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For There was no meeting scheduled for the month of August due to holidays and prior commitments. The meeting scheduled for September 3rd, 1988 will be covered in the next issue of the newsletter (if the system stays alive long enough!)...

- ALL-AROUND NEWS -

d He like to extend a hearty welcome to our new members - Welcome Aboard to MARY E. BLACKMON. and NR. AND MRS. ROGER MEBB!

 σ^{0} The newest version of FunlWeb (4.11) is even more improved and bug free. DM-1000 is further improved - by Pressing A and then FCTN 6 it enables all files to be copied. A great time sever for tired fingers. We were supposed to have been sent this newer version from another member, but as of this date we still haven't received it. When (and if) we do get shold of it we'll be sure to let you know!

of Our personal THANK YOU to JACK SHATTUCK, Newsletter Editor of the Data Bus (DELAMARE VALLEY USERS GROUP), for sending us a copy of the Tutorial Booklet that one of our members needed. THANKS JACK!

I'm getting tired of apologizing for the lateness of the Newsletters, but we do have the issue into Reproduction on time. It's just that their machines keep breaking down, and if you understand the military system like we do, you'll understand the paperwork involved in requesting repairs. Anyway, it's out of our control until we move in November, and at that time, we just may reproduce the newsletter off-base rather than on-base to see how it goes from there. In the meantime, it's not for lack of trying to get the newsletter out on time — I have it in the Repro office by the third week of the month (to be mailed out by the first week of the coming month), and if it dowsh't make it out on time the only answer is 'the repro office'. Lame excuse, but true. Sg, please accept my personal apologies to our members for the reproduction office.

Another apology forwarded for the inconvenience caused to everyone due to the death of our Myarc Controller Card. Believe me, we didn't plan it! This issue will not be up to par in content as most of the text was originally put onto a DSDD disk (space saver on disks) and cannot be read with a TI Controller - but we really do appreciate JAY WEBSTER loaning us his controller card to get this much accomplished! Without it we wouldn't be getting anything done! THANKS JAY!

Members are interested in finding out what companies supported the TI, with either software or hardware (or both). This list was borrowed (and collated) from several newsletter exchanges, so I can't give any one in particular a hearty thanks, although the input from mach is appreciated! So, for those sought after companies turn the page...

S=Software H=Hardware K=Keypoards P=Publication #=Catalog Available

Amnion Helpline (S) 116 Carl Street San Francisco, CA USA 94117 415-753-5581

McCann Software (S) P. O. Box 34160 Omana, NE USA 68134

TENEX Computer Express (SH#) F. O. Box 6578 South Bend, IN USA 46660 219-259-7051 (Info)

Armadillo Bytes (5H#) Box 181662 Dallas, TX USA 75218 214-328-9257

Millers Graphics (SH#) 1475 W. Cypress San Dimas, CA USA 91773

TEX-COMP (SH#) P. D. Box 33084 Granada Hills, CA USA 91344 818-366-6631

ML Systems (K) Box 268 Valley Falls, RI USA 02864

Asgard Software (S#) P. O. Box 10306 Rockille, MD USA 20850 301-559-2429

Texaments (SI) 53 Center Street Patchogue, LI, NY USA 11772 516-475-3480

P. O. Box 140 Basking Ridge, NJ USA 07920

LL Conner Enterprise (SH) Computer & Electronics 1521 Ferry Street Lafayette, IN USA 47904 317-742-8146 317-423-4879

Nameloc Software (S#) 3971 SE Lincoln Portland, OR USA 97214

Triton Prod Co (SH#) Pilgrim's Pride P. O. Box 8123 San Francisco, CA USA 94128 800-227-6900

P. O. Box 2 S. Williams Lane Hatboro, PA USA 19040 215-441-4262

VideoVision (SH#) 236 Upton Street Grafton, MA USA 01519 617-839-4134

DataBiotics (SH#) P. O. Box 1194 Palos Verdes Estates CA USA 90274

Dijit Systems (RGB Conversions) 4345 Hortensia Street San Diego, CA USA 92103 202-667-3574

