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This Month's Meeting
May 8, 1993

Warren-Newport
Public Library
Gurnee, IL

Next Meeting
June 12, 1993

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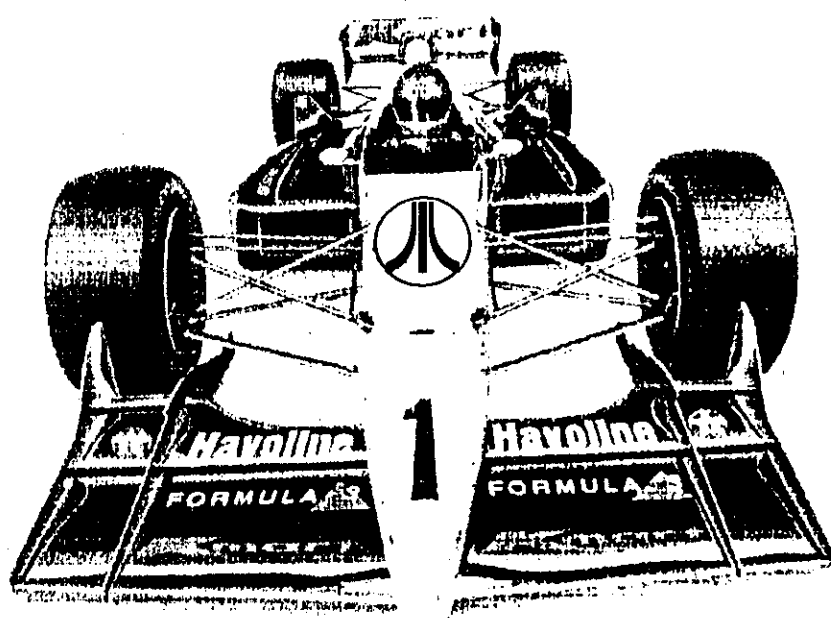
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Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 8788
Waukegan, IL 60079-8788

MEMBERSHIP
Membership in L.C.A.C.E. is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are $20.00 per individual/family. Membership includes a one year subscription to the News Journal, and access to club's libraries. Applications for membership may be obtained at the monthly meetings, by calling the hotline, or by writing to us at the above address.

MEETINGS
L.C.A.C.E. meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month, at the Warren-Newport Public Library, 244 O'Plains Rd. Gurnee, IL. Meetings begin at 11:00 am. We do not require you to be a member to attend our meetings, they are free and open to the public.

ADVERTISING
For information on placing ads, please write our Newsletter Editor at the above address, or call (708) 623-3815.

Rates: Full Page - $25, Half Page - $15, Quarter Page - $10, Business Cards - $5. Discounts are given for advance purchase of 12 consecutive ads. Send Camera- ready copy and payment by the 21st of the month preceeding publication to above address.

NOTICE:
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L.C.A.C.E. HOTLINE
(708) 623-3815

Python BBS
Official Club BBS
(708) 680-5105

Deadline Approaching
For Next Months Articles

Remember: the deadline for all articles submitted to *The News Journal* is the 20th of each month. Send your articles, via disk to the clubs P.O. Box, or upload to **Pegasus BBS** **(708) 623-9570** prior to this date. Articles submitted may be edited for length and clarity.

Editor's Ink
By Mike Brown (LCACE)

Welcome to the May edition of the LCACE News Journal!

I first want to take a moment to thank Dave Moriarty for the fine job that he did this last year under difficult conditions (balky hardware, job changes, cranky proofreaders). I hope that I can continue the tradition of quality newsletters that the membership has enjoyed in the past.

I am not trying to make excuses, but I'm laboring to get this issue out under my own set of difficulties, not the least of which is some substantial hardware problems. Because of the problems, the May issue has somewhat of a "lean and mean" look- future issues will be better looking, while the focus will be on content and not flash.

As always, we are constantly on the lookout for articles for publication in the News Journal. Please upload your articles in ASCII compatible format to the Python or Pegasus BBS systems or mail them on 3.5" diskette to the club P.O. Box.

