

AmAz!

Amiga .info Arizona

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 8 - January 1996

Inside:

the President Speaks	1
Cont. on page 3	
BBS Report	3
Librarians Desk	4
Treasurers Report	4
Classified Ads	4
MACRO/AmAz! Merger	5
Wentek	6
Minutes	8
Election Notice	8
Amazing Computers	10

the President Speaks

Hello and welcome to another issue of AmAz!.info. I sincerely hope that you had a wonderful holiday season. And now, I wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year! Let me extend that wish to the entire Amiga Community: ESCOM, Developers, Dealers, Programmers, one and all! And especially to us, the loyal users of the Amiga. Let us wish for new Amiga's and great new software in 1996.

I've asked to take over the front page of the newsletter this month because AmAz! seems to be at a crossroads that may affect its entire future. I apologize to all reading this who are not voting members, but much of this issue will be taken up with an ongoing debate concerning the merger of AmAz! and MACRO User Groups.

As President, I'm trying to make an unbiased appeal that all voting members read the articles in this issue, both pro and con, and after careful consideration fill out the enclosed post card indicating your preference whether we should continue to plan for a merger or whether we should remain a separate group as we have in the past.

☛ *President page 3*

Next Meeting: 17 January 1996, 7:00 PM

**Executive Towers Building
207 W. Clarendon Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona**

AGENDA

Disk of the Month
ICONIAN
Q & A
Software Drawing

Mel Elliott
Bill Hagan
The Answer Man
Air Support Game

Amiga Arizona (AmAz!): An Official Amiga User Group Since 1986
The Amazing Connection BBS, 24 hours/day, at (602)435-8695. SYSOP: Bill Hagan

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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.

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MEMBERSHIP ROLLS

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

Allen Hutchison	Regular
Jean-Pierre Pakula	Regular
Joshua McDonald	Regular
Robbie Zirkle	Regular
Michael Osburn	Regular
Dick Schnase	Regular
Carlo Volpones	Subscriber
Les Maloney	Subscriber

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

116 Reg (Sub)(BBS) 9606

116 is the membership number, Reg (Sub) (BBS) indicates Regular, Subscription or BBS membership and the 9606 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

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SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

AREXX

Bill Hagan...934-2993

PROGRAMMING 'C'

Stan Krawczyk...963-6795

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 do their very best to get the answer for you. 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
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 call Mel Elliott at home.

Disk Prices

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

DOM

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



AmAz! Library has:
Fresh Fish CD Vol 10
Aminet CD #9

**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

President page 1

Your vote at this time is not for or against the merger, but just whether we should continue to plan towards such a merger. If a simple majority of the members believe that it might be a good idea to merge with the other group, a Merger Committee will be formed to plan all the ramifications of such a merger, for example:

1. How will the assets of the two groups be combined?
2. Who would serve as officers of the new group?
3. Shall a new constitution be written?
4. Where and when will the meetings be held?
5. What will become of the two newsletters?
6. What will become of the BBS's?

Once that plan is laid out, you will be asked at that time to vote for or against merging the two groups.

On the other hand, should a simple majority of the votes received at this time indicate no interest in merging, there will be no further action taken and AmAz! will continue as it has in the past.

Again, I urge you to read the information in this issue of the newsletter, talk amongst yourselves or if you have any questions call any member of

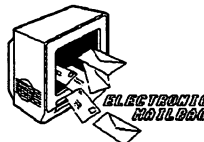
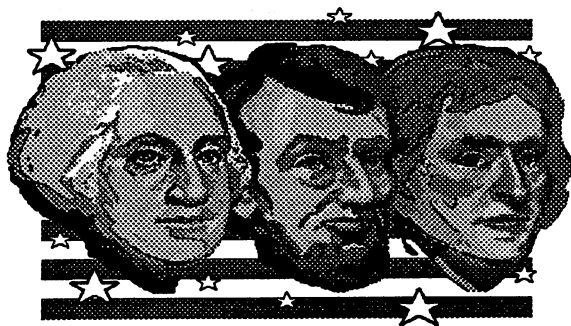
the Executive Board. And above all, please return the enclosed postcard indicating your preference. We need to know how you feel about this.