Quality 99 Software (S#) 1884 Columbia Rd #1021 Weshington, DC USA 20009

MICROpendium (P) P. O. Box 1343 Round Rock, TX USA 78680

P. O. Box 4170 Rockville, MD USA 20850

Disc Only Soft. (SH\$) Queen Anne Computer Shoppe 6102 ROOSEVELT WAY NE (SHE) Seattle, WA USA 98115 206-283-0953

Computer Shopper (P) Enhanced PC Pursuit P. O. Box 1419 Titusville, FL USA 32781-9988 800-327-9926

GTE Telenet Come Corp 12490 Sunrise Valley Dr Reston, VA USA 22096 800-368-4213 8-3 M-F 800-835-3001 24 hrs

RAVE 99 Company (KH) 112 Rambling Road Vernon, CT USA 06066 203-872-9272

Corcomp (SH#) 2211-6 Winston Rd Anaheim, CA USA 92806 714-956-4450

Genial Computerware (SP) 835 Green Valley Dr Philadelphia, PA USA 19128

David Rose (S) 2781 Resor Road Fairfield, OH USA 45014-5053

The Bunyard Group P. O. Box 53171 Lubbock, TX UGA 77453 (Manual for TI H)

Great Lakes Software (S\$) TigerCub Software (S\$) 804 East Grand River Ave. 156 Collingwood Ave Howell, MI USA 48843

Columbus, OH USA 43213

Ryte-Data Express (PH#) 210 Mountain Street Haliburton, Ontario Canada KOM 150 705-457-277

Not-Polyoptics (S#) P. O. Box 4443 Woodbridge, VA USA 22194-4443

McWare Products (S8) P. O. Box 2784 Fairfax, VA USA 22031 Horizon Ramdisk (H) P. O. Box 554 Walbridge, OH USA 43465 419-666-6911

Inscebot, Inc. (S#) P. O. Box 291610 Port Orange, FL USA 32029

SoftSpot (St)
P. D. Box 8786
Silver Spring, MD
USA

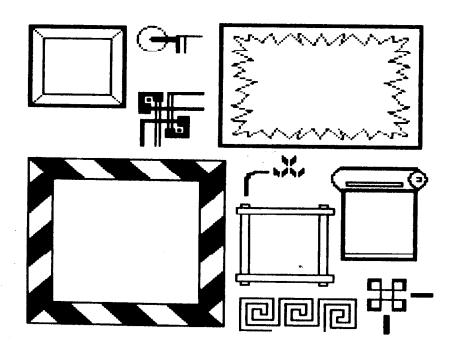
T.A.P.E. Ltd. (SH#) 1439 Solano Place Ontario, CA USA 91764 714-989-9906

Albert Visser Legio Computer Center Haagweg 169 2201 AJ RYSWYK 070-995757

Trio + Software P. D. Box 115 Liscomb, IA USA 50148

And they may there's no support for the TI-99/4A?

< TI-99/4A Support > < E.N.D. >



TI ARTIST BORDERS VOLUME 1 SEE MORE AT THE MEETING

East Anglia Region 99'ers User's Group

Page 4

INCOME

| Subscriptions Income Income Sub-Total | 68.50 68.50+ |
|---|--|
| EXPENDITURES: | |
| Miscellaneous Expense Stationery_Supplies Expense | 81.79 (s. Etc.) |
| ## END-OF-MONTH TOTAL ## # 452.09 | |
| Petty Cash \$ 40.64 & . | 06 |
| Checkbook Balances: American \$ 98.32 | British & 178.87 |
| Checks for Deposit: 0 & ± .00 | 0 • • .00 |
| Exchange Rate at \$1.68/\$1.75=±1 | |
| ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES: | ********** |
| Estimated Postage Expenses # 30 Photocopying Expenses # \$4.9 Vol 2 Issue 3 '88 ~ 6 originals @ 85 = 510 Advertising Leaflet ~ 1 originals @ 100 = 100 Vol 2 Issue 4 '98 ~ 14 originals @ 80 ~ 1120 | 5 @ .02599 = \$ 13.25 @ .02599 = \$ 2.50 |
| ESTIMATED INCOMÉ: | |
| Subscription Remewals (Sept/Oct 1988) Library Income (Sept/Oct 1988) \$ | 25.00 |
| >>>> NEXT MEETING: <<<<< | ******* |
| DAY: SATURDAY DATE: UCTOBER 8, 1988 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: 13 ELM MALK | |
| SEE YOU THERE! | |
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| Treasury Report E N D | |

+ EAR 99'ers BULLETIN BOARD +

EAR 99'ers Bulletin Board is Running On: 300/300 Baud EVEN Parity 1 Stop Bit 7 Data Bits R5232/1 Diel 063881-3457 and Log On! It doesn't cost anything besides a telephone call!