Due to a strange twist of fate, I will be able to make a rare appearance at a May LCACE meeting (usually I am at Indy with a beer in hand most of the month of May), where I will enjoy talking to anyone about their ideas for the newsletter.

Video Games Cleared in Epilepsy Scare

Sidney, Australia, Neurological experts from the Australian Neurological Association and the Australian Brain Foundation have cleared video games from claims that they cause epilepsy.

They say recent concerns confirm the lack of public knowledge about the condition. Dr. Roy Breran of the Epilepsy Association said that around one or two percent of the population has active epilepsy, and of these, around 10 to 15 percent (mostly children) have photosensitive epilepsy where seizures are triggered by flickering light. Both natural and flickering light can precipitate the seizures, but the most common source for difficulty appears to be television or strobe lights (such as used in nightclubs).

Television around the world usually has a repetition (scan) rate of 50 times per second (UK and most of Europe) or 60 times a second (U.S. and many North American countries). The lower rate can trigger episodes in around 40 percent of epilepsy-photosensitive people, regardless of the program content, or whether or not the TV is connected to a video games console.

Dr. Beran said parents of photosensitive children can take a number of preventative measures such as making sure the TV set is in good working order, that the ambient light is high enough, and really sensitive people also should consider wearing polarizing lens sunglasses. He said that there is also effective medication for sufferers.

The Australian Brain Foundation confirmed that video games could not cause epilepsy, and that photosensitive people had to take care in any situation where there was slow flickering light.
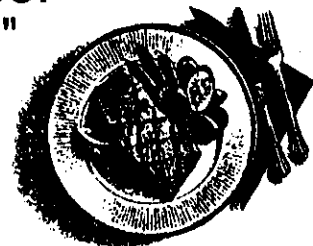
Mac Attack

Big news for Spectre GCR owners is that the long-awaited software update is nearly here. It's Spectre version 3.7- We'll have to wait and see what the new features are. I'm glad to see that Dave Small still is supporting the GCR. The Mac emulation accounts for a lot of my ST time, and i'm appreciative of any enhancements. One thing does bother me though, it's the fact that being a registered owner of a GCR you would think that I would get a notice from Gadgets and not have to read about it in a magazine. Oh well.

Games and Demo Disks... I like games and I spend about as much time on games as on anything else. I play games on the St, the Mac and on an IBM compatible. I'm pretty familiar with what's going on in the industry on all three platforms. Lately I have had a couple of experiences with a certain company that I find leaves rather a bad taste in my mouth.

I own more games by Microprose than from any other single company. I think I have just about everyone of their ST titles. I have been looking to buy the game "Knights of the Sky" for the ST. Mail order prices for this recent release are about $40 or so. While scrounging around in a software discount/closeout bin I found the game for the IBM for under $10. In the ST world this game is hot stuff, while in the IBM world it is yesterday's news- make your own deductions.

Last week while shopping I picked up a Microprose Sampler Pack of three new games for the IBM. It cost $4. The outside packaging stated that the package included demo disks for "Strike Eagle III", "The Ancient Art of War" and "David Leadbetter's Greens". After opening the package I found only two disks. At first I thought, aha, bad quality control. But after further infvestigation, I found a slip of paper saying if that if I wanted a free demo of "The Ancient Art Of War" I should fill out the form, mail it in and wait 2-3 weeks. If you were lucky enough to live in Maryland you should enclose 5% sales tax. Someone please tell me what's 5% of free.

Re-reading the package I did find an add on sticker saying "Includes Greens and F-15 III Plus FREE 'Skies' Demo Offer". Of course FREE means after spending four bucks on demos I still have to pay postage because someone obviously dropped the ball and didn't have the 'Skies' demos available! I mean come on Microprose; you where my favorite game company, now I don't think so.

