

SOUTH BAY TRS-80® USERS GROUP



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DYNAMIC MEMORIES™

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AUGUST



SOUTH BAY TRS-80 USERS GROUP

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SBUG meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the north-east corner of Dysan's building at:

5401 Patrick Henry Drive

Time-7:15 to 10:30 P.M. Santa Clara, Ca.

August 21, September 18, October 23

Topic of the month: Home Budgeting Programs--Pete Fratus
C--Accesible from Basic--Frank Van Schlager

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If you wish to become a member of SBUG and start receiving our newsletter "Dynamic Memories" then send \$18.00 (check/moneyorder) to the following address:

South Bay TRS-80 Users Group
P.O.Box 60116
Sunnyvale, Ca. 94088

or come to one of our meetings. If you also wish to communicate with our bulletin board system (SBUG-80) then include an additional \$25.00 for an account on the system. You must be a member of SBUG to have an account on SBUG-80. Please include your address and phone number. Thanks...

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If the need arises, feel free to give any one of us a call.

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THE EDITOR'S BYTES & BITES

The latest (August 20) issue of INFOWORLD has an in depth article on Radio Shack. This magazine has never been a Tandy enthusiast, but the article is well balanced in appraising Tandy strengths and weaknesses.

Your scribe has long scribbled that if we lock ourselves into proprietary operating systems we are missing most of what microcomputers have to offer. This applies of course to TRSDOS, NEWDOS, or Apple.

The computer world as now constituted has two principal operating systems, MSDOS and CP/M. All of us now have access to CP/M if we wish, if it's worth it to us. The INFOWORLD article strongly suggests that next year there will be a 16 bit board for the Model IV to run MSDOS. Don't you know there are hackers out there who will stick it with a hairpin, and wrap a wire clothes hanger around it so it will work on Models I & III?

In any case, welcome to the party, Tandy. A little late, but what the hell.

ELECTRIC PENCIL--A REVIEW

Before beginning this first of three articles on word processors, I want to make a general comment on the genre. It is generally conceded that in home computer applications, word processing leads the parade. Not every one has a budget, not every one does math, not every one bothers to balance his check book (what are banks for?), but most of us write, some more, some less.

For someone who has never seen word processing, the sight of a person moderately adept at their use, at work writing, causes gasps of astonishment. At times it has made me feel as though I had just pole vaulted 21 feet. (In case you didn't know, Jack, that would be a world record.) The ease with which characters and words may be erased, typed over and inserted is a marvel to anyone who has never seen it before. Of course, we have not touched on the more esoteric functions such as block movement, string search, and string replacement, all of which are common to even the most elementary word processing systems.

Word processors have another thing going for them. In my case, I could never compose directly on a typewriter. I had to write my opus in long hand, correct it, type it, correct it again, and finally type the final copy. I was not exactly the Carl Lewis of writing.

The computer, contrary to the usual image of a cold machine, is friendly in its word processing function. When you mistype, you don't have to roll up the paper, painstakingly white out or erase, roll back the paper being careful you have not misaligned, and type in the correct letter or word. All this while the brooding typewriter is saying you FOOL, you. It got a lot of chances to call me a fool. The computer doesn't care about mistakes. You can insert, reinsert, desert, whatever makes your clock tick.

And so we arrive at ELECTRIC PENCIL. It is simple, and inexpensive. The last I knew it was selling for \$80. It was my first word processor, and I still think well of it. If you write personal letters, lessons, and small amounts of text, ELECTRIC PENCIL is all you need.

If you don't want to put in time learning complicated systems, ELECTRIC PENCIL is for you. When I got it, I spent an hour reading the manual, propped it up, open to page 17 where the commands are, and started to work. I never could get it to number pages as it is supposed to do, but didn't especially care because I was mostly writing one page letters. It has an underline facility that I never used because the manual advises you that it's difficult.

The feature that I especially liked with ELECTRIC PENCIL was the erase to end of line function. PENCIL is not

an editor as SCRIPTSIT is. It may be used with cassette tapes, a handy feature for some people.

