

ALPHA MICRO USERS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

VOL. I NUMBER 3

April 1978

LAST NEWSLETTER TO NON-MEMBERSHIP

If you have not yet joined AMUS, this will be the last newsletter sent to you. If you do not have a membership blank, get one from your dealer or call/write Jim Taylor, P.O. Box 1723, Boulder, Colorado, 80306. Telephone (303) 449-8847.

DEALERS

Over half of the membership is currently made up of dealers. If you are not yet a member, you should be to continue getting the newsletter and to have access to the communications system that we are trying to establish. Also, you will have access to a directory of available software.

ANNUAL CONVENTION

The first AMUS Annual Convention will be held in Los Angeles, the first weekend in November in conjunction with the 3rd West Coast Computer Faire. Don't miss it!

SPECIAL AIR FARES TO CONVENTION

Professional Travel Advisors of 3033 Iris, Boulder, Colorado, 80301 is arranging for special air fares to LA. More details will be printed later.

CONVENTION SEMINARS

There is a call for papers for the November West Coast Computer Faire. AMUS would like to present a series of papers about Alpha Micro related topics at the Faire. Please contact Ron Eade at The Computer Center, 8205 Ronson Rd., San Diego, California 92111.

CONVENTION INFORMATION

Information about the November convention can be obtained FREE, by sending your name to the Silicon Gultch Gazette, P.O. Box 1579, Palo Alto, California 94302.

SOFTWARE DIRECTORY

We would like to have a special listing in June of all the software we can get information about. If you have software for sale, please send us a description of the software and some indication of price range. Please indicate if the software is leased, sold, etc. and information about who to contact.

SUBSCRIPT ERRORS

Subscript errors mysteriously appear when you enter a line of MAP arrays. If you COMPILER and then add the line, everything will be okay.

NO NO'S

Do not ALLOCATE a random file with a block size of 0.
Do not use a 'control' 3. Even accidentally!

FOR THOSE WHO NEED TO KNOW

In AMOS 3.2, some values for the ARCTAN function do not work. AMOS 3.3 should have this fixed.

If the RANDOM file record # you are reading and the PHYSICAL RECORD are the same number, it glitches. To remedy this, you have to add a dummy record 0 read at the beginning of the PROGRAM.

STOP works OK on Object modules, but it won't work in immediate mode.

CAELUS DISKS

We would like to know if anyone has had any experience with the S-100 controllers for the Caelus hard disk system (10 and 76 MB @ \$5500 and \$6400) from Crea/Comp or Systems Integration Associates.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

If you wish to have something included in the next newsletter, we must have it by May 8. Send your ideas, articles, and information to Jim Taylor, P.O. Box 1723, Boulder, Colorado 80306.

FD 1771 DATA SHEET

We received a copy of the error descriptions for the FD 1771 chip and are including them in this issue.

DIABLO HYTYPE II DRIVER

This driver, mentioned in the last newsletter, is for the 1300 series Hytype II PARALLEL interface, not serial. It prints forward, backward, red and black and graphics. It will also drive an NEC Spinwriter.

COMMUNICATIONS

Feelers are out for ideas on standardizing phone protocol. Discussions have already begun with IEEE folks who are also working on the problems of S-100 16 bit configurations.

NEEDS & WANTS

There is a growing need for information about communication over the phone. If you have information on how to communicate to a modem through a file, equipment and programming for automatic answer and send in-board modems (such as the IDS 88 MODEM), please let us know.

An error statement should appear for DEVICE NOT READY on the LOOKUP statement.

A RUN nnn would be nice that enabled you to begin at some set line number.

Dealers should note that some later versions of the AMOS manual do not have information on all of the programs that are listed in DIR 1,4. Some of the documentation has been distributed as part of the update material, and other parts have never been documented. Notable on the list is DIAG1 and DSKDDT.

DYSTAT ON VDM

Some people have experienced the problem of some lines not appearing on the VDM. This is caused by not having the correct addresses on the DYSTAT command in SYSTEM.INI. You need the beginning address, ending address and Port #, such as:

```
SYSTEM DYSTAT
SET HEX
DYSTAT F800 FBFF C8
```

TERMINALS TALK TO ONE ANOTHER

Enclosed is a copy of FORCE.SBR, a subroutine written by Richard McClendon of RMC Computer Services, Houston. The routine forces messages onto another terminal.

AMUS INFORMATION

If you need more newsletters, brochures, or information, please fill out the order form and return it to AMUS, c/o Jim Taylor, P.O. Box 1723, Boulder, Colorado 80306.

_____ Copies of the AMUS Brochure and Membership blank....Free

_____ Copies of the Current Newsletter @ 15¢ each.

_____ Copies of back issues of the Newsletter @ 15¢ each.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ENCLOSED \$ ____.

AMUS IS INTERNATIONAL

AMUS membership now extends to Sweden, Canada, France, Hong Kong, and Venezuela.