The IBM world has caught on to the idea of demo disks. It's an excellent way to let the consumer try new products in a limited mode. The consumer can also play a shortened version of a game to evaluate its merits before the purchase. This should reduce the piracy that the software publishers fear. Another important fact is that the software company also makes some money on their demo disks. Kinda reminds you of the Infomercials on TV, eh?

Money... Haven't you ever wondered why those investment consultants that always seem to call at supper time don't use their own advice to make themselves rich so that they could eat their own supper on time? I have!

GenCon Celebrates 20th Anniversary

TSR, Inc. proudly announces the 1993 *GenCon* gaming and fantasy fair to be held at the spacious MECCA convention center, August 19 through the 22nd.

Game players everywhere will want to be in on the fun to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the *Dungeons and Dragons* role playing game. D&D fans will have continuous games to keep their attention, while the latest in *virtual reality* multiplayer games will delight players and specators alike.

In a first for GenCon, August 21st is designated *Science Fiction Saturday* with a special guest appearance by George Takei, *Mr. Sulu*, of the *Star Trek* television series.

Marvel Comics will be holding a Mini-Con in conjunction with the GenCon activities. Marvel plans guest appearances by many famous authors, exhibits of rare issues and original art, in addition to the usual collectible comic buying and selling.

The computer and video gaming area is expected to be as popular as ever (#1 event in 1992), where participants can test their skills in the multi-player "MidiMaze", or select from the hundreds of titles available for play on the stand-alone computer systems provided.
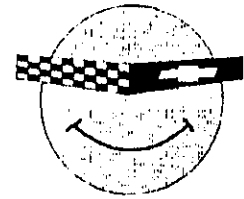
In 1992, GenCon boasted an attendance of over 18,000, and with the special events planned for this year, it will be wise to make your plans early for this popular event.

More information on GenCon '93 can be obtained from Sandy Kinney at 414-248-3625 ext 424.

ST-528
UTILITY DISK (MA-406)

CONNECT: *Connect*, Interactive Multimedia Networking - Connections links the following multimedia family member into your own custom interactive presentation with graphics, text files, sound and animation:
1) Digitized sounds (Replay format using the extension .SPL)
2) Degas full size parent screens (using the .PI3 extension)
3) Smaller graphic picture blocks (using the extension .DAT)
4) Multiple block animation files (with the extension .ANI)
5) Standard ASCII text files (up to 80 columns with the extension .TXT)
6) External applications (run other program .PRG from within a family).
Connections requires a monochrome monitor. You should have at least one megabyte of memory and a hard drive.

CROSSWRD: *Crossword-Editor ST v2.2* - An easy to use, GEM based crossword creation program. This program has been designed to be used by anyone interested in crosswords. Whenever you want to design or solve crosswords, then this program will prove of use. The program works in medium and high screen resolutions. It should also work on any monitor/graphic system that sets up GEM properly. The program can be used in two ways. First, you can solve crosswords in "solve mode". Second, you can create and print your own crosswords in "Create mode."

GROCERY: *Grocery Lister v1.8* - A household utility program that allows you to compile a list of grocery items complete with current price and total estimated cost. It can be used to determine how much you will spend at the store if you know the items that you need. It can also be used as a budget tool to allow you to select the items that you need or want if you only have a fixed amount to spend. With a small amount of database maintenance work each time you buy groceries you will be able to maintain a fairly accurate file of the items which you regularly purchase. This file can be very useful to remind you of items which you may need as you compile your grocery list. Finally, the program will generate a very neat and easy to read printout of the current grocery list.

LOANSUM: *Loansum* - A unique loan calculator that displays both input and output in a SINGLE dialogue box. This provides for quick results when you wish to "play" with the APR and the other variables. You can also compute the interest saved when extra payments are applied to the principle. An amortization table (which shows accumulated interest) can be sent to a scrollable window, printer, or a disk file.

