

AmAz!

Amiga info Arizona

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 8 - November 1994

Inside:

WB 3.1...Again	1
Cont. page 9 & 10	
From The President	3
Treasurers Report	3
Winners/NonWinners	3
Librarians Desk	4
Classified Ads	4
BBS Report	5
Wentek Ad	6
AzTec (ASU Internet)	7
Wentek Ad	7
Glendale On-Line	8
Amazing Computers	12

WB3.1 . . . AGAIN

Review: Workbench 3.1 By: William Near

PUBLISHER: Commodore-Amiga Inc.

Distributed and mfg by Village Tronic Marketing GmbH, Germany

Part I

PROGRAM: Amiga Workbench v3.1 (Kickstart version - 40.63)
(Workbench version - 40.42)

DESCRIPTION: Workbench/AmigaDOS v3.1 for the A500/2000 computer

PURCHASED FROM: Expert Services (*Editors Note: WB 3.1 is now available from Amazing Computers. See their ad on page 12*)

(606) 371-9690 - Orders
(606) 282-5942 - BBS

PRICE: I paid \$130 U.S. This includes \$5 S&H

There are other people selling the Workbench (WB) 3.1 kits for as much as \$225 U.S., so shop around to get the best price. Note: There are substantiated reports of pirate copies of WB 3.1 being sold. These bogus kits are just Xeroxed copies of the manuals and copies of the disks.

• WB 3.1, page 8

Next Meeting: 16 November 1994, 7:00 PM

AGENDA

**Glendale Public Library
Large Meeting Room
5959 W. Brown St.
Glendale, Arizona**

Best of Fred Fish
Disk of the Month
Demo of Pom Pom
Imagine Demo
Software Drawing

Stan Krawczyk
Mel Elliott
Mel Elliott
Allen Hutchison
Destroyer by Epyx

Amiga Arizona (AmAz!): An Official Amiga User Group Since 1986

The Amazing Connection BBS, 24 hours/day, at (602)435-8695. SYSOP: Bill Hagan

AmAz!.info is published monthly and is the official newsletter of the Amiga Arizona User Group.

Permission to reprint or quote any material is herein granted to any user group. Any use of material from this newsletter must give credit to both the author and AmAz!.info as all articles written remain the copyrighted property of the author with all rights reserved.

For groups or individuals who have a desire to reprint articles contained in this newsletter a copy is uploaded to the AmAz!.ing Connection BBS, (602) 435-8695 with all articles in ASCII format. The file will be archived in LHA format.

Articles and other material appearing in AmAz!.info are compiled without verification of accuracy and are the views of the contributor; and not necessarily that of Amiga Arizona or the AmAz!.info staff.

AmAz!.info is produced on an Amiga A2000 using PageStream 2.22, Art Expression, HotLinks 1.1, PageLiner 1.1, BME 1.1, Pro Draw, WordPerfect, DPaint IV, clip-art from Magnetic Images, eclips, SoftClips and PIC-MA GIC and a Toshiba XM3201A CD ROM Player, with output to an NEC Silent-Writer 2, Model 90 Laser Printer (Postscript). Duplication by OfficeMax (Metro Center). Amiga is a registered trademark of Commodore Business Machines, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP ROLLS

The following members have joined AmAz! or renewed their memberships since the last newsletter was published.

Bill Hagan	Regular
Robbie Zirkle	Regular
William Jimenez	Subscriber

The mailing label has three digits, three letters and four digits, ie:

116 Reg (Sub) 9506

116 is the membership number, Reg (Sub) indicates Regular or Subscription membership and the 9506 indicates the year and month of expiration. The box beneath the mailing label will be checked if this is your last issue.

Moving? Please send your change of address as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Mail to:

Amiga Arizona (AmAz!)
P.O. Box 2282
Glendale, AZ 85311-2282

AmAz! EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT

Mel Elliott...931-1117

VICE PRESIDENT

Allen Hutchison...979-7363

SECRETARY

Brian Hunter...892-2052

TREASURER

Lester Carr...877-3746

LIBRARIAN

Mel Elliott...931-1117

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Bill Hagan...934-2993

Pete Guldager...935-2162

Gary Bowdish...581-9750

Stan Krawczyk...438-0021

SYSOP

Bill Hagan...934-2993

CO-SYSOP's

Brian Hunter...892-2052

Scott House...(512)592-4654

DISK EDITOR

Mel Elliott...931-1117

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Bill Hagan...934-2993

Mel Elliott...931-1117

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

AREXX

Bill Hagan...934-2993

PROGRAMMING 'C'

Stan Krawczyk...438-0021

Call any of the persons listed above if you have any questions about AmAz!, the Amiga, or if you are having a problem running your Amiga. They are there to HELP you. If they do not know the answer to your question, they WILL try to get it.