In short, you don't have to be handy with computers, or clever at following instructions. With PENCIL you can be at work like a professional within an hour.

TWO RANDOM WALKS

AT 7/17 MEETING, U MENTIONED U STARTED USING THE ?NEWSSCRIPT? WORD PROCESSOR & LIKED IT. I'D LOVE TO SEE A TUTORIAL IN THE NEWSLETTER ABOUT HOW TO USE IT: AT A LEVEL FOR A RETARDED MONKEY WHO *NEVER* USED *ANY* WORD PROCESSOR BEFORE (THAT'S ME I HAVE IN MIND); WOULD U BELIEVE I'VE NEVER EVEN LEARNED SCRIPSIT, AND I EVEN HAVE 1 VIDEOTAPE INSTRUCTION COURSE ON SCRIPSIT!)--JUST THE VERY SIMPLE CMDS TO INSERT DELETE SEARCH-STRING SO THAT NOW THAT I HAVE A PRINTER (MX80), MAYBE I CAN WP LETTERS INSTEAD OF HANDWRITING!

NEXT TOPIC: LNW: AS MUCH AS I'D LOVE TO SEE EVERYONE HAVE MODEL 1 TRS-80 (& CP/M) COMPATIBILITY, THE COLD, HEARTLESS, UNROMANTIC, NOT IGNORING REALITY TRUTH IS THAT IBM IS TAKING OVER THE WORLD & U CAN GET A USED ONE, 2 DRIVES & MONITOR, READY TO "RUN"* FOR \$1200 (SJ MERC CLASS.), MAYBE LESS: SAME AS LNW. THE "RUN"* MEANS THOSE ARE SINGLE SIDED DRIVES; NEED \$120 TIMES 2 TO REPLACE WITH THE STD DS; ALSO THAT'S 64K - 98% OF SW. NEEDS 128K...256K...640K. THE ADD-IN BOARD, INCL. SERIAL & PARALLEL PORT, IS \$200 PLUS \$45 PER 64K ADDITIONAL RAM. IF U DO GO LNW, #1 THING IS TO BE SURE OF WARRANTY SUPPORT: THEY ARE NOTORIOUS FOR HWD PROBLEMS. ACTUALLY, A 4P AT \$1000 IS NICE; U CAN BRING IT TO MEETINGS.
*****TOM ANDERSON

REVIVING CLUB

HOW ABOUT PUTTING A NOTE "PROMINENTLY" IN NL. ASKING IF ANYONE HAS ADDED/SWITCHED-TO ANOTHER BRAND OF COMPUTER, E.G. IBMPC. MAYBE WE COULD EXPEND AN ADDITIONAL 100 STAMPS TO SURVEY ALL THE NON-RENEWED SBUG MEMBERS FROM PAST YEARS ABOUT WHAT THEY BOT; WHY NO LONGER INTERESTED? (INCLUDE AN ADDRESS) BUT NOT A STAMPED ENVELOPE FOR THEIR REPLY.) (IF THIS IDEA IS "ACCEPTED", I'D LIKE TO HELP/REVIEW THE QUESTIONNAIRE/LETTER)---MAYBE WE SHOULD DO LIKE THE SAN BRUNO TRS CLUB: GO 1/2 IBM 1/2 TRS.

AUK'SCFS--A REVIEW

After word processing, the most popular and useful programs for microcomputers are data processors. In the last issue I reviewed PROFILE, a somewhat limited but very solid Radio Shack property. The same cannot be said for AUK'S.

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AUK'S was reviewed in a recent issue of BYTE. The reviewer was scathing in his criticism, and I think he was wrong. The concept of AUK'S is not bad. It is written largely in Basic, with a lightening fast machine language sort. It is screen oriented and has some excellent features, such as a mailing list program, and the ability to perform mathematics on the fields.

The trouble is, it just doesn't work. It bombs constantly. The BYTE reviewer said disdainfully that the only recommendation was that it only cost \$20. Wrong. I don't think he ran the program. If it doesn't work, it isn't worth \$20. Another member of SBUG whose anonymity I shall preserve so that he may not be sued for slander, has told me that AUK'S has been around selling junk for a long time.