Meanwhile, in spite of the above proposal, the business of the club must go on. Next month is the time to select officers to run the club for the next year. Though you've heard this plea many times before, won't you give it serious consideration at this time and run for one of the offices? All of the following are open for you to choose from:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Librarian
6. BBS Sysop
7. Newsletter Editor
8. Member at Large

If you would like to fill any one of these positions, please contact any member of the Executive Board. Their names and phone numbers are listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

It's your club, help us by voting now on the merger issue and help us form the new Executive Board by either running for an office or by your support of those that do stand for one. AmAz!



BBS REPORT

by BILL HAGAN

It was the best of years; it was the worst of years!

It was the worst of years when we had a hard drive failure last spring. It was the best of years when the Executive Board approved a new 530 meg hard drive that boosted our drive space to over 700 megs total. And then almost as soon as that one was up and running, we lost another of the 120 meg hard drives. Since new programs are few and far between, we've chosen not to replace it even though it dropped us to less than 600 megs of space total. We have yet to make full use of that space.

It was the best of years when Subscriber Member, Dan Dwyer, filled floppy disks by the dozen with files and mailed them to me all the way from San Antonio, Texas for subsequent uploading to the BBS. If he continues at the past rate, he will soon fill up all that empty space.

It was the best of years when we installed the CD-ROM Drive and it worked! It got even better when we loaded the AmAz! library with a complete set of Aminet CD's and all the Fred Fish programs issued from day one.

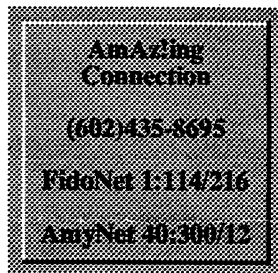
Perhaps it was not the worst of years, but surely a disap-

pointment to me when more members did not take advantage of the CD-ROM download utility. While there has been a paucity of files in the files sections, there is an over abundance of them available from the CD's. Not only can you download files from the On-line CD, you may download file-lists of those off-line and subsequently, request files by specific CD's that are off-line. Or, you may request files from the Fred Fish collection which the Sysop will copy and provide for your downloading pleasure.

It was the best of years when we obtained a US Robotics 28.8K Baud modem for the BBS. And soon after we installed it, we upgraded it to 33.6K Baud.

It was the worst of years when the Amyadviser BBS went down and we lost both the Fidonet and Aminet feeds. This sent your Sysop back to the books to learn how to get reconnected. It took several months, but by year's end we replaced both feeds.

It was the worst of years when revisions to Xenolink, our BBS software, caused a lashup and locked the BBS phone on-line with the Support BBS for more than an



Librarian's Desk



by Mel Elliott

As reported in this column last issue the AmAz! library will not be at Amazing Computers, Tempe on the Second Saturday of the month in the future. The gain has just not been worth the effort of dismantling my computer, transporting it there, reassembling it and then tearing it down, bringing it home and doing the same thing. All members or non-members may call me at my home phone number to order any disk/program they desire. The contents of the library are in Section 23 of the AmAz! BBS.

This column will be primarily dedicated to an annual review of the AmAz! financial and membership status. The only library function is that we now have Aminet #9 in the library.

Over the past year The AmAz! financial balance has increased from \$548.66 to \$887.54. In addition to normal operating expenses the Group's BBS was upgraded with a 530 Meg Hard Drive and a US Robotics Courier (33.6 baud) modem. The BBS also has the group's CD ROM drive connected and the entire Aminet CD collection is available to regular members through the BBS for downloading.

The annual yard sale in May resulted in a profit to the group of \$189.90, not the best we have done but also far from the worst.

The library has the complete Fred Fish collection on CD as well as the complete Aminet CD collection, these were additions during 1995. Expenses for these CD's came to \$109.52 and sales of

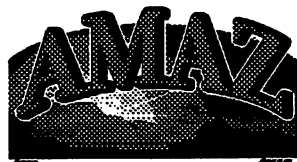
DOM's and Fred Fish disks/programs brought in a total of \$231.50.

Major projects that were undertaken as a benefit to our members was the participation in the US Robotics Modem program. Thirteen members purchased modems through this program as well as the new one for the BBS. The other project was a subscription offer to Amiga Computing US Edition, with 12 members taking part in this program.

