

December  
1989

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Issue 12

# AMIGAZette

\$2.50

The *AMIGAZette* is the official publication of the Sacramento Amiga Computer Club.

The General Meeting Will  
Be On November 22nd.



Founded 1986

SACC meets at the Pac Bell building at 2700 Watt Avenue. The meeting starts at 7:00 P.M. sharp.

## Newsletter Contents

### Digital Creations!

That's right, Digital Creations, a Rancho Cordova based company, will be on hand at the next meeting. They have been running ads in several Amiga magazines about the new Supergen 2000, and several software packages designed for it. Come see us at our next meeting as the folks from Digital Creations demo their new products. Just in time for

Christmas shopping!

**Stop!** Don't buy your modem yet. We'll be raffling off a **Supra 2400** baud modem at the upcoming meeting!



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# LINES OF COMMUNICATION

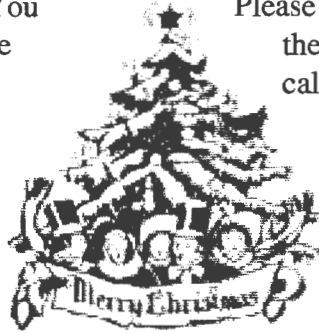
by Linda Marquess

About two or three times a month, I drag some uninitiated soul over to the house to dazzle him/her with my incredible machine. Sometimes I am greeted with blank looks by those who still don't understand my passion for the machine. "You mean you spend all your spare time with the computer?"

Not everyone has that kind of dedication to his/her computer, but I think that the percentage is high among Amiga owners. That is where we have the advantage. One place we are disadvantaged is in the area of company support. I am not saying that Commodore hasn't made some real effort recently. Compared to IBMs customer support, we have a long way to go. So where do Amiga owners get their support? Alliance with other users, of course. Strong user groups are essential to the growth of the Amiga community.

What this is leading up to is a plea for your involvement in the coming year. We need you to

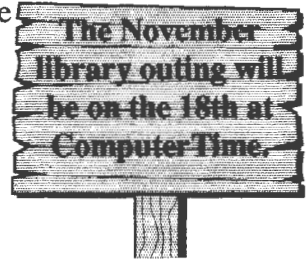
volunteer, to take office and to bring your fresh ideas into play. Not only will others benefit, but you will, too. I can't begin to tell you how much I have learned by interacting with other users. Please see David Bandimere or Fred Sakai at the general meeting (or give one of them a call) and put your hat in the ring for office.



This month...

Our special guests are the guys from Digital Creations who'll show us the S-VHS and NTSC compatible, 2000S genlock.

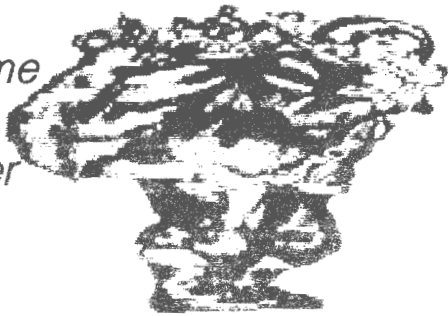
Don't forget to mail your dues early to get your certificate for a free January disk of the month!



Se habla Amiga? Help others to learn your favorite program or assist in your area of expertise. Remember, you were new once, too. If you'd like to add your name to our list, sign up at a general meeting or contact me at 991-0415

AMIGO	PHONE	HOURS	HELP AREA
Walker Ayres	487-3202	noon-10PM	BASIC
Greg Pringle	452-7381	5:30-10PM	Hardware
John Warren	662-8754	9AM-3PM	Games/Carpool
Jack Cannon	722-7404	reas. hrs.	Dr. T's/Music
Dave Bloch	441-6816	eves/wknds	Video
Lindsey Fong	AmigaLink BBS (modem)		Anything
Brian Cox	488-3964	reas. hrs.	BASIC
Fred Sakai	488-4343	reas. hrs.	Desktop Publ.
Linda Marquess	991-0415	7PM-Midnight	CLI, Anything
Steve Goodrich	361-7566	6PM-10PM	Beginners, Maxiplan, Word Perfect CLI
Dan Kelly	383-9417	reas. hrs.	Telecom
John Zacharias	363-9153	eves+wknds	Desktop Publ., Video
Jan Zacharias	363-9153		Video, Graphics
Ken Free	292-3151	before 10 PM	CLI, Utilities, General