SUPSEP21: *Super Separator v2.1* - A color separation program. Its purpose is to allow you to separate the Colors in a "DEGAS" or "NEOCHROME" picture. You can do this very easily with this program. The uses of color separation are many. A few of them are:
1) Desk-top Publishing: For Camera-ready art
2) Silk-Screening: every Color effortlessly separates, in exactly the proper scale & positions
3) Color Printing: you can print color pictures with your printer. Even if you have a dot matrix 9-pin!

ST-529
UTILITY DISK (MA-407)

EXPANDO: *Expando-matic* - A shell for dealing with a variety of compressed formats. This is a shell for various archivers (.ARC, .LZH, etc.) which is more convenient in extracting files, at the price of not being able to do the other functions. You will need to have copies of the archivers you wish to use before using this program, as they are not included on this disk.

EXBASE10: *Easy Base* - A Shareware Database. It is intended to be a general purpose database that can be adapted to many common tasks such as Address Lists, Inventory, Checkbooks, etc. The unregistered version of Easy-Base is fully operational including saving and printing of data files. However, there is a limit of 20 records for any one data file. The registered version of Easy-Base is limited only by the free memory in your machine.

FLCAT_11: *The File Catalog* - A simple utility that helps keep track of the files on a disk of hard drive partition and allows you to monitor changes to your files. The program reads all the files on a disk or partition and stores them in a file. Later, a list can be generated and old and new lists can be automatically compared to see what has changed. The 'delta' of the load and new file lists will show all files that have been deleted, added, or changed (size or date).

FONTVIEW: *Fontview* - A GDOS font viewer program. It runs in all ST/STe resolutions, but looks best in monochrome. It reports all data from the GDOS font header. It does not require GDOS to be loaded to show GDOS fonts on screen!

GEODISC: *Geodisc v1.1* - This program was written for the author's love of the perfect symmetry and beauty of geodesic domes. Buckminster Fuller initiated the necessary mathematics for spherical triangles and made extensive effort to establish the concept in housing. Until now, there has not been a program designed to ease the drudgery for designing Geodesics. This program has been mainly written for that purpose, although entertainment and education was surely another motive.

MCQUIZ: *Rad Quiz* - A program for writing quizzes.

PRINTALL: *Print All* - The author's intention is to support the printing of most major graphics formats available to the Atari computer/HP printer user. The program recognizes, reads and prints the following file extensions/formats in color or grayscale on the HP500C Deskjet printer, and in grayscale on the HP 500:

1) .GIF Compuserve's Graphic Interchange format.
2) .MTV The MTV raytracer raw output file (24bit).
3) .NEO Neochrome low and medium-res images.
4) .PC1 Degas Elite Compressed low-resolution.
5) .PC2 Degas Elite Compressed medium-resolution.
6) .PI1 Degas/Degas Elite low-resolution.
7) .PI2 Degas/Degas Elite medium-resolution.
8) .QRT The QRT raytracer raw output file (24bit).
9) .SPC Spectrum 512 compressed images.
10) .SPU Spectrum 512 uncompressed image.

RDE_V2: This is Version 2 of Mark Williams C's 'RDY' configurable, savable (with contents) to file, self loading, internal ramdisk utility. This utility allows as many RDY-ramdisks simultaneously loaded as free volume letters will allow, and furthermore, one ram-disk can be made a "booting ramdisk' so that the ST (On warm reset) will boot from the auto folder present on the "booting" ramdisk.

ST-530
GAME DISK (MA-408)

AIR2AIR: *Air-to-Air* - A 2-person side-view air combat arcade game. You can pick from several planets, including one with no gravity!

COYOTE: *Coyote Dave's Poker* - Welcome to the wild west! Grab a chair, choose a table in the saloon and sit yourself down for some five card draw poker. You'll have a chance to play against some of the most treacherous, conniving and smoothest characters north of the Rio Grande! The game requires a monochrome monitor. It will run on a 520ST without any special effort but is best appreciated with at least one megabyte of memory.

RAYOID: *Rayoid* - A cute side-view platform-type arcade game. It is billed as "3 game in one". It is a single player, 2-player and 2-player via modem game.