I reviewed this data base program at this time, because it has a large ad in 80MICRO. If you feel that it's worth your time going through the code to find the errors and eliminate them, it might be worth your time. Might.

Next month I'll review NOTEBOOK which was advertised as "The ultimate scratchpad".

EDITOR

<Message from SYSOP at SBUG-80

08/02/84 17:34:00>

RE: Hi from Milpitas!!!

Read command :

Hi All!!!

As you have already guessed, SBUG-80 has moved to a new location... Ma Bell had a little trouble getting the second line into my new place. This caused the delay. All is fine now!!!

Rob...

Read command :

<Message from IANWEBB at SBUG-80 08/02/84 19:23:11>

RE: N E W L O C A T I O N

Read command :

Since the BBS is now one message unit further from me and I had specially purchased extra service to Sunnyvale exchanges for SBUG, I guess I will drastically curtail my use of the BBS. Isn't there a way we could get it into a central location???? Campbell would be nice and probably has minimal charges for ALL SBUG members.

Read command :

<Message from IANWEBB at SBUG-80 08/02/84 19:25:52>
 RE: DRIVES - DS/DD 1/2 height TEAC FD 55B
 Read command :

I aligned and repaired a drive for BICH and he was asking about prices on double-sided drives. I put two FD55B drives into a model 4P and they seem like great drives. I paid 132.50 for them (new) and thot that was a great price. Today paper has them advertised (business section I think) for \$119 new. If you are interested, take a look at them at that price they are a VERY good buy!

Read command :

<Message from HOOVER at SBUG-80 08/02/84 21:03:49>
 Read command :

I THINK ROB BYRD DESERVES A BIG VOTE OF THANKS FOR HIS EFFORTS IN GETTING THE SYSTEM BACK ON THE AIR WITH SO LITTLE DOWN TIME. I FOR ONE HAVE A FULL APPRECIATION FOR THE DIFFICULTY OF MOVES AFTER HAVING HAD 23 SUCH DURING MY YEARS IN THE air FORCE. WELL DONE, ROB.
 ED HOOVER

Read command :

<Message from JIBBYTRM at SBUG-80 08/03/84 10:39:40>
 RE: VT100 emulator for the Model 1 or ??
 Read command :

Hello folks

I'm writing this from sunny Arizona. I am in need of a DEC VT100 emulator package for the model I or III. Does one exist ?? I have heard it does. Please drop me a line if you know about it.

The weather is fine and the traffic is great. Only 2 miles from work and 3 miles from the nearest golf course. Hope you all enjoy the crowded conditions there.

Always Hacking
 Jibbytrm
 Arizona

Read command :

<Message from TMMCO at SBUG-80 08/03/84 11:59:16>
 RE: FREE DOG
 Read command :

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S
<Message from JIBBYTRM at SBUG-80 08/03/84 22:16:24>
RE: GOLF PROGRAMS
Read command :

HELLO AGAIN

I'm looking for a program that was in 80Micro May 1982 called golf hadicap. Its on page 264. I thought I had it but my disc has all but that. It is for level II tape. If the SYSOP has that load 80 tape could you bring it up for me. Leave me a message in my mailbox. Thanks

Still Here
Jibbytrm

P.S. Any golf programs would be greatly appreciated.

Read command :

<Message from ANDERSON at SBUG-80 08/07/84 12:18:37>
RE: New Location
Read command :

I guess the new higher message units to milpitas has really dried up the traffic. No messages from 8/3 to 8/7. I for one will sure use it less. How about looking into Ian's suggestion for a more centrally located number. Does anyone know about how much it might cost ? Also is there anyone who can compute the centroid of the users to find the optimum location for the number ?????

Tom Anderson

Read command :

<Message from SYSOP at SBUG-80 08/07/84 18:41:12>
RE: SBUG-80'S LOCATION...
Read command :

Sorry all, but the cost of living in Sunnyvale drove me out of town...my landlord raised the already too high rent another \$100. Here in Milpitas the rent is MUCH more reasonable. I tried th find a place in the San Jose area, but it seems the cost there has also gone sky high! Anyway, we are stuck with the Milpitas location at least until another SYSOP in another more centrally located position can be found. Even after that it will take some time to teach your new SYSOP how to use SBUG-80...and believe me SBUG-80 is no easy BBS to SYSOP!! I do understand that the cost is quite high for

a caller from the north bay, but most of the San Jose users should find SBUG-80 well within their calling range.