Ram@Home  
by  
Rob Super



### AmiEXPOnent

VOLCANO, CA -- There are some interesting parallels between Santa Clara's Doubletree Hotel and Volcano's St. George. The St. George has floors that slope peculiarly; in the Doubletree it's the ceilings and the floor plan that have odd angles. At the Doubletree you discover the "front" desk only by following signs to its hidden location in back of the schizoid lobby; at the St. George the problem is that the desk is in the bar next door. But the St. George has a comfortable, quiet lounge (in which, on these cool fall days, there are fires in the old stone fireplace) that's as welcoming now as it was a hundred years ago. The Doubletree is afflicted with a public-room design that is an unsteady mix of German Expressionism and Pastel Post Modernism. Uncomfortable now, it will soon be *passee* and, therefore, be remodeled: if you have any desire to see it as it was in the 1980s, don't wait a hundred years.

But it was a good place for AmiEXPO. Besides the fact that the hotel itself has lots of meeting rooms and "learning theaters" (really!), it is Siamesed onto the Santa Clara Convention Center. And although San Francisco is an immeasurably more interesting city, Santa Clara looked untouched by the 'quake of 89. People were talking about it, the media were full of it and the lobby shop already had "I survived..." t-shirts, but I saw no damage and found traffic on 680 exactly as terrible as usual.

Attendance, however, seemed light. 'quake jitters must have kept a few people away. That was a shame, because it was a good show. The upside of low attendance was that it was easier to walk the aisles and, since most of the developers and vendors showed, to ask questions and get full, unhurried answers.

One interesting development was the appearance of some competition in the area of "structured drawing" software. Gold Disk has had a virtual Amiga monopoly with "Professional Draw": a good program, but one that lacks some of the tools and features expected of a "professional" MacIntosh package. Taliesin, Inc., was showing a very stable "Pro Vector", their first offering. "Pro Vector" is extremely fast, it dithers to show 256 on-screen

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colors, has an "undo" function, imports IFF and HAM images for tracing, can use any Preferences printer, has a very clean and intelligible interface, saves to its own, IFF or PostScript formats, and has an "ARexx" interface. (Incidentally, Taliesin was using a very effective device to demonstrate the power of structured drawing: a multi-colored "Pro Vector" map of the United States. Imagine what Washington State would look like on such a map as displayed on an Amiga screen. Now imagine drawing a box around just that state and enlarging the box to fill the screen. The enlarged image area displays *all the detail possible within the screen's resolution*: islands, bays, coastline wanderings, etc. Box a section of Puget Sound and expand again to fill the screen with still more detail. Any structured drawing program can do this, but try it with a "paint" program! The point is that the detail is inherent to the drawing, not the output device, so even a dot matrix printer will produce far smoother lines and more detail than the monitor displays.) "Pro Vector" is claiming an "early next year" release at a price "somewhere between \$200 and \$300".

S. Anthony Studios' entry in the structured drawing sweeps is "LaserUp! Draw", which expands its line of "LaserUp!" Postscript and related utilities. "LaserUp! Draw" appears to be slower than "Pro Vector" but offers some powerful features of its own. It will, for example, fit text to a particular path (such as a circle or an irregular curve you've drawn) and can tween the shapes, colors and positions of two separate objects. The product shown still had a few bugs, said to be almost fixed. This early version was being sold at 'EXPO for \$99 with a year's free upgrades; the finished version should be shipping about now and lists at \$125.