Our membership has grown from 33 regular members and 16 subscriber members in January 1995 to 36 regular members (includes one lifetime membership) and 14 subscriber members at the end of December 1995.

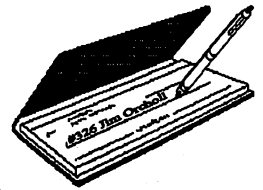
Overall, I feel that the year has been quite successful for the User's Group. Let's all keep up the good work and make 1996 even better for our club.

As is always the case there is room for more participation in becoming a member of the Executive Board, doing demonstrations at general meetings as well as submitting articles for the monthly issue of the AmAz!.info newsletter. After seeing newsletters from the other User's Groups that we exchange with, I still feel that ours is one of the better ones around. AmAz!



Treasurer's Report

by Mel Elliott



December Beginning Balance: \$ 931.16

Income:

Advertising	\$ 40.00
DOM Sales	25.00
Subscription	20.00
Membership	174.00
FF Disk	3.00
Magazine Subscription	80.00
Income Misc (Postage)	3.00

Total Income \$ 345.00 + \$ 345.00

Sub Total \$ 1276.16

Expenses:

News Letter	\$ 62.24
BBS Phone & Fido Dues	47.13
Aminet CD #9	18.25
P.O. Box Rental	20.00
Postage DOM's	1.00
Magazine Sub's	240.00

Total Expenses \$ 388.62 - \$ 388.62

December Ending Balance: \$ 887.54

Membership: Regular 36 - Subscription 14 - BBS - 0



Amiga A1200 Computer

4 Meg RAM, Bigfoot Power Supply,
85 Meg Seagate Hard Drive (Installed)
1080 Commodore Monitor
Mouse, install disks etc.
Package deal

\$750.00

Call Ted Dreveniak @ 602-974-4839

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6 Meg RAM, 52 Meg Hard Drive
External Floppy, 1080 Monitor, 1.3 OS
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All manuals and original programs plus
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MACRO/AmAz! Merger

YES *by Edward Lippman*

There is a Black Hole out there in Cyberspace that has swallowed up endless computer manufacturers in the short span of the Computer Age. But through an awesome stroke of luck, the Amiga has escaped this fate on two occasions — once under the aegis of Atari and more recently with Commodore. So many have soared to meteoric heights in technical achievements and in sales — only to disappear in this highly competitive no-holds barred arena.

While the Amiga made notable achievements, its promotional efforts were so puny that less sophisticated companies were able to dominate the market; and as a result, Commodore went through a drawn out bankruptcy that left the new owner, Escom, with a much diminished market. Except for Europe, perhaps, where Amiga always had a good market share, and where it may give Amiga the "shot in the arm" that will put it back in the running. But their competitors for the U.S. and world markets have made many notable gains in technology and sales.

But during the months of insolvency and bankruptcy, with total loss of sales, here's what has happened:

1. Peripheral support for the Amiga has been lost and many of the producers

are either out of business or trying to play catch-up with whose who support IBM and clones, and Mac, and other platforms.

2. Software programmers were left with a diminishing market for their games, utilities, paint programs, etc., for the Amiga and, so, they have dissented these developments.

3. Where Amiga had been the primary choice for multi-media programs and were found in every TV station, movie and animation company, technical schools and in private homes; they are now gone and former users are trying desperately to sell off their Amiga equipment and are switching to inferior IBM's, MAC's, etc.

4. The voice of Amiga has been pretty much silenced with shut-down of magazines and with no publicity in the local newspapers.

All of this spells a pretty bleak future for Amiga despite positive reassurances from ESCOM. Oh, there are still many Amiga users, all right, but they get no support or encouragement from any direction. No technical support, and very little sales assistance. As a result, the user has to turn to other users for help — or join Amiga user groups and find additional members.

That's what should be going

NO *by Bill Hagan*

Some members of our user group have been talking about merging AmAz! with the MACRO user group. They formed a committee and met with a similar group from MACRO to discuss such a merger. A report of that meeting appeared in the December issue of this newsletter.

In my opinion AmAz! should remain a separate user group. I'd like to discuss why I think this in two stages. First, by challenging some of the reasons given for merging and then by telling you why I think we are fine the way we are.

