



Photo by Matt Love

The Arc Arcade in downtown Astoria boasts a selection of old-school video games as well as newer peer-to-peer games.

A GLIMPSE INSIDE

An occasional feature by MATT LOVE

The Arc Arcade

I can't seem to help myself. Every time I walk by the Arc Arcade on Commercial Street in Astoria, I duck inside for a quick free play on Missile Command, my favorite arcade game as a teenager and the only one I was pretty good at.

And why not play? Why not take five minutes to instantly transport yourself to a time in your life that was far less complicated and probably more enjoyable?

Until the Arc opened last year, I

hadn't played Missile Command in over 30 years, and was pleasantly surprised when I wandered in one afternoon and found the familiar console.

When I decided to play on that initial visit, I momentarily forgot how to begin. Then I placed my right hand on the track ball and all the ancient knowledge returned. A few seconds later, I was firing away with gusto and was shocked to learn that my muscle memory for the

game still existed! I recorded the highest score!

The Arc boasts a wonderful selection of old-school video games, including classics like Donkey Kong, Ms. Pac Man, and Joust. They still cost only a quarter to play. The arcade also offers the new-fangled flat-screen and peer-to-peer games, but I haven't tried of any of them yet. I wouldn't know what to do.

On my most recent visit, the Arc was teeming with people of all ages, and there was a palpable happiness floating through the space. The scene reminded me just how much hanging out in arcades is a community-minded activity that creates unique social interactions among participants, many of whom are complete strangers to one another.

It also struck me as fascinating to observe parents showing their children the video games they grew up playing. It's even more fascinating to watch a few minutes later when the kid beats the parent at the parent's beloved game.

Matt Love is author/ editor of 13 books about Oregon. They are available at all coastal bookstores or through www.nestuccaspitpress.com. He lives in Astoria.

NW

By RYAN HUME

Breaker

[bre•kər]

noun

1. one who breaks, destroys, dismantles, subverts, transgresses, as in RULE-BREAKER OR DEAL-BREAKER

2. *Circuit breaker*: Also called a breaker, a switch set to disrupt the flow of electricity in case of a short circuit

3. *Citizen Band Radio*: Operator slang to alert any listener that the speaker has

something to say

4. the violent white spill of a large wave either where it foams out on shore or against an embankment in the water

5. *The Breakers*: A 144-room beachfront resort about a mile north of downtown Long Beach, Washington. The current hotel is the fourth iteration on this location

Origin:

The compound of *break*, v.,+ the suffix *-er* can be traced back to Middle English around 1200 as *breker*. The first known maritime use of the word, meaning "a heavy wave," is recorded in the 1680s. On the Long Beach Peninsula, the original The

Breakers Hotel was named by Joseph M. Arthur in 1900 on account of the land's excellent view of the surf from a grassy ridge that pushed up against the beach. Prior to the incorporation of the city of Long Beach in 1922, Breakers (minus the definitive article) was officially its own town, with its own U.S. Post Office. Arthur kept a cattle herd, a poultry ranch and a garden to ensure his guests had access to the freshest meat and produce available.

"The Breakers Hotel is located at Breakers Station, a regular ticket office, where all trains stop. It is one and a half miles north of Long Beach Station."

—Advertisement, "The Breakers' Where to stop at North Beach," *Daily East Oregonian*, Tuesday, July 21, 1903, p. 6



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