In a completely different vein, Gravis demonstrated a joystick unlike any I have ever seen, and one whose implications I haven't fully digested. Physically, the "Gravis MouseStick" resembles many others except for the fact that the cord is interrupted midway by a mouse-sized plastic box. The stick is programmable and the box provides a liquid crystal display of program information. Such things as auto-centering of the screen cursor, the area of the screen within which the cursor (and therefore the stick) will function and the pulse rate (variable or fixed) can be programmed. Several program configurations can be set up and saved for easy retrieval, and the makers claim that mouse, joystick and trackball can all be emulated with this one device. The "MouseStick" has a high count resolution making it suitable for CAD and Desktop Publishing applications. One of its most interesting tricks is emulating an analog joystick in certain applications: the speed with which a program responds depends on how far the stick is moved in a given direction. (Digital joysticks are binary: you

either are or are not moving left; the speed of the move is determined by the software you're running. Analog joysticks are like steering a car in that you can control the *rate* of turn as well as the direction.) I saw this working very well in several programs ("Deluxe Paint" among them), but we were unable to get "Interceptor" to recognize analog input. The "MouseStick" lists for \$130.

Brown-Waugh's "Pen Pal" looks like it might be a winner. Neither a high-end wordprocessor nor a true page layout program, it offers a unique combination of features that will probably appeal to a lot of users. It's fast and easy to use, yet lets you combine text and graphics on the page with such capabilities as color printing and flowing text around graphics. It is far faster than "Pro Write" and is particularly noteworthy in that it can be told to use your printer's NLQ fonts for optimum quality in the text portions of the page. Graphic fonts work too. A data base (useful for mail merge and such) is integral to the program. If you want software for writing illustrated letters or reports, look at "Pen Pal".

Soft-Logik is getting ready to ship version 1.8 of "PageStream". The changes will be largely bug fixes, but also include a better font manager, a more Amigaized file requestor, improved spelling dictionary (boy did it need that!), additional import modules, redesigned circle and ellipse tools, etc. In case you're wondering, there will be no 1.7 here: that number was used in some countries for translated versions of 1.6, and will be skipped over in the U.S. in order to avoid confusion. (Does it?)

NewTek had an actual production version of the Video Toaster running (and another copy to pass around: its a mother-and-daughter monster that fits in the video slot of a 2000)--and performing some pretty impressive tricks. They are still working on the software, planning to ship early next year, and are currently (and tentatively) pricing it at about \$1500.

There were other things worth mentioning, but let's get off the exhibit floor and look at some of the other events of AmiEXPO.

The one disappointment I experienced was with a desktop publishing class. It was plagued with apparent equipment problems until a participant went to his car and brought in his own 2000. The hard disk on the new machine was a lot faster, but that just made things crash quicker. The instructor was working with a pre-release version of "Professional Page" 1.3 which he refused to abandon due to his enthusiasm for showing its new font capabilities. Still insisting that it was a hardware problem (I doubt it) he struggled on long after he should have gone back to 1.2 (after all, he'd taught this stuff many times before without 1.3).

One of the real pleasures 'EXPO was the chance to spend an evening at the judging of the BADGE

Killer Demo entries. Watching the whole gamut of thirty-some accepted submissions was as instructive as it was fun. While it was sometimes a letdown to watch a seriously flawed or amateurish demo, it was also true that virtually every entry had something--a graphic technique, a story line, a sound track--worth noting and worth further development. The best submissions were simply a joy to watch. Bradley Schenk's submission (which I think was called "Sentinel"--sorry about the uncertainty) is a graphic *tour de force* completely different from his "Charon". "VAUX-Killer", from the Ventura user's group, is much cruder graphically (though with it's own kind of charm) but quite funny. I thought it particularly impressive in that it integrated contributions from a considerable number of people into a coherent and successful group project. There were a number of demos aimed at trashing other computers, some of them very well done, funny and effective, but I guess I'm getting a bit tired of such Chauvinism: I'd like to see some of that talent and effort used more constructively. Speaking of constructive efforts, I particularly want to comment on "Carpenter" (whose author's name I've regretfully lost) and on audience reaction to it. This was a graphics-and-narration entry explaining the design, construction and operation of a complex (and imaginary?) carpenter's tool. It's a serious piece, well executed with good, clear, voice explanations and crisp, well-designed graphics. It was introduced with the author's remark that it is an attempt to demonstrate the Amiga's capabilities in a "neglected area" of business graphics presentations. I thought it did that very well, but it was "gonged" by the audience before it had finished running. Now I recognize that, unless and until a special category is established, such a demo will never win a BADGE award, and that's OK. But it bothers me that this kind of serious, competent, and worthwhile effort gets hissed by an Amiga audience. Does a product have to be "artistic", loud, or populated with cartoon characters to get our approval? C'mon folks, we can do better than that.