Rob...

Read command :

<Message from MAC at SBUG-80 08/07/84 21:04:26>
RE: I WANT ANOTHER COMPUTER.
Read command :

HI, ALL
DOES ANYBODY HAVE TO SALE OR INFO ABOUT THE MODEL 4,
4P, III, OR A PORTABLE COMPUTER THAT WILL ACCESS MY
MODEL I.
ANY HELP WILL BE ACCEPTED.
MAC

Read command :

<Message from KURT at SBUG-80 08/08/84 20:19:13>
RE: NEW LOCATION
Read command :

ROB---CONGRADULATIONS ON GETTING THE SYSTEM UP
AS QUICK AS YOU HAVE....YOU ARE DOING A GREAT JOB
AS SYSOP AND I HOPE YOU WILL KEEP IT FOR A LONG TIME
.....CURT SCHILD <KURT>

Read command :

<Message from EDITOR at SBUG-80 08/08/84 22:08:04>
RE: FIRST: THANKS--
Read command :
<Message from EDITOR at SBUG-80 08/08/84 22:54:34>
RE: WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER?
Read command :

Write an article, that's what. I'll correct your grammar
your spelling, turn your Plattdeutsch into English.
Do not be fearful. You will be treated gently. If you
don't write, a murrain upon you, may a quartern fever
seize you

MICRONOTES:

A PROPHET SHALL COME, AND SHALL REVEAL UNTO YOU THE TRUTH

Jerry Pournelle of BYTE "The Macintosh is the world's
most expensive Etch-a-sketch."

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07/20/84

<Message from KURT at SBUG-80 07/20/84 12:20:20>

RE: HAM RADIO 6 MTRS.

Read command :

ARE THERE ANY HAMS OUT THERE THAT WANT TO SELL SOME 6
METER GEAR ? I'M LOOKING FOR A PORTABLE(HAND HELD)
LIKE THE ICOM-502....OR SOMETING ELSE THAT HAS SSB
A GREAT BONUS WOULD ALSO BE FM. IF YOU HAVE ANY
TYPE OF GEAR FOR SIX PLEASE LET ME KNOW!!
.....TNX CURT W6RVM ON S-BUG (KURT)

Read command :

<Message from IANWEBB at SBUG-80 07/20/84 14:14:50>

RE: S A L E

Read command :

Radio Shack is having a sale on the 4 AND 4P.

\$1299 "back to school special"

The \$599 sale on the cassette Model 4 ends
tomorrow and the price returns to \$799.

Sounds like a more reasonable price vis-a-vis
other brands.

Read command :

<Message from BICH at SBUG-80 07/21/84 00:34:16>

RE: Thank you, Folks,

Read command :

Hi folks,

After sendind my message, I immediately received
numerous offres for help. I really dont know how
to express my gratitude you all., especially to
those who are always willing to share thier experience
and knowledge. People used to say that computers
dehumanize.Man, but I think they make each of us
much better. Viva Computers, Viva TRS 80!!!!

Read command :

<Message from BICH at SBUG-80 07/21/84 00:46:22>

RE: HP 150 !,,!!!!,\$\$

Read command :

il am very sorry to offend you with my vocabulary faults.
It was not mine, my HP 150 just played me a bad trick. As
you noticed, the left cursor on HP 150 didnt work the same
way as on the TRS 80. It didnt backspace as it seemed to be
on the screen. Sorry!!

BICH

Read command :

<Message from SYSOP at SBUG-80 07/22/84 10:49:30>
RE: BACK TOGETHER AGAIN!
Read command :

Hi Gang,

I have fixed the problem with drive 1...
I havn't the time to fix INDEX, but I will
fix it later tonight or tomorrow. I would
like to thank everyone who offered help with
the system! THANKS!! I am currently negotiating
with Ed Hoover on the purchase of a double
sided 8" drive...look out SBUG-80, because
here comes MUCH more disk space!

