

LONG ISLAND COMPUTER ASSOCIATION



Volume 4 Number 1

THE STACK

January, 1980

Officers:

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Vice-President	Ed Robles
Secretary	Alan McRae
Treasurer	Aileen Harrison

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MONTHLY MEETING

The January General Meeting of the Long Island Computer Association will be held on the evening of the 18th. These General Meetings are always held at 8:00 p.m. on the third Friday of each month in Room 508, Building 500, on the Old Westbury Campus of the New York Institute of Technology. Such Meetings are open, and anyone with an interest in computers and computing is invited to join us. Our format this month is that of a "town meeting". We shall discuss LICA goals, future lecture topics, special interest groups, the establishment of the LIMBS System (Lica Mail Box System), as well as the general topic of microcomputers and telecommunications in the 1980's.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

8080 Users' Group - Albert Harrison will speak on the TRS-80, MODEL 2, and how it compares to other generally available 'appliance' computers. This Group meets one week prior to the General Meeting, Friday January 11 in the same room as that used by the larger group.

TRS-80 Users' Group - With the three new members who joined during December, the roster now totals eighteen. This month, an in-depth look at THE SOURCE and MICRONET, two home-computer timesharing services, will be undertaken. Ron Tomchin, who subscribes to both services, will speak on the advantages and disadvantages of each. In addition, both the requirements for a master software indexing program and the Group's overall aims and direction will be discussed. The monthly software lending program is still going strong.

Bob Zito (516) 822-4031

6502 Users' Group - Two recently-purchased books may be of interest. The first, PROGRAMMING WITH BASIC by Byron S. Gottfried (Scharm's Outline

Series) is a "good buy" for beginners at \$4.95. Its eight chapters are divided into two parts, for basic and advanced students. There are 287 solved problems, 21 programming examples, with both a statement of the problem, as well as the theory involved in its solution. The second book is 6502 ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE by Lance A. Leventhal (Osborne/McGraw-Hill). Written for the novice, experienced programmers will find much of substance here. Each 6502 instruction is separately discussed, as is the writing of program segments, I/O interfacing, interrupt handling, program design and debugging. I am presently writing an instruction manual for using the S-100 bus floppy disk adapter card available from HDE through Perry Peripherals at (\$135). The manual will sell for \$15 and will be available for purchase in mid-January. All software, including the line-oriented text editor, TED, have been relocated to C000-DFFF so that they will work with Forethought's KIMSI and Riverside's KEM.

Steve Perry (516) 744-6462

LOOKING BACKWARD

Richard Burger of General Instruments Corporation presented a fascinating lecture on LSI (Large Scale Integrated circuits), complete with color slides and demonstration hardware. The evolution of GI's PIC series of single-chip, stand-alone microcomputers (1650A, 1655A, 1656, and 1664B) was traced. These chips feature a powerful instruction set, bit testing and manipulation, 12 bit word length, custom user-programs in on-chip or off-chip ROM, single voltage power supply, on-chip oscillator, event counter, 4 microsecond instruction cycle time, and direct LED hookup. These chips are used in consumer appliances such as microwave ovens and blenders. They are used in telecommunications in both telephones and terminals; in motor control devices, automobile dashboards (speed control, radio, systems testing, mileage computation), industrial controls (electronic switching), television and radio tuners, and in games. These chips were designed, and are manufactured here on Long Island. They are assembled in Taiwan.

1. 1980 General Election:

In addition to those officers whose names and titles appear at the masthead of this issue of THE STACK, four Executive Board members were elected. They are Dave Metal, Dave Minott, Steve Perry, and Aussie Schwab.

2. Disk Reliability:

The consensus of opinion appears that IBM diskettes have the highest demonstrated reliability in hobbyist environments. The following brands were somewhat less reliable, in descending order: 3M, BASF, Verbatim, and Memorex. TRS-80 users present complained of platter instability when using 5 1/4" Memorex diskettes. Double density users found Maxell to be of similar quality to the IBM products.

3. Trenton Computer Festival:

The fifth annual edition of the TCF, the original Personal Computer Show, will be held on April 19-20. The show will again feature the 5 acre flea market and an indoor commercial exhibitor area with up to 50 booths. There will be 30 speakers, user group sessions, and a variety of demonstrations. The Festival will be on the campus of Trenton State College, and further details can be obtained from Dr. Allen Katz at (609) 771-2487.

CLASSIFIED NOTICES

Lifeboat Associates has immediate openings for computer specialists with

knowledge of CP/M-based systems. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Phil Woellhof (212) 580-0082

SHUGART disk drive alignment & repair: Steve Metal (516) 499-1135

It is that time of year again where "Uncle Sam" declares himself your partner and sticks his big hand out for a piece of the action. Don't forget that I can be of help to you in preparing your income taxes. My rates are especially low to all club members and their families. For the sake of accuracy we will not use my computer. A. Harrison (516) 938-6769
B. Sczerba (516) 731-1756

Job Opportunities: Anyone interested in part-time programming, systems analysis, systems engineering, or operations assignments please call Alan McRae (516) 499-5308

For Sale: SSM 16K 250ns static memory card \$300 R. Stone (516) 731-7796

Business Opportunities: Anyone interested in starting or staffing a computer store should call Alan McRae at (516) 499-5308

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM AILEEN HARRISON

It is with great sadness that all the members of LICA extend their deepest sympathy to Ralph Reed, for the loss of his beloved wife Helen. I had the pleasure of knowing Helen through a mutually-shared hobby, Ham Radio, and I can tell you she was one heck of a nice person.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING POLICY

While THE STACK will continue to offer free classified listings to hobbyists for their offerings and solicitations, we now accept commercial display ads in 1/4, 1/2, and full page sizes. Rates are based on 3 month participations, and assume full-tone camera-ready copy. Our purposes in implementing this significant change in policy are threefold: 1) to defray actual reproduction and distribution costs; 2) to provide a more complete and useful STACK; and 3) to assure that membership dues will remain low. Write THE STACK or call your Editor Fridays through Sundays at (516) 731-1649.