Commodore's new TV ads were shown to loud applause on several occasions. (You may have seen some of them on TV by the time you read this.) I don't know how much of the enthusiasm was for the ads themselves and how much was for the simple fact that Commodore is starting to advertise. Personally, I like them. They are entertaining and I think they'll do what they are intended to do: sell 500's for Christmas. The more machines out there the better for all of us. Still, Commodore needs to work more on the "serious" side of the Amiga's image. (Their new print ads are better in that respect.)

Finally, and on the same theme, Douglas Barney (*Amiga World's* new editor), used part of his speech to announce the launching of the "Amiga Developers

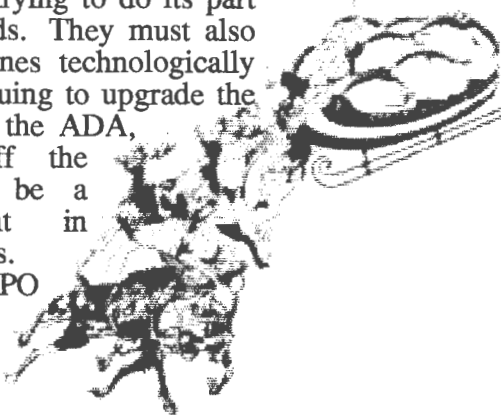
Association." The ADA will be an effort to focus the Amiga community on the problem of getting wider and more accurate recognition of the machine and it's capabilities. User enthusiasm has kept the Amiga alive up to now, but word-of-mouth doesn't reach people who aren't already talking computers. Without more institutionalized effort it will be difficult for the Amiga to grow enough beyond its present acceptance to survive. It looks like Commodore is trying to do its part with the new ads. They must also keep the machines technologically ahead by continuing to upgrade the hardware. And the ADA,

if it gets off the ground, could be a crucial weight in tipping the scales.

I found AmiEXPO

well worth the trip. I hope the organizers,

vendors and developers did too: AmiEXPO was a long time getting to northern California and it would be nice to have it back next year.



### ***BBS Numbers***

**AMIGALink, SACC Official Bulletin Board**

(916)447-3842 or (916)447-3843 or

(916)991-8553

or (916)682-8872 or (916)682-8874

Sysop: Lindsey Fong

**AMIGALINK II, Genesis**

(916)689-2705

Sysop: Dan Kelly

**Other Local Bulletin Boards:**

**AMIGA Express**

(916)635-5749 6PM - 11PM ONLY

**Another BBS**

(916)725-2639 1200/2400 24Hrs.

Sysop: Andy Wood

**Another AMIGA BBS**

(916)682-1740 3/12/2400 24 Hrs.

**The Computer Chapel**

(916)641-2400 1200/2400 24Hrs.

Sysop: Pete Howard

**Bear's Byte**

(916)722-7423 300/1200 24 Hrs.

Sysop: Woodie Bear

**Nebula-2**

(916)351-6482 1200/2400

5PM - 8PM Weekdays 24Hrs. Weekends Only

Sysop: Bob Pauwee

**The Out of**

(916)369-7560 300/1200 24Hrs.