Rob...

Read command :

<Message from EDITOR at SBUG-80 07/23/84 21:53:46>
RE: LNW
Read command :

I am seriously contemplating the purchase of the new LNW
as advertised in the August 80MICRO. For anyone who has not
noticed, they advertise 160K, bundled CP/M and the option
of a coprocessor if you wish to operate with MSDOS. All
Model I, III, and IV software will run on it they claim.
If all this is true, it is indeed the best of all worlds.
I would very much appreciate anyone who owns an LNW, has
thought about buying LNW, has dreamed of LNW, or who has
heard of someone who knows someone who has an LNW, to give
me their input. All is grist to my mill, and I will grind
it exceeding small.

I remain your obedient servant, joel, editor.

Read command :

<Message from EDITOR at SBUG-80 07/25/84 23:28:06>
RE: AUKS
Read command :

I see a full page ad in 80MICRO for a database program
entitled AUKSCFS. I purchased the program some time ago.
The concept is good, it has a lightening fast sort, but
whenever I use it the crash can be heard all over San Jose.
Recently when I had to make up a mailing list for the news
letter I thought of Auks mailing label program. Once more
into the breach, dear brethren. Keerash again. So I used
AIDSIII, which is a little awkward, but quite dependable
I will give AUKS a thorough review in the next newsletter.

Read command :

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<Message from HOOVER at SBUG-80 07/26/84 23:46:39>
RE: DEARTH OF MESSAGES
Read command :

WHERE HAVE ALL THE SBUGS GONE?

Read command :

<Message from HOOVER at SBUG-80 07/26/84 23:49:51>
RE: NO TRAFFIC
Read command :

WHERE HAVE ALL THE SBUGS GONE?

Read command :

<Message from GMCKEE at SBUG-80 07/27/84 19:09:24>
RE: SBUG, HOOVER, ET ALL
Read command :

COMMENTS

I'M BUSY>

GENERALLY NO COMMENT.

EQUIPMENT NOT WORKING (RS YOU KNOW)!!

AUKSCRASH IS OLD STORY.

WE HAD AUKSCRASHES WHEN THEY FIRST CAME OUT MOD I
ONLY!!! THEY ARE STILL SELLING CRUD. (JUST CHEAPER)
MOST OD SBUGGERS GONE FOR SUMMER (ALL RICHIES U NO!

Read command :

<Message from SYSOP at SBUG-80 07/28/84 16:35:12>
RE: INDEX FIXED...
Read command :

Hi Again,

INDEX is back in good health and so is the rest
of SBUG-80. Sorry it took me so long to get things
together; I am getting ready to move again.
SBUG-80 will be down for a couple of days during
the move (Tuesday and Wednesday). Please pass
the word to your fellow members.

Rob...

Read command :

<Message from IANWEBB at SBUG-80 07/29/84 15:17:07>
RE: LNW
Read command :

Perhaps Joel would be wise to talk with Bruce Carso
at B&C about the LNW. I haven't paid attention to
which one he has in the store now, but he sells them
and has at least one in stock. (3400 El Camino Real,

S.C. - just west of Kinney's shoe store...554-0666.
closed Sunday and Monday)

Read command :

<Message from IANWEBB at SBUG-80 07/30/84 10:19:56>
RE: Tandy 2000 items
Read command :

I notice that Bart's R/S store (Lawrence Expwy-Quito Rd.
and Saratoga Ave, Saratoga) has the following items which
I haven't seen elsewhere:

2000 Service Manual...dictionary sized...\$35
Programmers guide for Model 2000
Hardware guide for 2000

I suspect the material in the last two items is probably
a duplicate of some in the first. They look worthwhile
for the serious 2000 user and I suspect they are hard to
find.

Also...the 1299 price for the Model IV and the Model 4P
are apparently the NEW prices for these machines. There
is a list of software (mostly trivial stuff for the
I/III/4)
and extensive stuff for the Model II/16 which is being sold
to registered owners for large discounts....75% OFF with
purchase of 3 or more packages. Might ask about it if
you are in the market for software...particularly the
Model II/16 stuff.