Please be considerate of the hour you call.

CLUB POLICY: AmAz! does not condone piracy of commercial software. Although AmAz! recognizes your right to make a working backup of software you have purchased, copying of software you have not purchased is illegal and may result in loss of membership and privileges in AmAz!.

MONTHLY

Advertising Rates
(Camera Ready)

Full Page	\$35.00
Full Page Insert (Supplied, 175 Copies)	\$20.00
Half Page	\$20.00
Half Page (Back Cover)	\$25.00
Quarter Page	\$15.00
Business Card	\$10.00

Send rate inquiries to:

AmAz!
P.O. Box 2282
Glendale, AZ 85311-2282

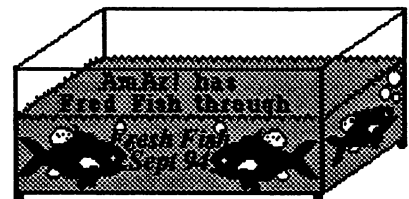
AmAz! maintains a Public Domain Library from which disks may be ordered at meetings, on the BBS or is available at Amazing Computers on the Second Saturday of each month:

Disk Prices

\$2.00 AmAz! member
\$3.00 non-member

DOM

\$3.00 AmAz! member
\$4.00 non-member

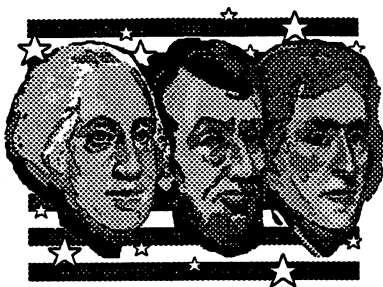


**AmAz! Disk of the Month
and newsletter are
available at:**

Amazing Computers
1435 E. University #8
Tempe, AZ 85281
(602) 929-9488

Wentek
10317 Scottsdale Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85253
(602) 483-7200

FROM THE PRESIDENT



The number of other User Groups and vendors that AmAz! is receiving newsletters and other information from is decreasing each month. I sincerely hope that this is not an indication that people are losing faith in the computer that we have all used and loved for many years. It appears that some word should be forthcoming very soon now on the status of the Commodore technology and possibly the stock of parts etc. that were still on hand when the fold up occurred. Maybe with any luck the recipients of the contract will be able to get up and running with new product sometime soon after the first of the year.

Our finances are holding their own. We are still making it from month to month but just barely. We would like to be able to get a bit of a cushion in event something drastic happens to the BBS or some of our other equipment. The only thing we can do is continue our support as in the past by purchasing disks and other methods of support. As I have said in the past we are always looking for articles for the newsletter, demonstrations at the monthly meetings and suggested programs for the Disk of the Month.

The Executive Board meeting for October was held at a new place, Sara's Cafe, at 27th Avenue and Camelback and the members in attendance voted that we meet there again next month. Remember, the meeting is open to anyone and is held at 9AM on the Saturday following the General Meeting.

I submitted the agenda for the meetings to the Arizona Republic again this month, for publication on the Monday prior to our General Meeting on the 16th of November.

The club library will be at Amazing Computers on the 12th of November. If there are any disks you would like, let me know on the BBS or call me at home and they will be ready for you when you arrive at the store. Just give me a couple of days to get them copied and labels made for you.

Everyone have a very happy Thanksgiving day.. AmAz!

Winners

and

Non-Winners



Congratulations to the following listed members who won prizes as indicated at the October 1994 AmAz! meeting:

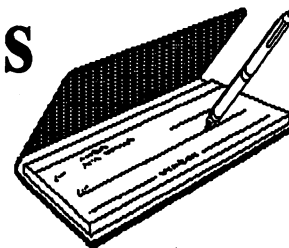
#132 Les Carr.....Five (5) Blank disks
#364 Donald Smalley.....Disk Coupon
#318 Mark Carter.....Checks & Balances

The following members names were drawn but were not present or declined their option: #371 Kevin Fox and #111 R.L. Robertson.

The hidden number was #335 Stephen Doncevic who was not present and therefore could not claim his disk coupon. AmAz!

