convention was written for receiving and transmitting messages in a radio Teletype contest. The Altair 8800 kept track of most of the radio Teletype contest "house-keeping," such as: ASCII/Baudot translation, crosschecking calls for duplication, sending the time and message number of a transmission along with lines of text that are generated by command from the keyboard. After every exchange, a log entry was printed on the Teletype, keeping a hard copy record of all exchanges. A complete Altair floppy disk system was awarded to Mr Alexander for his winning entry.

A tie for second place resulted in MITS awarding two Altair 8800Bs: one to Randy Miller of Tempe AZ for his computer chess demonstration; and one to Wirt and Valerie Atmar of Las Cruces NM for their speech synthesizer.

Third prize, an Altair 16 K static memory card, went to Danny Kleinman, Steve Grumette and Mike Gilbert of Los Angeles CA for their backgammon game, written in Altair BASIC and played on a Cromemco TV Dazzler.

The winners were announced March 28 1976 at the Altair awards banquet. Grand prize winners in MITS' yearly software contest were also named at the banquet; James Gerow of Houston TX won first place for the best program, and Lee M Eastburn of Langdon ND took the top prize in the subroutine category.

Throughout the weekend Altair users from 46 states and seven foreign countries took part in seminars presented by MITS engineers and software developers. A group of guest speakers, including Ted Nelson, author of *Computer Lib*, David Ahl of *Creative Computing*, and Carl Helmers of BYTE, led a Saturday night discussion of what the future holds for computers in general and for hobbyists in particular. ■

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