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## ...For the Amiga A500/A1000

### Hard Drive Controllers (SCSI)

TrumpCard 500	\$229.95
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Supra 2Mb card w/2Mb	\$299.95
● Phoenix Electronics External Drive	\$115.95
Progressive Peripherals	
● EXP-512 Memory Expansion w/clock	\$135.95
Supra 512 Expansion w/clock	\$154.95
Tool Box 2 Slot Expansion Chassis w/power supply	\$224.95

## ...For the Amiga A2000

### Hard Drive Controllers (SCSI)

TrumpCard	\$169.95
Micro Botics Hard Frame	\$249.95
Supra DMA Interface	\$189.95
Supra Memory Expansion Card 8 Mb/2Mb	\$349.95
8-UP Memory Expansion Card 8 Mb/0K	\$189.95
● Internal 3.5" Floppy Drive (Chinon)	\$ 79.95
Flicker Fixer	\$469.95

### ...Accessories

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● Goldstar 1200 Baud External	\$ 74.95
● Goldstar 2400 Baud External	\$117.95
Supra 2400 Baud External	\$134.95
A-Max Macintosh Emulator	\$129.95
Macintosh 128K Roms **	\$139.95
Macintosh Cutting Edge Disk Drive	\$164.95
● Complete A-Max package (all three above items)	\$399.95

Rent a Mac-Drive (local only) price per day	\$ 10.00
(one day free rental with A-Max purchase)	
Mitsubishi Diamond Scan	\$549.95
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Samsung 14" VGA Monitor	\$429.95
Magnavox Pro Color Monitor	\$319.95
Microspeed AmTRAC Trackball	\$ 84.95
RF Modulator	\$ 37.95
5 ¼" Bracket for 3½" Hard Drives	\$ 9.95
Mac Plus SCSI Cable	\$ 18.95
Hard Drive Power Supply (for Trump)	\$ 89.95
Hard Drive Enclosures w/power supply	\$ 89.95
Commodore 1.3 Roms	\$ 45.95
Commodore Fat Agnus Chip	\$ 99.95

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# DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Newsletter Deadline	6 Board Meeting	7	8	9 Telecom SIG 1 pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Graphics SIG 7 pm
17	18	19	20 Desktop SIG 7 pm	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27 GENERAL MEETING 7 pm	28	29	30

## Election Info by Fred Sakai



Are you an Amiga enthusiast? Do you think the Amiga is an amazing computer and you can't imagine why anyone would buy anything else? That would be any excellent qualification to run for office for the Sacramento Amiga Computer Club. Come January, all four regular positions plus two board of director positions will be open. I encourage anyone who has a few hours free every month and a desire to promote the Amiga to volunteer for an office. It would be nice to see at least 3 or 4 people running for each position ... Can you imagine an electronic campaign using the Amiga to leave your campaign message on BBS's all over Sacramento?

The following positions will be open:

**President:** The president presides over the general meeting and the board of directors meeting, makes committee head appointments and in general, makes decisions to establish the tone and direction for the entire club. This person needs to be energetic, persuasive and highly dedicated to the longevity of the club.

**Vice-President:** The V-P acts as administrative assistant, program chairperson and as parliamentarian for the general meeting. The V-P must be able to take over the club in the president's absence. As program chairperson, it is the V-P's job to obtain guest speakers for the general meetings, thus it would be highly desirable for this person to be active in the computer community.

**Secretary:** Responsible for maintaining all official club correspondence. Takes minutes at all general and board meetings and makes them available to all club members. Traditionally, the secretary has also become responsible for writing an article describing the events at each general meeting in the club newsletter. This person should have good writing and records keeping skills.

**Treasurer:** Responsible for all club funds. Maintains the club checking account. Responsible for documenting all club money transactions, making monthly reports to the board, and publishing an annual financial report in the January newsletter. This person must have good bookkeeping skills and good references as to handling funds.

**Director (two positions open):** The primary functions of directors are to be present at all meetings to facilitate decision making by filling the quorum. The directors are full voting members at the board of directors meeting. In November, the two mid-term directors are responsible for forming a nomination committee for elections for the coming year. The directors should be enthusiastic club members who are willing to volunteer for the miriads of little projects that need to be taken care of during the year. The director position is for two years.

**Special Interest Group (SIG) Coordinator:** This is an unofficial volunteer position. The SIG coordinator is responsible for promoting interest and participation in any SIG's that are formed due to member requests. Responsible for keeping track of SIG leaders and meeting dates and for updating the SIG page and the calendar in the newsletter. Should be an energetic and persuasive Amiga enthusiast.