AMOS RELEASE 3.3 IS OUT

It includes ISAM in Basic

COMPIL - Basic Disc Compiler

COMMON - XCALL

CHAIN TO COMMAND File

Execute PRINT command to Spooler from BASIC

Memory and Disc Diagnostics

Software baud rate changes on AM300

CATALOGUE

Guruprem Khalsa suggests ordering a very nice catalogue from Mini Computer Accessories, Inc., 130 S. Wolfe Road, P.O. Box 9004, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. Telephone (408) 737-7777.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS PACKAGE

A complete telecommunications package for the D.C. Hayes board is available from Guruprem Khalsa. It includes Auto dial, Auto answer, talk person to person, transfer to files.

As soon as we get the package installed at AMUS world headquarters, you will be able to call our AM100 and transfer programs and messages direct.

SOFTWARE AGREEMENTS

Suggested reading: A book called Data Processing Contracts by Dick H. Brandon and material called How to Package and Market Your Own Software Product and Make It Go. This is available from Datasearch, Inc., 730 Waukegan Rd., Suite 108, Deerfield, IL 60015. Telephone (312) 945-2940.

Suggestions for marketing: Have a demo on floppies.

One good example of a software agreement is the one you signed with Alpha Micro.

STATIC PROBLEM?

Fred Gross of Computer Systems for Business says that he got an electro-static mat from 3M which works, but he supplemented it by putting a sheet of aluminum on the desk under the terminal which you always touch to discharge yourself. The secret of both mats is that they have a ground line attached to a good ground and the ground line includes a one meg ohm resistor for protection.

FREEBIES

Guruprem has agreed to send us some programs. Why don't you do the same, either by disc or hard copy.

A disc fix program.

TALK - Allow one user to talk to another.

Some demos i.e. a ball dropping on a pyramid, hangman, etc.

A task tracking system - Keeps track of forecast vs. actual.

Bob Salita of Chicago has sent us ASM routines for:

1. Printing out the arguments that are passed to it.
2. Floating point/character string conversion routines.
3. Program to test #2.

COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

A group in California is working on a PERSONAL COMPUTER NETWORK - PCNET which is already working on PET, IMSAI, and ALTAIR. Guruprem has contacted them for information to see if the Alpha Micro can fit into PCNET.

COMMUNICATION SESSION

We will likely have a session on Communications at the annual convention. Please let us know if you have something to contribute.

AMOS VERSION 3.1 NOTES

We have received the following notes on 3.1 from Richard McClendon Jr., of RMC Computer Services.

The PRINT command, and a few others, will not function with disk names other than DSK.

Rather than use the names FORMAT and DSKCPY, my dealer and I agreed to use IBMCPY, IBMFMT, AMSCPYP, and AMSFMT. This sort of convention is particularly handy if you plan to support either disk format. With this convention you'll always know what you're setting.

PREVIOUS LF PROBLEM

Printing to terminal using the printer as an output file now appends the LF, a problem reported in Issue #1 as of version 3.2.

INPUT

INPUT, under 3.2, now will accept "" and store null bytes to a mapped variable. Previous versions would store the quotes.

BIG DISC

96MB CDC Phoenix drive with 80MB fixed 16 removable is under negotiation now.....much less \$ than twice 25MB.

BUSINESS PACKAGES

Orders are pouring in for the \$10,000 business package of MCBA origin. Package includes source code, documentation and full license for resale. Availability date is still unannounced and will likely be a few months.

DISPLAYING XCALL ARGUMENTS

Programmer: Bob Salita

Date: 3/30/78

Release: AMOS 3.2

This program prints info about the arguments that were passed to it by a basic xcall statement. The routine is reentrant.

It is useful for checking that arguments were passed correctly or for looking at values in hex.

Sample calling sequence:

XCALL PARG,123456+.123456+2**39,"HI SAILOR",TOTAL,A\$

Argument number, type, address, length and hex representation are printed (set hex assumed).