Treasurer's Report

by Lester Carr



October Beginning Balance: \$ 386.07

Income:	
Advertising	40.00
DOM Sales	12.00
Fred Fish Disks	2.00
Memberships Regular	48.00
Memberships Subscription	18.00

Total Income \$ 120.00 + \$ 120.00

Sub Total \$ 506.07

Expenses:	
News Letter	\$ 72.98
BBS Phone	22.62
Fred Fish CD (Sept)	18.00
Bank Service Charge	.21

Total Expenses \$ 113.81 - \$ 113.81

October Ending Balance: \$ 392.26

Membership: Regular 36 Subscription 15

Librarian's Desk



by Mel Elliott

Those of you who were at the October general meeting I'm sure remember the problems we were having with my computer, also the program DiskSalv that Stan demonstrated. When I got home and reconnected my computer I planned to delete all the files that were installed at the meeting. The computer was even worse than at the meeting. I could not do anything with it except get it booted after a lot of grief. At any rate I decided that I may as well run DiskSalv on DH0:, my boot partition and if push came to shove I would re format the drive and run my Quarterback backup disks. After running DiskSalv I rebooted the machine and it has ran great ever since. It did indicate one error was found but I was not told what it was. The program is on the November DOM.

The latest Fred Fish CD series that we have received is the August/September issue.

November AmAz! Disk of the Month DOM #89:

ANIMATED REQUESTER: A small program which will add animation to requesters that appear on occasion from the workbench or within other programs.

DISKSALV2 Version 11.31: A disk repair and salvage utility program. This version can fix most disk problems. See testimonial above. Much better program than the old Commodore Operating System program, DiskDoctor.

SPACE TAXI II: A lander program with great graphics, 5 levels and an editor that may be utilized in conjunction with an Amiga Paint program to create your own levels. Is not easy.

A few of the programs from the August/September Fred Fish CD:

OCTAMEDPLAYER V5.12: A stand alone player program for playing songs written with OctaMed. Can play MIDI songs as well. Works fine with OS 2.0 as well as 1.3.

VIRUS CHECKER V6.43: The latest update by John Veldthuis of New Zealand of this venerable Virus Checker. The program is now shareware and I received a very nice note from John after sending him my contribution.

FLEXCAT V1.3: A catalog creator with a source to handle them. You may create catalogs similar to

For Sale

*AmAz! Classified
Free to Members*

SOLIDEX Video Editor

Model EXCEL 200

Stereo Sound Mixer, two Video/Sound inputs, microphone for voice-over, Video enhancer and Audio/Video fade in-out.

\$50.00

Call Ed Lippman @ 265-5977

COLOR PRINTER

ALPS Model ALQ300

24 pin Dot-Matrix, wide carriage.
With manuals, original box, black and color ribbons.

\$150.00

Call Les Carr @ 877-3746

SCSI CONTROLLER for A2000

Commodore A2091 SCSI controller with 2 meg of memory installed. Removed from my A2000HD when an accelerator was installed.

\$125.00

Call Mel Elliott @ 931-1117

SONY VIDEO CAMCORDER (8MM)

Model CCD-V8AF

Battery/AC powered, Battery and Charger.
Connections for VCR/TV playback. 1 Tape

\$200.00

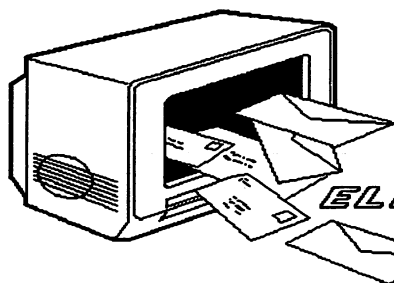
Call Les Carr @ 877-3746

CatComp, KitCat or MakeCat. A main advantage is that you may determine the source you want to use. Includes templates for most of the major Amiga programming languages.

DOICONS V 1.0: An Icon information and manipulation tool. Useful for shell usage and is perfect to use in conjunction with Directory OPUS or similar file managers.

MSPLIT V 1.3: A file splitting utility in order for the user to copy subject files to floppy disks for transport to another media etc.

REMIND V1.32: The good thing about remind over other similar programs is that all information is contained in one window. AmAz!



BBS REPORT

*ELECTRONIC
MAIL BAG*

by **BILL HAGAN**

Did you read the story in the paper a few weeks ago about the Postmaster who couldn't handle all the mail coming through his Post Office? He hid mail by the sackful in his garage, empty rooms and in rented storage lockers.

Almost the same thing happened to the AmAz! BBS on a recent Monday. The club computer had crashed during the early morning hours and though I restarted it, it crashed again after a couple of hours. I restarted it and it crashed again after a couple of hours. This went on for the rest of Monday and all day on Tuesday, every two or three hours, the BBS would crash. I thought sure we had a hard drive failure. In fact, I had already started pricing new hard drives.

Let me digress for a moment. For those who are unfamiliar with the internal workings of a computer bulletin board system, let me draw an analogy. A Bulletin Board System is very similar to a post office.

