

Atari Bit Byter User Club e.V.



Press Release

ABBUC – The ATARI Bit Byter User Club

With about 450 members ABBUC is the worlds largest ATARI 8 Bit computer user club. Under the roof of ABBUC e.V. ('e.V.' means club fulfils all regulations required by German law for being charitable and non-profit) members occupy themselves with hard- and software for a computer system, which started its success in 1979 with the "ATARI 400/800".

The club was founded by ten enthusiasts in 1985 in Herten, Germany. It was shortly thereafter officially registered at the municipal court in Recklinghausen. Within a short timeframe the club gained more and more popularity and was recognized nationwide. Together with the German reunification in 1989 the popularity once more increased and reached its peak in 1991 at 871 members. Today members, users and fans come from all over the world.

Over the years the home computers vanished and made way to the Personal Computer, but the fascination for the „little“ ATARIs survived and became an established hobby. Under the cunning and clever management of the president of the club, Wolfgang Burger, the club evolved to what it is today: a user club to participate.

In 2015 the club celebrated its 30th anniversary! A seemingly short lived home computer system of the early 80's still has its faithful fans, for whom the ABBUC club is the point of reference.

Regional and International

Many regional groups represent the ABBUC in Germany. Numerous contacts provide the supply of the members with information, hard- and software. Connections are established and are cultivated not only to states in the European Union but also overseas like the USA, UK, Japan and Israel.

To encourage international contacts and to open the possibility to join in, the website of the ABBUC (<http://www.abbuc.de>) is maintained in German and English language.

Portfolio – products and services for members

- Four times a year a disk-magazine with 5,25“ diskette and printed supplement is sent to our members
- every year up to two special editions with software or books are sent to our members
- there is a special gift each year for our members
- the website provides a download area only accessible to registered members where they can download programs and magazines. More than 1500 disk images are ready to show what the ATARI is capable of.
- Many circuit diagrams and instructions to build own hardware are ready for download free of charge.

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Press Release

- Service manuals, hints and FAQs as well as books only available for ABBUC member complete the range of products.
- The ABBUC offers re-releases of hardware: RAM-enhancements, the famous TURBO-Freezer, the disk Speeder, and more
- Newly developed hardware like the USB-Cartridge, Flash-Drives for direct connection to the ATARI etc.
- In the members area on the webpage exclusive content is to be found. All the old magazines can be downloaded from there.
- Experts for computer hardware and disk drives are at hand if something fails and needs repair.
- Help for various user problems is provided
- free email address name@abbuc.de

There is even more in the portfolio of ABBUC, which makes a membership even more worthy!

Strategy

The ABBUC sees itself to be responsible to collect and protect hardware, software and information about the ATARI 8 Bit series. We provide a library for publications and books for and about the ATARI. We also try to get licences and copyrights for software and hardware from the copyright owners/holders for usage within the club or even for everybody worldwide. Many licences were already obtained in the last years.

Some examples:

- Publications, e.g.
 - CHIP special magazines
 - „Atari Magazin“
 - „Zong“ Magazin
 - ATARI Profibuch (Sybex Verlag)
- Hardware patents like
 - Turbo Freezer and Turbo 1050 by B. Engl
 - Romdisk
 - Speedy 1050 by Compy-Shop

and software, only to name a few. These informations are reviewed and saved for the future as historical heritage by our members.

For the future the ABBUC will try to get new members and provide even more services and products.

Like in the past years the ABBUC will support its members for fairs and conventions.

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Press Release

Events

Several events are supported each year by the ABBUC and its members. Be it with materials, money or with consulting, the club supports its members on events like in the following list, where the ABBUC took part in or hosted them itself:

- Games Convention 2008 in Leipzig, Germany
- Gamescom in Cologne, Germany
- Hobbytronic Fair in Dortmund, Germany
- ABBUC Annual Club Meeting in Herten, Germany
- User-Convention in Schreiersgrün (named thereafter), Germany
- Hunsrück ATARI Treffen "HATZ"
- Fujiama (User-Convention) in Lengenfeld, Germany, yearly since 2006
- Classic Computing Fair in Moers
- Vintage Computing Festival in Munich, Germany
- ATARI Dag in Dordrecht, The Netherlands
- HomeCon in Hanau-Großauheim, 5 times a year

and others.

Championship and League

The homepage of the ABBUC is the meeting point for the ABBUC Bundesliga (League). Since 2003 there is a season each year. Not only game classics are played but also new releases of the last few years. Players first discuss and then vote for the game to be played on the last wednesday every month. Highscores are transmitted via web, from which a league table is presented. And in October the winner of the championship is given the ABBUC Bundesliga Cup for that year.

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