- **D e c l i n i n g** membership; merging the two clubs would provide for a larger membership base.

Actually, the membership in AmAz! has been fairly stable at about fifty (members and subscribers) over the past few years. It fluctuates slightly as some move away and as new people come in. The reason for any decline can be attributed to the lack of new Amiga products and the migration of users to other, more active platforms. Combining the two clubs will do nothing to stop this. Only a reactivation of the Amiga will help in this regard.

- A single club will provide a larger pool of talent to draw from for officers to run the club.

In reviewing the history of AmAz! and reading the newsletters of other clubs, finding someone to be a leader is a common problem. There are few people that rise to the occasion and take an office. In our club, the same half dozen or so have rotated amongst the various offices, year after year. We've pleaded and begged for others to take part, to no avail. It appears to be the same in MACRO, since the same names continue to be listed as officers in their newsletter. I believe that were the two clubs to join, some of the same people would be enrolled as officers of the new group while others would be let out of office and would drift away never to return. The pool of officers would decline rather than increase.

- A single club would form a larger pool of talent to draw from to provide more interesting demonstrations at meetings.

There is a finite number of people in AmAz! that come up with ideas for and are willing to put on demos. I suspect this is the same in MACRO. Combining the two clubs would not increase the number of talented people, it would just consolidate them into one group with a result similar to that of the officers. Some would predominate and others would drift away. Lack of talent is not the reason for

► **YES** page 5

on right now—we "circle the wagons" and fight for our existence until major relief shows up. But look at what we face now:

1. Very few novices are turning to the Amiga.

2. Very few users ever join a User Group, and when they do, seldom attend meetings for any number of reasons:

A. Meeting is at an inconvenient time.

B. Meeting is at a very inconvenient location.

C. They teach kid stuff. I want more advanced stuff.

D. They show advanced stuff. I'm only a novice.

E. It's always the same GUYS WHO RUN FOR OFFICE.

F. It's always the same guys who put on demos.

G. It's always the same guys who win the prizes.

It seems to me that the obvious way to overcome these objections would be to increase membership so that we will always have sufficient attendees from which to draw officer material and among whom we could find members to put on interesting demos. Given the small number of Amiga users out there, the lack of manufacturers of peripheral equipment and programs, we should be searching everywhere to at-

tract members. This could be solved in two ways:

1. Merge organizations completely or partially, and

2. Form membership committees to find and attract new and present users.

ORGANIZATIONAL MERGER

This could be accomplished in a variety of ways with benefits to both or more user groups. As agreed to by the joint committees of AmAz and MACRO, we could have joint meetings or we could go the whole route and fully combine both groups.

In a show of hands at meetings of both groups, there appeared to be almost unanimous agreement that it would be desirable to bring about a merger. The steps to accomplish this and the degree of merging would be based on the findings of a working committee to bring about the desired result. Since this assent did not represent the entire membership, it has been decided to send a post card to members only (not subscribers) to determine if a majority of AmAz members agreed to go this route.

The only vocal dissent at the AmAz meeting came from one member who had been requested by his peers to resign his membership at MACRO, and who now wanted nothing to do with MACRO. The other dissenter, who was quite adamant and threatened to resign altogether if we chose to merge. He insisted on the status *quo*, and has written the NO argument column that appears in

this issue.

So, unless we fear to take such a step, we will start the necessary steps leading to merging the talents of both user groups.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The other important step we must take at this same time is a concerted effort to find new members. In the past, we have relied on word of mouth; dropping off our newsletters at Amiga retail outlets. (Only two such locations exist) We have also tried to use the BBS to enlist new members. In no case has there been any clear results.

The importance of securing additional members cannot be

overemphasized. This will ensure better demos, more officer material, and more power with the news journals, more recognition of Amiga as a viable platform.

As we approach the end of this century, will this spell the end of Amiga? With a merger of the two groups, and with a membership committee that will actively seek recruits from among our own children, from among students at the high schools, technical schools, and colleges, we should not only see a revival of interest in the Amiga, but a giant step into the next century.

VIVA L'AMIGA

AmAz!

