



# CHICAGO AREA COMPUTER HOBBYIST EXCHANGE

CACHE Hotline (312) 849-1132

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November, 1980

The Midwest Computer Show  
by Paul Krystosek

CACHE had a booth at the computer show at McCormick Place last month. We got the booth in trade for advertising for the show. I would like to thank all of those who helped out manning the CACHE booth especially Jean Barber of SIG Interact for providing a computer for display.

There was some complaint that it seemed that CACHE was selling Interact computers. I must admit, it did look that way at times, but the fault is not that of the Interact people it is the fault of the rest of the SIG's for not also helping out. If we had had more than one computer running, it would have looked more like a demonstration than a sales booth.

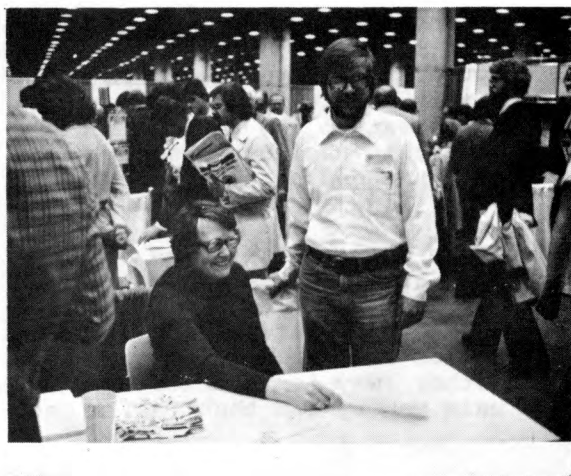


Above: Cracking the Cosmic Connection at the CACHE booth.



Left: Leah O'Connor,  
Chairperson of SIG-TRS80

Below: Jean Barber,  
Chairperson of  
SIG-INTERACT;  
and Paul Krystosek,  
President of CACHE.



## Calendar

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

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

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

1:00 Main meeting: "Music Synthesis:  
Starting within a Budget," by  
Professor Cary N. Davids

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

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Monday, December 1, 4:30 PM to 10:00 PM, at  
Roy Lipscomb's: Newsletter paste-up,  
general discussion, and pizza eating.  
Contact Roy at 274-0531.

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To request changes in the calendar, contact  
Roy Lipscomb, 274-0531.

## SIG BALLY

Discussions at the last meeting focused on two subjects; memory additions and a full-sized, ASCII keyboard and interface.

Limited to 1.8K of useable Ram has lead to very efficient programming, devious short-cuts and lots of headaches. A 4-K add-on that is currently available from the Arcadian is the Blue Ram. The current price on this unit is \$140 as a kit, \$180 wired. A keyboard interface to the Blue Ram is also available for \$24.95. You supply a Jameco unencoded keyboard, available for \$34.95. Other add-ons are in the works but are not available yet.

Adding memory to the mother board was suggested. This approach sounds easy but is really not technically feasible. Any type of memory addition should be through the expansion connector and it should be buffered.

A full-sized ASCII keyboard was demonstrated next. Housed in a wooden frame with the Bally sitting on top, it resembled pictures of the promised add-on that Bally never delivered. Inside the housing were the cassette interface -12 and +5 volt power supplies and a UART interface board. ASCII code and the Bally character codes were compared and differences noted. Peculiarities of construction and comments followed.

The Arcadian is offering reduced subscriptions rates of \$8.50 (instead of \$12.50) per year for three or more subscriptions mailed to one address. Contact me at the next meeting if your interested.

Did anybody see a Bally at the Midwest Computer Show? I didn't. Oh well, maybe next year.

At the November meeting, we will start our software library. Bring some blank cassettes, programs that you'd like to share, audio cables, and your cassette recorder. We can use some suggestions for organization of the library and ideas for future meetings.

-----Hank Chiuppi

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CACHE is once again trying to form a users group for the 6800 and 6809 family of microprocessors. It will be called the 68XX SIG (sicSIG) and its main purpose will be for the sharing of hardware and software knowledge. We are hoping to create and maintain a library of available software for general use. Instruction on the 6800 and 6809 will be available on request. The meetings will start at 11:00 AM because of the hardware as well as the software nature of this group (Also I want to go to the FORTH SIG meetings). If you are interested please contact Michael H. Katz at (312) 248-4000 apt. 323 after seven PM. If there is no one home please leave a message and I will get back to you.

The subject of the first meeting will be: hardware differences between the SS-50 and SS-50C bus structures and how to cross-assemble 6800 code to the 6809 without pulling your hair out.

Michael H. Katz

SIG APPLE  
Minutes from  
10/21/80 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:20 by moderator Jeff Fisher. There was a discussion of the difficulty of finding the meeting place (the Independence Park Fieldhouse), and newsletter editor pro tem Tim Clark said that a crucial map had been accidentally left out of the newsletter. However, 11 people did manage to find the room and attend the meeting. It was decided that the room was adequate for this many people or a few more, and that its location worked no particular hardship on anyone. We thereupon agreed to consider it our regular meeting place for the time being.

Tim Clark and Gordon Banks have agreed to co-edit the newsletter, and Ed Foster will do the CACHE register notes for any meeting he is able to attend.

Jeff Fisher gave a report on the Mid-West computer show last week, calling it the "worst computer show I've ever been to". There was very little new, and almost nothing of interest to the serious hobbyist or the small business user. This sentiment was echoed by several others present.

Tim Clark gave a presentation on altering a diskette to give various fancy catalog listings. One way is to use a disk utility to alter the DOS sectors on the diskette with one of the various utility programs. Another way is to alter the commands in main memory and then INIT a new disk.