Picture a post office where the incoming mail is delivered in sacks, the sacks are opened and the mail is dumped onto sorting tables or into sorting machines after which it is passed onto route persons for delivery or placed into P.O. Boxes or general delivery. People read their mail and deliver their answers back to the Post Office where the process is reversed. The mail is collected, sorted according to its address, placed in mail sacks and delivered to other Post Offices for final delivery.

The BBS works in the same manner. Our Hub calls several times a day to deliver Packets(sacks) of mail. The BBS has an internal program, the Mail Processor, that unpacks the mail, sorts it, places it in the proper message area(General Delivery) or delivers it to the proper address(Private Mail). BBS Users read their mail and respond to it with new mail. The Mail Processor gathers the new mail,

packs it up and delivers the packets to the Hub for delivery to its final destination. Contrary to popular belief, the Sysop does not sit at the keyboard to do this manually; the computer program handles all this automatically. That is until something goes wrong as it did on that recent Monday and Tuesday.

By late Tuesday afternoon I had hit the panic button, several times; remember, I was already looking at hard drive prices. Several things had come to my attention, but it was almost midnight before I stumbled upon the real truth of the matter. (1) It seemed I had been reading the same messages over and over. (2) The computer seemed to crash just after a mail delivery from the Hub. (3) There was an excessive number of mail packets piled up in the IN directory (Remember that Postmaster).

When I discovered the mail packets in the IN Directory, I thought I should do a good deed and process the mail immediately. I ran the Mail Processor

manually and the computer crashed! Mail from the first half of the packet was delivered and then the computer crashed. I restarted the computer, ran the Mail Processor and again mail from the first half of the first packet's mail was processed and then CRASH! That was the problem; the first packet in line was corrupt and each time the Mail processor tried to process the mail, it would cause the computer to crash. And that was why I kept reading the same mail again and again. When I re-

started the computer, the mail from half of that first packet had been delivered, I read it as new mail, the pointer was updated, a new packet was delivered, the Mail Processor would start to unpack that first packet again and CRASH. The process would be repeated each time we received a new mail packet.

The solution was simple enough, I just deleted the corrupt mail packet. As soon as I ran the Mail Processor, all the mail was processed satisfactorily and the BBS has been up and running with no further problem.

What, you may ask, does all this have to do with the features of the BBS? To me, as Sysop, the Mail Processor is the most important feature a BBS can have. It means that I don't have to sit at the keyboard to sort and deliver the mail manually. To you, the User, it means that you can send and receive your electronic mail on a timely basis. There is an old saying, "You don't miss the water, til the well runs dry." The same goes here, "I didn't miss the

**AmAz!ing
Connection**

(602)435-8695

FidoNet 1:114/216

AmyNet 40:300/12

CD³² Holiday Sale !!!

at Wentek - Your Amiga Source. Phone # 483-7200
New CD³²'s with 3 month warantee from Software Hut

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1) Games/Educational pack - incl. Groliers Encyclopedia II /
Guiness Book of Records II / Insight Technologies /
Pinball Fantasies / SleepWalkers / Diggers ----- | \$379.95 |
| 2) Super Games pack - incl. Pinball Fantasies / Sleepwalker /
Diggers /Defender of the Crown II / plus 1 game of choice* ----- | \$349.95 |
| 3) Educational pack - incl. Groliers Encyclopedia II / Guiness
Book of Records / Insight Technologies ----- | \$324.95 |
| 4) Games pack - incl. Pinball Fantasies / Sleep Walker /
Diggers----- | \$309.95 |
| 5) Bare pack - incl. CD32 Base unit only ----- | \$284.95 |
| 6) CD32 Serial Connection Kit ----- | \$64.95 |
| 7) CD32 Super Controller ----- | \$34.95 |
| 8) Groliers Encyclopedia II ----- | \$59.95 |
| 9) Microcosm ----- | \$53.00 |
| 10) Sports Football ----- | \$49.99 |
| 11) Defender of the Crown II ----- | \$39.95 |
| 12) Super Methane Bros. ----- | \$37.50 |
| 13) Liberation ----- | \$37.00 |
| 14) Pirates Gold ----- | \$35.00 |
| 15) Chuck Rock II Son of Chuck ----- | \$35.00 |
| 16) Whale's Voyage ----- | \$35.00 |
| 17) Sensible Soccer ----- | \$35.00 |
| 18) The Chaos Engine ----- | \$35.00 |
| 19) Global Effect ----- | \$35.00 |
| 20) Trivial Pursuit ----- | \$35.00 |
| 21) Bubba 'n' Stix ----- | \$35.00 |
| 22) Diggers** ----- | \$35.00 |
| 23) Pinball Fantasies / Sleepwalker** ----- | \$35.00 |
| 24) Labyrinth of Time ----- | \$30.00 |
| 25) Nigel Mansell's World Championship ----- | \$30.00 |
| 26) Guiness Book of Records ----- | \$29.95 |
| 27) D/Generation ----- | \$29.00 |
| 28) Insight Technologies ----- | \$24.95 |

*does not include Microcosm. **Available only in Games, Super Games, and Educational/Games Packs

AzTec

ASU Internet Freenet

Reprinted by special permission of Russ Yost from the Motorola MECCA News, Vol. 8, No 11, November 1994.