VEGAS_BJ: *BJ-Expert*, the full feature version of *Vegas Blackjack* It's more than one game, its a complete course on becoming a winning Blackjack Player if you've ever played in a casino you know that blackjack is by far the most popular of all casino games. The reason for that it that skill is an important factor in whether you win or lose. This program will teach the correct playing strategy for any number of decks and all variations in the rules.
The author states that he found that on average, it takes 1-3 hours to learn the correct basic strategy. The game includes the Expert II Count System. This is a professional and easy to learn count system, which anyone can master.

ST-531
GAME DISK (MA-409)

OZONE: *Ozone* - A cute side-view platform-type game. No instructions with this one, but figuring it out by yourself is half the fun, isn't it? works on TOS 1.4 but not on 2.06. The disk is set to Autoboot this game.

SOCCER: *Sensible Soccer* - An overhead-at-an-angle sports simulation of this game.

ST-532
GAME DISK (MA-410)

AIRSUPP: *Air Support Demo* - A demo of a simulation by Psygnosis. The demo includes 3 New missions that are not included in the commercial game.

EVADER: *Evader* is an overhead-view arcade game which is similar to other shoot-em-ups in that you have to blast nearly anything that moves. Simply guide your craft by moving the joystick in the desired direction. Pressing the fire button will launch your weapon. Along the fight path you will be able to pick up new weapons, and powerups. You start the game with shields at full strength. With each contact with an alien ship or it's fire your shields will be depleted. When all your shields are gone- the game is over.

NEW-MAPS: A total of 33 new maps and 3 saved games for the game *Empire*. The folder includes 2 maps and 2 saved games based on the Persian Gulf War.

SNAKE: A colorful version of the program where your snake becomes longer as you glide over things to eat. The trick here is to not run over yourself or to hit a wall.

MODEM CRAZE

by Irmin Baier M.D. (LCACE/MilAtari)
reprinted from *MilAtari Limited Edition*, January 1993

The advantages of being a Modem owner are many. One can communicate with their own club bulletin board and its many facets, one can "talk' with other local and national bulletin boards (BBS's) or one can hook up to other computers with modems and exchange information or chat directly. What is new in Modem technology? What of its future?

Modem users are continually seeking information on upgrading to higher-speed modems, solving compatibility problems, and getting more productivity out of their present modem. The personal computer Modem (an acronym coined from the terms modulation-demodulation) started out many years ago with the state of the art being the 300 Baud acoustic modem (an auditory device that converted the electrical signals of a computer device to auditory signal, transmitted the auditory signals over an ordinary telephone to the distant phone where the auditory signals where converted to an electrical signal and recorded on some computer device) These transmissions could be words or other signals.

Twenty years ago I had such a device in my home to receive and read and interpet EKG's (electro cardiograms) from two different hospitals. Sometimes several sending attempts were made because of line noise (or interference, even though we had a free direct line from the hospital. There are four (4) major aspects of modem technology that have changed recently -- speed, price, features, and miniaturization. First, let me say that "baud" as a term is no longer "in fashion- "bits per second" or BPS is more commonly used to describe today's sending speeds.

Most manufacturers agree that the mode of modems (I like that phrase) are 14,400 bit-per-second models designed to conform to the latest international standards --- V.32 modulation. V.42 error control and V.42*bis* data compression, and send-receive fax capability. At the same time, there's still an active market for the current crop of 2400 bps and V.32 9600 bps modems.

The advantage of faster modems is to lower your telephone bills. V.32*bis* is cost-effective for

Many people want to share the same phone line with fax, voice and data. Fax capability typically adds $20 to $30 to the cost of a modem (some modems come with FAX send/receive software, check to make sure the software provided meets your needs, and that it will run on your computer!). Miniaturization of modem equipment will continue; manufacturers are developing credit-card size modems (5mm thick) to put into notebook or handheld computers.