	COPY	SYS
	INTERN	PARG
PARG:	CLR	-(SP)
	MOV	(R3)+, -(SP)
PLOOP1:	INC	2(SP)
	CMP	2(SP), @SP
	BGT	PRIN
	MOV	R4, R2
	MOV	2(SP), R1
	DCVT	2., ^H29
	MOV	(R3)+, R1
	DCVT	4., ^H38
	MOV	(R3)+, R1
	MOV	R1, R0
	DCVT	4., ^H38
	MOV	(R3)+, R1
	DCVT	4., ^H39
	MOV	R1, R5
	TYPE\$P	
PLOOP2:	MOVB	(R0)+, R1
	DCVT	2., ^H08
	SOB	R5, PLOOP2
	CLRB	@R2
	TTYL	@R4
	TYPE\$C	
	BR	PLOOP1
PRIN:	POP	
	POP	
	RIN	
	END	

```

*****
;* BASIC XCALL: "FORCE" FUNCTION *
;* *
;* BY RICHARD MC CLENDON *
;* RMC COMPUTER SERVICES *
;* *
;* TO PASS A MESSAGE TO ANOTHER JOB *
;* FROM A BASIC PROGRAM. DO: *
;* XCALL FORCE, JOB#, MSG# *
;* WHERE JOB# & MSG# ARE STRING VARIABLES *
;* SUCH AS JOB1 OR HI THERE (IN QUOTES) *
;* THIS XCALL DOES NOT RETURN ANY VALUES *
*****
    
```

```

                COPY      SYS
000000 136302 000004      FORCE:  MOV      4(R3),R2      ;GET JOB NAME POINTER
000004 130401              MOV      R4,R1
000004 000113              PACK              ;CONVERT JOB NAME TO RADIX 50
000010 000113              PACK              ;PACK LAST 3 CHARACTERS
000012 131401              MOV      @R4,R1      ;GET 1ST THREE CHARS FOR COMPARE
000014 136402 000002      MOV      2(R4),R2      ;GET LAST THREE CHARS FOR COMPARE
000020 133700 000114      MOV      @#JOBTABL,R0      ;GET PTR TO BASE OF JOB TABLE
000024 116001 000010      JCBSRH: CMP      JOBNAM(R0),R1      ;COMPARE 1ST THREE CHARS
000030 001003              BNE      NXTJCB      ;NO, LOOK AT NEXT JOB
000032 116002 000012      CMP      JOBNAM+2(R0),R2      ;COMPARE LAST THREE CHARS
000034 001405              BEQ      PASSIT      ;MATCHED JOBNAME

000040 013700 000120      NXTJCB: ADD      @#JOBESZ,R0      ;BUMP TO NEXT JCB
000044 005210              TST      @R0      ;CHECK FOR ZERO (TERMINATOR)
000046 001366              BNE      JCBSRH      ;IF NOT END OF JCB'S
000048 000037              RTN              ;RETURN IF END OF JOB TABLE

000052 000003      PASSIT: LOCK              ;LOCK PROCESSOR TO PREVENT SPLIT MSG
000054 136302 000012      MOV      12(R3),R2      ;GET PTR TO MESSAGE
000060 136301 000014      MOV      14(R3),R1      ;GET CHAR COUNT

000064 141227 000015      PUTONE: CMPB     @R2,#CR      ;CHECK FOR END OF MESSAGE
000070 001404              BEQ      DONE      ;IF END OF MESSAGE

000072 000203 001210              PTYIN     @R2,@R0      ;SLAM CHAR INTO THE JOB'S BUFFER
000074 006202              INC      R2      ;BUMP DATA PTR
000100 073107              SOB      R1,PUTONE      ;CONTINUE PUTTING UNTIL DONE

000102 000203 002710 000015      DONE:  PTYIN     #CR,@R0      ;STUFF CARRIAGE RETURN INTO BUFFER
000110 000002              UNLOCK              ;RELEASE PROCESSOR, MSG DONE
000112 000037              RTN              ;AND GO BACK TO BASIC
000015      CR      =      15      ;DEFINE /CR/ (CARRIAGE RETURN)
000114      END
    
```

*

APPLIED
MICROPROCESSOR
TECHNOLOGY

LOGIC Systems, Inc.

P. O. Box 22343
Louisville, KY 40222

```
10 REM          GRAPH OF A CIRCLE
20 REM
30 MAP1 COMMAND,B,2
40 MAP1 X,B,2
50 MAP1 Y,B,2
60 MAP1 CHARACTER,B,2
70 COMMAND=1:REM          COMMAND TO OPEN SUBROUTINE
80 XCALL DIAGR,COMMAND
82 COMMAND=3:REM          COMMAND TO PRINT RED
86 XCALL DIAGR,COMMAND
90 COMMAND=0:REM          COMMAND TO PLOT
100 CHARACTER=46:REM      SAME AS CHR(46) - A PERIOD
110 FOR A=1 TO 360 STEP .5
120 YY=SIN(A*.017453)*100
130 XX=COS(A*.017453)*100
140 Y=(YY+200)*.8          :REM X AND Y INCREMENTS ON PRINTER ARE NOT SAME
150 X=XX+200              X
160 XCALL DIAGR,COMMAND,X,Y,CHARACTER
170 NEXT
200 Y=150:X=340:CHARACTER=ASC("X"):XCALL DIAGR,COMMAND,X,Y,CHARACTER
210 Y=160:CHARACTER=46
220 FOR A=50 TO 350
230 X=A:XCALL DIAGR,COMMAND,X,Y,CHARACTER
240 NEXT
300 X=210:Y=60:CHARACTER=ASC("Y"):XCALL DIAGR,COMMAND,X,Y,CHARACTER
310 CHARACTER=46:X=200
320 FOR A=50 TO 350
330 Y=A*.8:XCALL DIAGR,COMMAND,X,Y,CHARACTER
340 NEXT
400 COMMAND=2:REM          COMMAND TO CLOSE PRINTER
410 XCALL DIAGR,COMMAND
500 REM          Glenn Darwin
510 REM          MEMORY Systems
```


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