As mentioned in the October Newsletter, ASU has established AZTec, an Internet FreeNet Portal to "increase" Internet connectivity options for the people of Arizona. It is free to subscribers; the only limitation at present is that sessions are limited to 60 minutes, but no limit is set on number of sessions per day. The purpose is to prevent the first N users to log on from keeping others from sharing.

Russ Yost said he had logged on as a guest, (password = visitor) and had registered. He has been using it for EMail, mainly. They had (at the time) 16 lines, with 40 more on order. Access currently is excellent. At first, incoming EMail was not working, but Oct 3 that began to work. So far, Russ had not been able to upload a binary file using ZModem or XModem protocols. Both modes failed as soon as the file title was received by AzTec (sent manually in XModem, automatically in ZModem). Setting his JR.COMM terminal program for VT-100 emulation, Russ has been able to edit his EMail using their on-line editor, CE (Charlie's Editor), patterned after EMacs, successfully. It responds to the arrow keys in moving the cursor, but of course, ignores the mouse. Russ was able to read NewsGroup postings, but was unable to post a message back to a newsgroup he had just been reading.

To join, log on at 965-4151, using 2400 baud, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity, VT-100 terminal emulation. On connection, press carriage return (enter) key several times till you get a response, then respond to the ID request with "guest" (don't type the ""'s), and use "visitor" as the password.

Temporary storage space is limited at present to 1 MegaByte and files will be held for 24 hours. This space is a temporary buffer into which you download files from remote sites, then transfer them to your own computer at home.

Since the meeting, as of 13 October, Russ still is unable to upload files. However, he found that LYNX, a browsing interface to World Wide Web, seems to be functioning well. It provides a hypertext interface. Words are highlighted that can be selected by using the arrow keys; pressing the Enter key acces-

ses a corresponding text file. The WWW server that AzTec uses is at the University of Kansas. One of the files that can be accessed is a Lynx Users Guide V2.3, which can be captured in your computer terminal program's capture file and later printed out. It details how to use LYNX to access numerous data bases. WWW is discussed in text books such as "Internet for Dummies." AmAz!

Wentek AMIGA Computers

NEW CD³² Christmas SALE !!! Probably the last batch I can get until next year
Various Packages Available starting at \$284.95
3 month warrantee. Call or stop in for information on Packages. Microcosm is not available as part of packages.

NEW A3000s and A3000Towers 3 month warrantee from Software Hut. Starting at \$989.00
SX-1's are in Stock Starting at \$219.99
Defender of the Crown II CD32 for only \$39.95
Labyrinth of Time CD32 for only \$30.00
Super Methane Bros. CD32 for only \$37.50
Microcosm in stock again for only \$53.00

AMIGA Software and Games in Stock, including:

Page Stream 3.0 only \$249.00
Image Master R/t only \$74.95
Final Writer Rel.2 only \$119.95
Brilliance 2.0 only \$119.95
Kings Quest VI only \$47.95
Banshee (AGA) only \$39.95

Other Great Stuff!

M1230XA 33 mhz 030/882/4 meg RAM \$379.95
DataFlyer SCSI+ SCSI on your A1200/SX-1 without using expansion slot \$ 99.95
GVP G-Lock \$319.95
CD32 Serial Connection Kit-use your CD32 with any Amiga \$64.95
A2386SX Bridge Board 25MHz with 4 meg. RAM Used, Like New \$300.00
Emplant Deluxe (SCSI and Serial ports) with ROMs \$529.99
Various other used computers, hardware, & software available. 10% Consignments too!

Prices good until Dec.31,1994 and only on products in stock at time ad was placed
Prices and availability subject to change without notice and/or prior sale.



Tuesday - Friday 11am to 7pm

Saturday Noon to 5pm

South/East corner Scottsdale Rd. and Shea

Wentek 10317 N. Scottsdale Rd. st.B Phone #483-7200

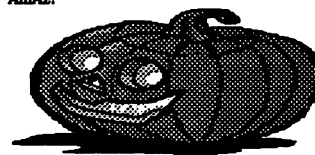
ENGLISH LESSON

It's is not, it isn't ain't, and it's it's, not its, if you mean it is. If you don't, it's its. Then too, it's hers. It isn't her's. It isn't our's either. It's ours, and likewise yours and theirs.