Wentelk AMIGA Computers

New Amiga 4000 Towers are Available! Call With Needs.
New Amiga Technologies 1200's Should be Available Late January/Early February

New CD32s...2 at this price w/2controllers & Pinball Fantasies/Sleepwalker.....	only \$229.95
SX-1's are in Stock	Starting at \$194.95
Exile CD32 (available on floppy also)	only \$29.95
Worms CD, Great Game, runs on most Amigas (on floppy too)	only \$34.95
Gloom...Pointless Shoot'm'up, 'DOOM' like, 1 to 4 players, Very Good.....	only \$29.95

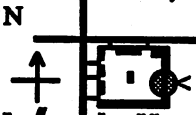
AMIGA Software and Games in Stock, including:

ArtDepartment Professional v2.5	only \$134.95
VistaPro 3.0 or Distant Suns 5.0	either only \$49.95
Image FX 2.0	only \$239.95
Photogenics v1.2	WOW! only \$74.95
Final Writer rel. 4	only \$119.95
Studio II - professional printer driver package	only \$89.95
Dungeon Master II	only \$39.95
Alien Breed 3D CD32	only \$39.95

Other Great Stuff!

MIDI Gold 500 - works with any Amiga, Quality product, just 2 left	\$ 9.95
DataFlyer SCSI+ SCSI on your A4000 without using expansion slot 2@	\$ 99.95
Seagate 210 Meg Marathon 2.5 inch IDE Hard Drive - Fast 1.6+meg/sec	\$149.95
AMIA Mac800k Floppy drive interface	2@ \$ 54.95
e586DX PC emulation module for Emplant	2@ \$ 79.95

Various other used computers, hardware, & software available. 10% Consignments too!
 Prices good until Jan. 31, 1996 and only on products in stock at time ad was placed
 Prices and availability subject to change without notice and/or prior sale.



Wentelk

Tuesday - Friday 11am to 7pm
Saturday Noon to 5pm
 South/East corner Scottsdale Rd. and Shea

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

► *NO page 5*

boring demos. Lack of new Amiga product is the culprit. There is nothing new to demonstrate, so we must resort to restudying our old programs to find new ways to use them.

As an aside here, it would be helpful if some of the quiet members in the group would step forward and demonstrate how they use their computer or at least step up with a suggestion of something they'd like to see.

• A single club would conserve our limited resources.

The major expenses for AmAz! are the phone bill for the BBS and the printing and mailing of the newsletter. It was suggested that we continue to have both BBS's, so no savings there!

We mail about 50 newsletters to our paying members, 17 to other user groups and 12 to developers. We also print about 50 additional to place in the dealers stores and to mail to prospective members. It was mentioned at the December Meeting that MACRO has about fifty members. If they mail to other user groups and developers and place copies in stores as we do, then their newsletter costs are much the same as ours. If the clubs are merged, mailing to members will remain the same; the 50 members of each club become the 100 members of the single club. There would be a reduction of the duplication to user groups, developers and dealers. Twenty-seven mailed and

fifty extra for dealers at a best guess cost of \$25.28 (Postage of \$0.32 X 29 copies and printing cost of \$0.32 per copy X 79 copies). An equivalent savings to each club of \$12.64. But, consider this: we receive #40 revenue from the two dealers who advertise with us. Since the same dealers advertise with MACRO, one of the newsletter accounts would lose the \$40 or a net to each club of \$20. Bottom line: it would cost each club the equivalent of about \$7.36 in advertising revenue if the two clubs merged.

• A single club would provide a larger pool from which to draw and organize SIG's.

First, there is the same argument as given before. The talent pool does not grow larger, it is the same group of people as at present, they just move under one roof. Being separate clubs does not preclude SIG's from including members of both organizations or from the public at large.

Consider Article VII, Section 1 of the AmAz! Bylaws, which states, in part, "The Executive Board shall create Committees as deemed necessary to operate the organization. ...Committees may include, ...Special Interest Groups (SIGs)." Notice that it says "may." I take this to mean that the club will sanction SIGs, give publicity i.e., announce meeting times and places at the Club's general meetings, on the BBS and in the newsletter. Articles and reports of SIG activities may

be published in the newsletter. By its very title Special Interest Group means a group of people within the larger club organization who have a particular interest in a specialized computer activity. The SIG gets together to discuss and learn about that specialty. The officers of the club may or may not have an interest in that particular activity. It is NOT up to the Executive Board to organize these groups. All it takes is two or more people with a common interest to get together and say, "We are a SIG. Come on over, you're welcome to join." From that point on, it is up to the SIG to organize meetings, form the agenda, find and schedule meeting times, places, etc.