To date, the following nominations have been received:

President: 1; Vice-Pres.: 0; Secretary: 1; Treasurer: 0; and Director: 2

If you feel qualified and are interested in volunteering two evenings a month plus your enthusiasm and skills to promote the Sacramento Amiga Computer Club, please volunteer! This club only exists because of the unselfish efforts of your Board of Directors. If you have ever thought to yourself "Why is the Board doing that?", now is the time you can make a change. Run for an office and get involved. You will be repaid many times over for your efforts in the camaraderie with club members and the feeling that you know that you are making a difference in club matters.

Nominations for office may be directed to either David Bandimere or myself, Fred Sakai, or any of the other Board members.

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## The Computer Took Over My Life

Is it true the computer took over my life?  
That's the answer I get from my wife.  
It's an intriguing experience and still quite new.  
And there are so many things that it possibly can do.  
Once I get started, time stands still.  
Till there's no hours left for chores to fill.

With shop unattended for just a spell.  
My hands on the Amiga so quickly fell.  
Moments ticked by and time was forgotten.  
My unattended job turned out pretty rotten.  
In fact causing a fire to start in the shop.  
Shorting out electricity, smoking my Amiga to a stop.

I looked out the window into a cloud of smoke.  
With surprise and alarm, my senses now woke.  
I turned on the hose and put out the fire.  
And rearranged my goals with a touch of ire.  
First a new computer with power surge protection.  
Amiga, my friend, you're still my first election.



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Free disk-of-the-month

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# Sacramento Amiga Computer Club

Application for Membership or Renewal

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_



Founded 1986

I wish my name and address to remain confidential and it may only be distributed among club officers and appointed chairpersons only when necessary.

Please indicate the areas you have an interest in. This information will be made available to the leaders of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A-Rexx             | <input type="checkbox"/> Animation           | <input type="checkbox"/> Assembly Programming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Programming  | <input type="checkbox"/> Beginners           | <input type="checkbox"/> Business             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C Programming      | <input type="checkbox"/> Desk Top Publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Digitizing           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education          | <input type="checkbox"/> Games               | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphics             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grass Valley Area  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hardware            | <input type="checkbox"/> Midi & Music         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telecommunications | <input type="checkbox"/> Video               | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-D & Ray Trace      |

## Hardware info:

Amiga type:  500  1000  2000  2500  3000

Monitor: Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

Memory amount: Internal \_\_\_\_\_ K External \_\_\_\_\_ K Make \_\_\_\_\_

Drives: 3.5" \_\_\_\_\_ 5.25" \_\_\_\_\_ Makes \_\_\_\_\_

Modem:  None  300/1200  2400  9600 up Make \_\_\_\_\_

Printer: Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

Hard Drives: Make \_\_\_\_\_ Capacity \_\_\_\_\_

Emulators:  64  XT Bridgeboard  AT Bridgeboard  A-MAX(Mac SE)

Genlock: \_\_\_\_\_ Midi \_\_\_\_\_

Digitizers, Video: \_\_\_\_\_ Sound \_\_\_\_\_

Other Hardware Info: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Recreation Program \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Productivity Program \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND TO:** SACC, Attn: Club Dues, PO Box 19784, Sacramento, CA 95819-0784. Please remit the amount corresponding to the month in which you become a member. Jan-\$34, Feb-\$32, Mar-\$30, Apr-\$28, May-\$26, Jun-\$24, Jul-\$22, Aug-\$20, Sep-\$18, Oct-\$40, Nov-\$38, Dec-\$36. The last three months of the year include dues for the following year. All renewals are \$24.00 during Jan. and Feb., new member fees apply for all applications received after February. Send check or M.O. to SACC, *No cash please!*

For more info call the SACC Hotline at 991-0220



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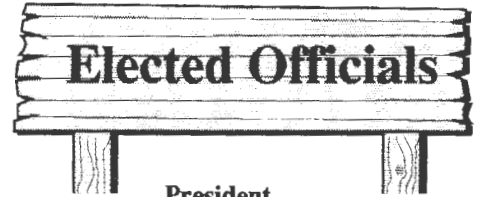
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