-- Oxford University Press, Edpress News

Your—you're In revision check for careless confusion of these words. *Your* is a possessive pronoun—*your books*. *You're* is a subject and verb—*You're all right* (You are all right).

AmAz!



Glendale Public Library

NEW Dial-Up Access
PHONE 931-4983

Need to look up a word that is not in your dictionary? Want to check whether a book is available in the library? Wonder if that book you checked out is overdue? You are in luck. You can now call the Glendale Library with your modem and Communications Program.

The system is available 24 hours a day, except when system maintenance is performed. Please observe a **20-minute time limit** per session so that others can have access. For help with dial-up access, call 435-4929 and leave a message. A member of the library's automation staff will call you back as soon as possible.

The following is the recommended settings for access, though I used the same settings with which I call our club BBS.

Data Bits - 8
StopBits - 1
Parity - None
Echo - None
Duplex - Full
Emulation - VT100
Flow Control - Xon/Xoff
Error Control - Disabled
Baud Rate - 300 to 9600

Once your modem connects, press Return (Enter). At the login prompt, type **library** and press Return (Enter). The word **library** must be in lowercase.

At the **everywhere** prompt, press Return (Enter). Once you have read the SYSTEM MESSAGES, type **q** and press Return (Enter) to enter the system. Some of the menu items, which are clear and straight forward, are listed below.

MAIN MENU

You can search by any of the methods listed here. Enter the number of the search you want.

1. Glendale Public Library Catalog
2. Glendale Library Bulletin Board
3. Review Your Library Record
4. American Heritage Dictionary
5. Bestsellers
6. Logoff

DICTIONARY

1. Dictionary Word Finder
2. Dictionary Abbreviation Finder
3. Dictionary Alphabetical Search
4. RETURN to Main Menu
5. Logoff

List of Best Seller Lists (Updated weekly)

1. New York Times - Fiction
2. New York Times - Nonfiction
3. Publishers Weekly - Fiction
4. Publishers Weekly - Nonfiction

REVIEW PATRON RECORD

This feature allows you to review certain information about your library record. To protect the privacy of your information, you **CAN NOT** access it without knowing both the barcode number from your library card and your Personal Identification Number (PIN).

If you do not have a PIN, you may use your phone number to access the information **AND** create a PIN.

Once a PIN has been created, it **MUST** be used.

1. Items out
2. Blocks
3. Holds
4. Patron information
5. Change PIN
6. Quit

To exit the On-Line system, choose one of the menus and pick the **logoff** option. Wait until the system returns to the **login** prompt and follow your software's hang-up procedure. AmAz!

BBS page 5

Mail Processor, til it jammed up."Normally, it just sits in the background and does its job.

On a new subject for just a moment: Thanks to Scott House, our Subscriber/Co-Sysop for accepting the challenge to furnish new puzzles for the BBS Wheel-of-Fortune game. He has a whole new set of puzzles that will soon be on line.

If you have a question or a suggestion about the BBS, leave a Comment to the Sysop and we will try to come up with an answer. AmAz!

➤ *WB 3.1 page 1*

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Amiga 500/2000 hard drive recommended, but not necessary

SYSTEM TESTED ON: Amiga 2000 (Rev 4.4), ECS chipset, GForce '030 accelerator 2 standard floppy drives, Quantum LPS270 hard drive with Trumpcard Professional controller.

PACKAGING: Workbench 3.1 came with Workbench, AmigaDOS, and ARexx manuals (the manuals are the plain paperback type, not the nice 3-ring binder type I received with WB 2.04), an AmigaDOS quick reference card, a 3.1 ROM installation instruction sheet, a 3.1 ROM chip, and six disks.

NOTE: This review is written with the assumption that you have previously used Workbench v2.04, 2.05, or 2.1. It would make this review ten times longer if I had to compare this Workbench to the pre-2.x releases. So, all references to new features will be written on a Workbench 2.x comparison basis.

INSTALLATION: The instruction sheet contains the necessary steps for installing the 3.1 ROM in either an A500 or A2000 computer. I will briefly cover the special notes for each installation just so you'll know what you're getting into here. For the A500 motherboard Rev. 3 & 5, the 3.1ROM must have Pin 1 jumpered to Pin 31 and for Rev 6A and above the 3.1 ROM requires no jumper. For the older A2000s with the motherboard marked "1989 COMMODORE AMIGA 2000 MADE IN GERMANY (BSW) or for Rev. 3 motherboards, the 3.1 ROM must have Pin 1 jumpered to Pin 31, for Rev. 4 and higher motherboards, no jumper is needed. The ROM I received came with no jumper wire attached, but I didn't need one anyway. The new ROM was easily installed into my MultiStart ROM switcher after removing my old 2.04 ROM.