Let me interject a word about other User Groups. I don't see us as competing with other Amiga Clubs, but rather as cooperating. Though we have a subscription BBS, we extend 'Visiting Sysop Privileges' to the Sysop's of their BBS's. There is no reason this courtesy should not also be extended to one or more officers of the other clubs. I've already suggested that we share the classified's with other clubs newsletters. Our meetings are open to the public so this is an invitation to members of other clubs to attend. Perhaps other courtesies could be extended as well. Should the need arise, for example a developer wants to demonstrate a new product, but only to a larger group, we could schedule a joint meeting for that month.

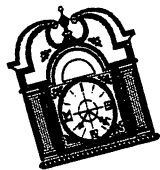
A complaint has been made that our meetings are boring. With apologies to my old

friend, Will, "Boring is in the eye of the beholder." I get excited over Deluxe Paint pictures or animations, Desk Top Publication programs, Word Processors, but 3-D Rendering programs bore me to tears. Someone said, after the November meeting that highlighted Final Calc, "that he always thought the lack of a good spreadsheet program was to the Amiga's credit." But I found it fascinating. I love spreadsheets. I've got spreadsheets on everything and I thought it was a great meeting. Next time you think a meeting is boring, I challenge you to use the time to think of a program or application that would make a good demo.

In conclusion, I look upon Amiga Arizona (AmAz!) as a group of my friends who share a common interest in the Amiga Computer. As late as 1988, I had never touched a computer of any kind. My friends taught me everything I know, from how to turn it on and 'boot up' to publishing the newsletter and running the BBS, among other things. Now, I feel obliged to give something back, so I remain a member to help others start on their way with the Amiga. I think of it as, "Hey, I got a new program (or I learned something new about an old program), come on over and we'll take a look at it." Since my house is rather small — I can't accommodate more than about six or eight people—we find a common meeting place large enough for as many as want to come and see the new application.

Finally, let me again borrow

► *NO page 8*



MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

General Meeting Minutes:

President Brian Hunter called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Librarian Mel Elliott previewed Disk of the Month #102 which consists of three games:

Poing - a breakout/megaball type.

Cybergames - a sort of Mortal Combat for the squeamish (in spite of a withering series of sword blows to the head, Mel's opponent managed to remain standing).

Quandary - a tic tac toe style strategy game.

Jim Aboltin showed off a DPaint animation of the Earth circling in space with an excellent star field background complete with the occasional comet (Jim elaborated on earlier work by Bill Hagan).

Bill Hagan then offered a tantalizing preview of Soft-Logic's new TextFX, a PageStream3 extension that offers 55 ways to warp and curve text.

Bill concluded the demo by

showing how to create a Christmas card with color graphics and text in PageStream3. Bill also passed around some printed samples of his recent work, including a dazzling color brochure with Gary Bowdish's prize-winning AmAz! logo in the background.

Software Drawing Results: Jim Aboltin won Softwood's Final Copy II; Josh McDonald selected a Free Disk Coupon from the AmAz! library; Bill Hagan won 5 blank disks.

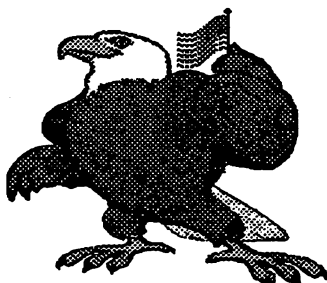
Due to the onrushing holiday, an informal Exec Board meeting was held after the General meeting. On the proposed merger with the MACRO group, arguments both pro and con were offered. Brian Hunter brought the discussion to a head by quite properly pointing out that unless it received the support of those in AmAz! who do all the Group's grunt work, the matter should be dropped. That support was not forthcoming and so the issue appears to be dead.

Submitted by Pete Guldager
AmAz!

NO page 7

from someone famous, JFK in this instance: I challenge you to "Ask not what AmAz! can do for me, rather ask, What can I do for AmAz!"