You can get advice regarding modems from local dealers, from user groups and from the national bulletin bards (BBSs). These modern modems save time and your money; a 9600-bps modem can save you ten (10) fold in cost compared to a 300-bps modem.

For more help, or if you have questions, visit your user group, download information from various national BBSs, or ask a question on the national BBSs. Most commercial BBSs will tell you the time and speed (in bps) of your data transfer. Variation of transmission speed is caused by more or less traffic on the service, the amount of "noise" on your phone line, and the transfer protocol you are using. Best speeds are obtained when you download during the less busy hours (at night).

Many companies, such as USRobotics in Skokie, IL. offer information guides for those who are interested in leaning more about the technical side of telecommunications- USR's guide is called the "Telecoomunications Pocket Guide", just call their User Group Support department and request a copy. More than just a glossary of telecommunications and modem terminology- there are several useful diagrams and schematics that help explain how modems do their "magic".

Intel Inside!
By Larry Grauzas Jr. (LCACE)

Last months MSDOS/IBM SIG (we still don't have a very good name for it) was held at my home. Ten very enthusiastic people showed up. The discussions ranged from DOS 6.0 to what the CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files do. Everyone had a good time and expressed a lot of interested in expanding this SIG within the club. In fact, there will probably be a second meeting prior to the general meeting due to the amount of requests that I have received!

How does this affect L.C.A.C.E? All of the people who attended the earlier SIG meeting want to become part of an organized group. Our club would be an ideal fit. LCACE would benefit with new members who would be interested in new activities and would be willing to volunteer their time. We would attract additional vendors and people willing to do demos. From my initial discussions with various folks, LCACE could easily add 50 or more new members!

But, a few changes would be needed to attract new members. The club would definitely need to go to a multi-platform format. This would mean a brief general meeting with a generic demo. The individual SIGs would then break into smaller groups with specific demos. Discussions of what is right and wrong with Atari would need to be limited .

A number of ideas for future SIG activities have been discussed, and I would like to get feedback as to the amount of interest in the activities. Some of the things discussed were a beginners group, meetings specifically for topics such as word processing or desktop publishing and guest speakers (Microsoft, Lotus, Word perfect or Hewlett Packard).

Most people have indicated that they would like more than one SIG meeting a month to cover these topics or activities. Also, a suggestion was made that the meetings could rotate houses. This would not put the burden of hosting the meeting on just a few people, and it would be a chance for more people to "show off" using their machines. Another idea is that we should become associated with one or more of the local dealers. This could mean discounts for club members and a source for new hardware and products for demos.

These were just a few of the ideas that were discussed; please let me, or one of the other officers know if you have any other thoughts on what you would like to see in the MS-DOS SIG. Better yet- come to one of the SIG meetings and discuss it with the group.

Next MS-DOS SIG Meeting:
May 12th, 1993 - 7:00 P.M.
Call - 708-566-0671
for more information.

The Prez Sez:
By Steve Kostelnik. (LCACE)

"The times they are a-changing" -Bob Dylan

I open this article with a familiar quote. Things are changing everywhere we look, especially in the computer field.

New DOS, new applications, upgrades, updates, and constant revisions. Too bad they don't include the Atari users. If you use a MAC or MS-DOS based computer, you have a whole world of activity going on out there, not to mention availability of products on every corner.

I just finished watching *Computer Chronicles* on Channel 11(WTTW-PBS) here in Chicago. The Palmtop "organizers" just got more exposure on the show than Atari ever has. I don't mean to bash Atari (I still own 2 8-Bits and 4 STs), but we must face the reality that Atari is not near the top of the list of availability, software development, or popularity. We just like them. That's why we have always and always will support them.

The new direction of L.C.A.C.E. is not to down play the Atari computers but to increase our membership and communicate with the current computer world.