I chose to reformat my entire hard drive with the new version of the Fast File System (FFS) included with WB 3.1 (note: I did NOT use the directory caching feature of the new FFS because I also boot up in WB 1.3 from the hard drive and the older OS would not recognize the hard drive as a valid DOS disk if directory caching were present.) The representative at Expert Services said that I could expect a 10-20% increase in hard drive reads/writes by using the new FFS -- the speed increase was more like 5-10% in actual use as determined by SysInfo v3.24. Any speed increase is welcome and it didn't take that long to back up the crucial information on

my hard drive. I just booted up the computer with the WB 3.1 disks after installing the 3.1 ROM and accessed the hard drive using the HDToolbox program.

The software uses the Commodore Installer program which makes things run quite smoothly. If you have previously installed Workbench v2.x then you should be familiar with this process. If you have a previous version of Workbench installed on your hard drive then the Installer program will delete any old files that are unnecessary to the new version of the Workbench and it will also preserve any preferences and user-startup scripts you are using.

A NEW LOOK AND FEEL: WB 3.1 has a new 3-D look to the windows and sliders that adds some professionalism to the Workbench. It uses the exact same pulldown menus as WB 2.x does, so things won't look all that different if you're used to WB 2.x. The differences are somewhat subtle, but there is some real power lurking underneath.

The back of the Workbench box claims improved support for graphics boards e.g. Picosso II RTG with up to 1600x1200 pixels in 256 colors (I can't verify this since I don't have a 24bit card.) The graphics rendering is also significantly accelerated due to the completely rewritten graphics and layers libraries. You can definitely notice the difference, especially with the screen refreshes and when scrolling text etc.

The following sections contain a description of what objects are contained within each drawer of the new WB 3.1 -- they do not list every object in each drawer, just things that have been changed or added with the new WB release. All unlisted objects are assumed to be the same from WB 2.x to WB 3.1.

UTILITIES: The Utilities drawer contains a program called MultiView. MultiView is a powerful utility that can read an IFF text file, view a picture file in almost any format, play sound files, view AmigaGuide hypertext documents, play animations, and perform many other functions. The MultiView utility relies on DataTypes (see below for a list of included DataTypes) to access the many types of formats available to the Amiga. A DataType is a description of the data to be used, you can get DataTypes for virtually anything you want to view, play, read, or whatever. DataTypes are included with WB 3.1 and others are available on many BBS's and commercial services, such as: GENie, CompuServe, etc. If you can't find a DataType for a file format

➤ *WB 3.1 page 10*

WB 3.1 page 9

you want to manipulate with MultiView then just write one for yourself!

The MultiView icon can open a standard file requester or, because it is an AppWindow, it can just open a window on the Workbench screen into which you can drag various icons to manipulate. Just drag a sound file into the MultiView window and a little speaker icon will appear in the window. Click on the speaker icon and the sound will be played. When you load an animation file into MultiView you will get a VCR-type control panel for manipulating the animation with FastForward, Reverse, Play buttons and a slider for jumping to any part of the animation. This is a very powerful utility and it's fun to use!

Although the Say utility is not included with WB 3.1 you can easily enable it by copying the necessary files from an old WB 1.3 disk. It works flawlessly under WB 3.1.

TOOLS: The Tools drawer contains one new commodity program, a mouse blanker. The mouse blanker is very simple, just double click its icon to enable it. Whenever you type at the keyboard the pointer will disappear. To make the pointer reappear just move the mouse. I would have liked to see a better mouse blanker that would allow a user-defined time limit before blanking the mouse.

SYSTEM: Nothing new here.

DEVS: The Devs drawer contains the DataTypes used by MultiView, some new Monitor drivers, and a CD-ROM DOSDriver.