AmAz!



"Time
to run!"



Run for election at the February 1996 Meeting

Now is the time to sign up for the office of your choice while there is still plenty of time. All offices are open for nomination and you may choose President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian or one of five positions as a Member-at-Large.

The position of Sysop and Newsletter Editor have been spoken for, but if you would like to take one of those jobs, you are welcome to apply.

Now is the time for some of you to step forward and join in planning the direction AmAz! will take in 1996. Regardless of the outcome of the ongoing debate, there is much to be done in planning the future of AmAz!

Contact the Exec Board Today!

BBS page 3

hour on one occasion and nearly half an hour on another. The first lashup cost nearly \$30 and the second about \$12, while no useful information was transferred. Needless to say, we have now disconnected from the Xenolink Support BBS. This furthers the bad times because now, without contact, there is no way to obtain later, corrected versions to Xenolink

Finally, good times returned when I increased User Group Members' access to the board to an hour a day. This is pending approval of the Executive Board. If time on the board is a concern of yours,

you might lobby a member of the Board to encourage his approval.

Call me an optimist, but I think 1996 will be a grand year. Whatever happens in regard to the AmAz! User Group and the BBS, I am doubly blest by your kind permission to have been your Sysop and Newsletter Editor. I am extremely fortunate to count you as my friend.

No resolutions but one: "To make it a fun year for everyone!"

May 1996 be a great year for you. AmAz!



FEBRUARY

1996



SUNDAY

MONDAY


TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

				1	2 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	3
4	5	6	7 <i>Newsletter Draft Completed</i>	8	9 <i>Newsletter Proof Completed</i>	10
11	12	13	14 <i>Mail Newsletter</i>	15	16	17
18	19  <i>President's Day</i>	20	21 <i>AmAz! General Meeting</i>	22	23	24 <i>AmAz! EX BD Meeting</i>
25	26	27	28	29	<i>Newsletter Articles Due March 1</i>	

Join
An
Official



User
Group
Today!

Our User Group is Amiga Arizona (AmAz!). We feel we have one of the best Amiga User Groups around!. We normally hold regular monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 207 West Clarendon, Phoenix, AZ. Meeting time is 7-9PM.

At our meetings we provide demonstrations of new or interesting Amiga programs/equipment, sometimes by developers or dealers if we can line them up. A monthly drawing is held for regular members, the prizes are selected software items, blank disks and disk coupons. Our extensive disk library contains the entire Fred Fish & Aminet CD Collection plus demo disks from developers as well as our own Disk of the Month. Disks may be ordered at meeting's, on the BBS or by calling the Librarian and may be picked up at meeting's or mailed (small fee).

The Group owns and operates a 24 hour Bulletin Board System (BBS) called the AmAz!ing Connection (602) 435-8695. This BBS supports baud rates up to 33.600. The BBS is open to any caller (as a guest) with limited access and time. Members of the Group are allowed extra benefits as outlined below.

We offer three forms of paid membership: The **Regular** member is eligible to vote and participate in the software drawings at the monthly meetings, hold offices on the Executive Board and is allowed 45 minutes on the BBS daily including access to selected CD collections on a rotating basis, no download limit and a copy of the AmAz!.info newsletter monthly. The Regular member dues are \$30.00 per year. The **Subscriber** member is allowed 45 minutes, 10 calls, 2 megabytes of downloads daily and a copy of the AmAz!.info newsletter monthly. These members may not hold office, participate in the monthly software drawings or have access to the CD collections on the BBS. These dues are \$20.00 per year. The **BBS** member is allowed 30 minutes, 5 calls, 1 megabyte download limit daily after which an upload/download ratio of 1/10 will prevail. File and message access will be limited. These members will not receive a copy of the AmAz!.info newsletter. BBS member dues are \$10.00 per year. If you are interested in joining us, send your dues, name, address and phone number to: **AMAZ! (Amiga Arizona), PO Box 2282, Glendale, AZ 85311-2282.**



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**Support Your local
 Amiga User Group**

1996

#50



First Class

☐ If box is checked this is your last issue.

VOTE!

AMAZI ELECTIONS

GENERAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 21

VOTE!