At a recent MS-DOS SIG meeting there were more willing volunteers than we have had at a regular meeting in the last year. These volunteers were not even members of L.C.A.C.E. at this time. They all had the desire to help other computer owners with education, problem solving, and demonstration of hardware and software. It kind of sounds like the L.C.A.C.E. of a few short years ago. People helping people. The interest level was so high that another MS-DOS SIG was called in the same month. Did we ever have a SIG meet twice in the same month before? I don't know but I think it's a good sign.

As your newly re-elected President I would like to thank all of you for the pleasure of a second term. I hope that I and the Officers of L.C.A.C.E. will serve you in your best interest.

Please do not hesitate to E-mail us or phone us with your thoughts. I would like to extend an invitation to all of you to attend the officer's meetings. Officer's meetings have always been *open meetings* for *any* member to attend. The next Officer's meeting will be on Tuesday May 11th 7:00pm at my home. If you need directions call me at 708-680-9596.

Steve Kostelnik, Your President
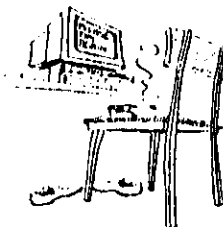
L.C.A.C.E. Bylaws Amendment Proposed

At The April 20th Meeting of the LCACE Board of directors, a proposed amendment to the Bylaws of Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts Was Discussed. The text of the amendment is reprinted here:

AMENDMENT 3

This amendment will replace Section I, paragraph 3 and Section V, paragraph 1 of the Bylaws. The purpose is to enhance the multi-platform format of the club. The new sections are as follows:

SECTION I -ORGANIZATION

3. AFFILIATIONS: L.C.A.C.E. is not affiliated with any corporation or other commercial enterprise.

SECTION V - OFFICERS

1. OFFICERS: The officers of L.C.A.C.E., their titles and duties shall be as follows:

-President: Presides at the general and the Board meetings. Oversees the operation of the Board and the Standing Committees. Responsible for long-range plans. The president shall not chair a Standing Committee.

-Vice-President: Chairs the Special Events Committee. Performs the duties of the President when he or she is unable to do so. The Vice-President may be delegated other duties by the President.

-SIG Chairperson: Coordinates and plans the activities for each general meeting. Chairs the Program and the Special Interests Committees.

-Secretary: Maintains and is responsible for the official records of L.C.A.C.E. Makes brief reports at each general meeting, covering the topics discussed and the decisions made at each Board meeting. Records proceedings at all general meetings, especially the business portion. Keeps a historical file for each set of meetings, to be available for review by the members upon request.

-Treasurer: Maintains correct and up-to-date records of all of the group's accounts and financial transactions. The Treasurer shall open the books to the membership at each meeting, and shall report to the membership all financial transactions made by the Board since the last meeting.

-Editor: Responsible for group publication. With the assistance of the Education and Publications Review Committee (see Paragraph 1, Section VIII) searches for pertinent information related to the interests of the group. If it is copyrighted, obtain necessary permission from the author and /or publication in which the article or information appears. If it is not copyrighted, collects and collates it for distribution to group members. The Editor will chair the Newsletter Committee. Informs the members of meetings. Sends information to the members related to motions pending before the membership.

-Membership Chairperson: Works with Public Relations to obtain new members. Introduces new members to the activities and interests within the group. Keeps current file of members who have indicated ability and willingness to work as consultants for other members in a given area of computer related expertise. Can also co-ordinate their files with the Secretary.

---- End of Amendment ----

The LCACE Bylaws, Section X, specify that this proposed amendment must be approved by the members of LCACE. The Board of Directors will formally ask for discussion of the above amendment, and call for a vote to adopt this amendment at the May meeting. Anyone wishing to discuss the content of the proposed amendment is encouraged to attend.

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nthusiasts

Next Meeting

**Saturday-
May 8, 1993
Warren-Newport
Public Library**
224 N. O'Plaine Rd
Gurnee, IL

For More info Call:
L.C.A.C.E. HOTLINE
(708) 623-38152

L.C.A.C.E.
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P.O. Box 8788
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