* The DataTypes included with WB 3.1 are:

8SVX - IFF sound files

AmigaGuide - Amiga help files

FTXT - IFF text files

ANIM - ANIM-format animation files

CDXL - CDXL-format animation files

ILBM - Bitmap picture files

* The new monitor drivers are : DblNTSC, DblPAL, and VGAOnly. The DblNTSC and DblPAL drivers add eight new screen modes:

DblNTSC

High Res Laced - 640 x 800 4 colors

High Res No Flicker - 640 x 400 4 colors

Low Res Laced - 640 x 800 16 colors

Low Res No Flicker - 640 x 400 16 colors

DblPAL

High Res Laced - 640 x 1024 4 colors

High Res No Flicker - 640 x 512 4 colors

Low Res Laced - 640 x 1024 16 colors

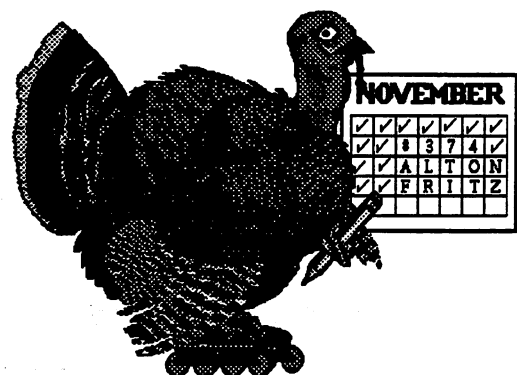
Low Res No Flicker - 640 x 512 16 colors

The VGAOnly driver is used when a VGA monitor is attached to the Amiga and the Multiscan screen modes won't work correctly. The VGAOnly driver modifies the scan rate and will cause the left edge of the screen to flash when scrolling horizontally.

* The new CD-ROM DOSDriver (CD0) allows you to access a connected CD-ROM drive by using the device name CD0:. This is quite a nice feature of WB 3.1, now any connected CD-ROM drive shows up as just another Workbench icon like any other device -- no other software is necessary for basic CD-ROM access.

*Reprinted from:
Amiga Report International Online Magazine
Issue No. 2.30 October 24, 1994
"THE Online Source for Amiga Information"*

Part II to be printed in the December issue of AmAz!.info.
AmAz!



Because of space limitations, there will be no C Programming SIG nor AREXX SIG reports this month. Both should return in December. AmAz!



December 1994



SUNDAY

MONDAY


TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

				1	2 Newsletter Articles Due	3
4	5	6 AREXX SIG 934-2993 For Info	7 Newsletter Draft Completed	8	9 Newsletter Proof Completed	10 AmAz! Library at Amazing
11	12	13	14 Mail Newsletter	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 AmAz! General Meeting	22	23	24
25  Christmas	26	27	28 'C' Sig 438-0021 For Info	29	30	31

----- CLIP -----

Join
An
Official

COMMODORE
AMIGA™

User
Group
Today!

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Membership Dues: (membership is valid for one year from payment)

\$ ____ Regular Member \$24 (US)/Yr, 2 Disk Coupons Free.

\$ ____ Subscription Member \$18(US)/Yr (US, Canada & Mexico)
\$20(US)/Yr (International), 2 Disk Coupons Free.

Mail to:
Amiga Arizona
P.O. Box 2282
Glendale, AZ 85311-2282



CD32 w/SX-1 \$499.95
 SX-1 Sold Separately
 Convert your CD32 to
 a Computer!
 Call for Price!

25% Off
All Games in Stock!

With this coupon
 Offer good thru Dec 15, 1994

Classes
 are now forming!
 Let us know
 what you are
 interested in.

Authorized *Amiga* Service Center
 1435 E. University Dr. Suite #8
 Tempe, Az. 85281

Phone 929-9488 Fax 929-9490
 Mobile (602) 910-8024

Hard Drive Specials:

Maxtor 120 Mb 15 ms 3.5" . . . \$149.95
 Quantum 105 Mb 17 ms 3.5" . . . \$129.95

Limited Quantities, so hurry!

Ask About pricing on larger drives.

Ami-Back w/Ami-Back Tools	\$89.95
Light Wave 3.0 Unbundled	\$59.95
Par Net Kit	\$19.95
T-Rexx Professional	\$149.95
Pocket Workbook Reference Manual	\$19.95
V-Lab Motion Card	\$149.95
3.1 O/S Upgrade - In Stock for all models!	

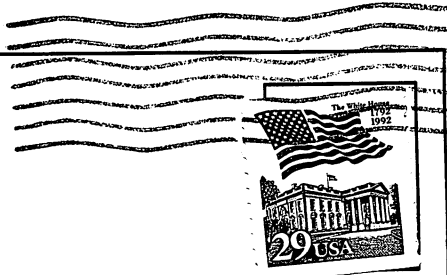
Call for pricing

Amazing Computers is proud to be the Arizona distributor
 of the new **Toaster Oven**, so come on by and take a
 look at our **deals**!



Amiga Arizona
 P.O. Box 2282
 Glendale, AZ 85311-2282

Support Your local
 Amiga User Group



☐ If box is checked this is your last issue.



Thanksgiving
24 November 1994

