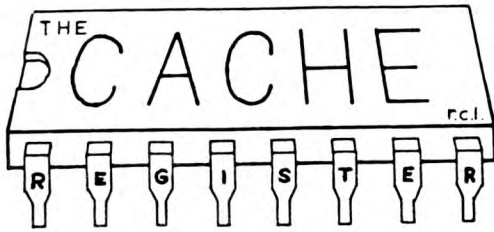


CHICAGO AREA COMPUTER HOBBYIST EXCHANGE



CACHE Hotline (312) 849-1132

VOL. VI, NO. 2

P.O. Box 52, South Holland, IL 60473

February, 1981

THE NATIONAL COMPUTER CONFERENCE IS COMING TO TOWN!!

NCC '81 will be held May 4-7, 1981 at McCormick place. The four day conference will offer a full professional program of panels, papers, and tutorials with 100 technical sessions. Over 300 companies will be exhibiting their products.

The Personal Computing Festival will be a conference within a conference. The PC exhibits will join the rest of NCC '81 in the main exhibit area for the first time. Personal computing innovations and equipment will be seen at over 30 technical sessions. And there will be prizes awarded for the most ingenious non-commercial demonstrations!!

What about it CACHE members. Let us get our act together and show the world what we can do!!! There are all sorts of good ideas out there. We should have an exhibit that reflects our varied interests in hardware, software, ranging from the "roll-your-own" computers to microcomputers, whose performance would put a mainframe to shame.

We need to have a planning session IMMEDIATELY! Last minute efforts will reflect badly upon CACHE and will make us look like bungling amateurs.

All interested parties, contact me:

Bob Cody
2338 W. Granville
Chicago, IL 60659
PHONE: 973-4237

A BALLY UPDATE AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING

Jay Fenton spoke to a CACHE meeting, 3 years ago, about Bally, and he is now returning to provide us with an update. He has been creating games for Bally on a contract basis and created a basic cartridge for the Bally Arcade, which is the interface between the game and the user. The cartridge is actually a ROM chip containing the machine language

instructions for BASIC. The Bally Arcade game has a Z80 microprocessor.

Jay Fenton and Tom De Fanti developed the Bally Z-Grass language. This language an extension of BASIC, is specifically designed to facilitate the creation of two-dimensional computer graphics and beautiful animated effects.

Z-Grass is used in Bally Arcade games and can be used in other interactive computer systems.

The basic Bally system has 8K ROM and 4K RAM. The company is going to be coming out with an add-on unit with 32K RAM and 8K ROM plus a full ASCII keyboard, which will greatly enhance the performance of the system.

Calendar

NOTE: Please do not arrive before 11:00 except to help clean up.

11:00 PET, LSI-11, NORTH STAR, TRS-80, 68XX, APPLE, INTERACT, BALLY

12:00 SIG-BIZ, CPM/COMM, FORTH/LISP

1:00 MAIN MEETING

"Bally Update" discussion by Jay Fenton

2:00 PASCAL, SIG-PUB (Public Computing)

MONDAY, March 2, 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
at Doug Robson's, 2452 W. Grace
NEWSLETTER PASTE-UP, GENERAL DISCUSSION,
AND PIZZA EATING PHONE: 463-1833

➔ To request changes in the calendar, contact J.K. Cody, 973-4237
.....

SIG BALLY

BIG DISAPPOINTMENT: We have been in contact with Astrovision over the last several months and talked to high level management (name purposely withheld). He, in turn, promised us a representative for last months meeting. When we tried to contact him and confirm the appointment, he never even bothered to return our calls. What can I say?

Nevertheless, Mike Maslowski regrouped and put together the meeting with the help of R & L Enterprises: Rusty Blommart and Larry Smith. *60164*

Rusty and Larry brought an ASCII keyboard and a 4k add-on unit. The keyboard (the third version we've seen so far) plugs directly into the cassette interface. Their method of transmitting the encoded ASCII to the Bally consist of a 555 timer and a divider scheme to get the proper baud rate. The encoded keyboard is a Jameco 610.

The add-on unit uses 2114 RAM chips and is called a KRAM board. It plugs directly into the expansion connector on the rear of the Bally unit. *149*

Rusty and Larry plan to market both the keyboard and the KRAM board. The keyboard, interface, enclosure and power supply will sell for approximately \$200.00. They have not yet established a price for the KRAM board. R & L also repairs Bally units and have plans for marketing other goodies. One item that they are looking into is a hang-on unit that will provide high res. graphics and more expansion features. You can reach R & L at 455-7066. *202*

Also, at the meeting Mike described how to develop a large program using the "divide and conquer technique".

Bob Stoops provided a listing of our software library so members can see what is available. If you have a program that is not listed please make a copy and give it to Bob at the next meeting. (Again the library will not contain programs that au-

thors have for sale.)

Skip Steffens is now asking for contributions to the reference library. Any documentation you may have relating to the Bally will be appreciated.

Dr. Bernstein just returned from a trip out west where he got to meet Fred Cornett of CURSOR and Bob Fabris of ARCADIAN. He even got to see the proposed add-on unit. From his description it does have high res. graphics, 32k and D.O.S.

Don't forget next month's meeting will be attended by Jay Fenton, author of the Bally Basic. See you there.

---Hank Chiuppi

*** SIG CP/M (TM) ***

In the last issue I made mention of the availability of Digital Research Incorporated (DRI) software at quantity prices. Here's a complete list of DRI's available software:

DISKS & DOCUMENTATION	Price per item		
	Qty. <5	Qty. 5+	Qty. 25+
CP/M 2.2	\$ 150.00	\$ 112.50	\$ 90.00
MP/M 1.1	300.00	225.00	180.00
PL/I-80	500.00	375.00	300.00
RMAC, LINK-80 & LIB	200.00	150.00	120.00
MAC	90.00	67.50	54.00
SID	75.00	56.25	45.00
ZSID	100.00	75.00	60.00
TEX	75.00	56.25	45.00
DESPOOL	50.00	37.50	30.00
CP/NET	200.00	150.00	120.00

Please note that the quantity prices do not necessarily have to be all the same item. For example, a purchase of MAC, SID, TEX, DESPOOL, and CP/M constitute five items and qualifies for the 25% discount. If you already have the documentation (manuals) for the particular purchase, you get a cheaper price (since you already paid for the manuals):

DISKS ONLY	Price per item		
	Qty <5	Qty. 5+	Qty. 25+
CP/M 2.2	\$ 135.00	\$ 101.25	\$ 81.00
MP/M 1.1	275.00	206.25	165.00
PL/I-80	475.00	356.25	285.00
MAC	80.00	60.00	48.00
SID	70.00	52.50	42.00
ZSID	95.00	71.25	57.00
TEX	70.00	52.50	42.00