Read command :

<Message from RONAL at SBUG-80 07/30/84 20:42:06>
RE: OMICRON 2.2 BOARD (MAPPER I) FOR THE MOD 1
Read command :

IF THERE IS ANYONE WHO HAS AND WISHES TO GET RID
OF AN OMICRON 2.2 MAPPER 1 BOARD, PLEASE DROP ME A MESSAGE.
RON THOMPSON (408) 378-1723 RONAL , SBUG

Read command :

<Message from GLENN at SBUG-80 07/31/84 11:36:07>
RE: JULY NEWSLETTER
Read command :

Hello ALL,

I am sorry about the lack of labels for the July issue
of Dynamic Memories I must claim extenuating circumstances.

I was sent out of town on a combination
business/vacation
trip and ran into computer problems at the last moment. I
am
still without a printer or CP/M board (the mailing list is

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maintained via dBASE-II and I cannot get to it as yet. The problem should be cured by this weekend (I hope).

You may all be pleased to learn that the business part of the trip was so-so and the vacation part was a fiasco. I had purchased a Cadillac (81) for the trip and it spent 50% of the time in the shop (\$3000.00 + in repairs). My fishing vacation to Colorado turned into a study of the inside of the local Cadillac shop - instead of fishing for 12 days like I planned I got to go a total of 4 times.

Glenn

<Message from BICH at SBUG-80 08/10/84 20:22:00>
RE: Computers: MS DOS or TRS80 (Z80 based)??
Read command :

Hi all

First let me express my gratitude to IAN and Joel for their willingness to fix my drive for free. It is working now, thanks to IAN.

Quite often now, I seriously think about updating my obsolete TRS 80 model I to a new machine. I have set some criteria I would like to share with you.

There are some features my new machine must have:

1. CHEAP
2. Relatively state of the art
3. Great color graphics for CAD
4. Vast hardware and software supports.

Based on those criteria, TRS 80 (I,III,4) seem to be dead end road. No more hardware and software are being designed for them recently. Now the world belongs to MSDOS and IBM compatible and most of them of not very expensive. The price is going down drastically every day

In a very competitive and rapidly changing market, computers become obsolete at a painfully hi speed, draining down the tube almost all our investment. Just consider the TRS 100 of a year ago. Most important software now requires at least 128K of Ram (not bank switching type) and also requires a 16 bit CPU or higher. Plus some experience in 16 bit machine can make you more valuable on the market if some day U have to rely on it to make a decent living. After some exhausting research, I decided not to rush for a model 4 but to hang on to my Model I until Radio Shack lowers the price on its 2000 (it will, since IBM already has lowered it microcomputers to an acceptable price.

This is only my personal opinion but I am willing to receive advice from all of you.

PS: there is a fundamental difference between a student and a working man/woman: We, students, have to pay to work.

Adios happy season, books ahead (sigh)

BICH

Read command :

<Message from KURT at SBUG-80 08/11/84 14:00:28>
Read command :

According to sources at Radio Shack the Mod. 2000 will be on sale during the month of Sept. It will be reduced, about \$300.00. Not much, but it is something.

According to the most recent INFOWORLD and their write up on Tandy, there is a POSSIBILITY that there may be a co-processor in the works for the Mod. 4 that would be 16 bit, and run MS-DOS..... That would indeed seem to be the best of both worlds. Also be on the lookout for a Mod. 1200, that will be fully IBM(UGH) compatible, and if later you want to, to upgrade to a full 2000..... Maybe, Tandy has got its act together....
.....KURT.....<Curt Schild>.....

Re:Tandy

My total impression of Tandy is that they are occasionally slow and careless. They are generally disdainfull of the public that supports them, and frequently treat that public with the arrogance of the powerful. They are NOT stupid when it comes to the fast (or slow) buck. That may be our salvation. The expert Tandy tracker can find bent twigs and fresh droppings indicating that they may be headed for the high ground.

EDITOR

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FIRST CLASS MAIL