Type NEW if you are a NEW USER, or, if you have logged on before hopefully you have memorized your Number and Password. Remember, access to the Board requires a Number and Password, and a SEPARATE Number and Password for accessing the GAMEROOM. Keep a pencil and paper handy for writing the information down:

+ MAIN MENU SCREEN +

| B Bulletin Section | H-f Help! |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| ID Download Section - XModem | L. Local BBS Numbers |
| T Text Files | I Info on The Board |
| ₹ Feedback to Sysop | O Other BBS Numbers |
| P Post Private Message | N News to Note |
| R Read Your Mail | ? Menu |
| G Good-Bye (Hangup) | U User List |
| C Chat with Sysop | Y Your Status |
| ຮ Send an Upload ້ | Address of BBS |
| | |

CTRL C = Ends Bulletins or Print Outs CTRL S = Pauses Any Display: Any Other Key Restarts CTRL N = Will Skip A Bulletin Or Jump Forward In Files

+ OTHER COMMANDS +

TI = TI-Talk

GAMEROOM = Enter-at your own RISK!

+ SUB-MENU FOR BULLETIN AREAS +

| ☐ Guit to Main Menu P Post A Bulletin | S Scan Users or Subjects |
|--|--|
| R Read Bulletins K Kill Your Bulletins | H Detailed Help List Other Areas This Many |

The R, S, and K Commands may be followed by a Bulletin Number, ie: R7 or K5 (Read 7 or Kill 5)

The R Command may also specify Forwards or Backwards by Adding a + (plus) sign or ~ (minus sign), ie: R7+ or R7- (Read 7 and up OR Read 7 and under)

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO READ BULLETIN ZERO (0) !
THERE ISN'T ANY!

SEE 1-4 - Help, for more detailed information...

↓ EAR 99°ers GAMEROOM ↓

| ī | | | EAR 99'ers GAMERDOM |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------|
| ı | E | ı | |
| ÷ | Α | : | MAIN MENU |
| ; | R | : | |
| : | | ; | Attack a Monster |
| ŀ | 9 | | Bank of the Guild |
| ı | 9 | : | Chat with the Guildmaster |
| : | , | : | Edit your Castle |
| ŀ | E | | Fight Scan |
| : | R | : | Get Out (Must use to leave) |
| : | S | ! | Invade a Castle (Once a Call) |
| ŧ | | ŧ | Joust a User |
| ŧ | G | : | Ladder (Rank List) |
| 1 | Α | ŧ | Member List |
| : | M | : | Proving Grounds (Fight User) |
| ı | E | : | Store of the Guild |
| : | R | ŀ | Training Center |
| : | 0 | ı | Voting Booth (First Time On) |
| t | 0 | : | Your Status |
| 1 | H | : | 本 Explanation of Commands |
| : | | | % Enters the Casino |
| : | | : | ? You're looking at it! |

+ SUB-MENU FOR CASINO +

1 Roulette B Bank of the Guild
2 Russian Roulette C Chat with the Guildmaster
3 Black Jack E Edit your castle
4 The Big Wheel G Good-Bye (Hang-Up)
5 Store
6 Miscellaneous Games Y Your Status

Same * for more detailed explanation!!

You're guaranteed to have a good time in the GAMEROOM (unless, of course, you decided to go directly to the CASINO and try your hand at Russian Roulette!). In the GAMEROOM you can interact with other User's — challenge them to a Joust, I)nvade their castle, challenge them at the P)roving Grounds, or try your hand at A)ttacking a Monster (and good luck while you're at it!). Set a goal for placing on the L)adder List. Use the T)raining Center to build up your Strength, Agility and Intelligence (I know, fighting a losing battle there!). Get smart and get more time on the board!

Enter the Casino (%) and try your luck at the various games! You just might come out a winner (and yes, it's all random!). Watch the Russian Roulette – you may get more than you bargained for! Have fun! Let us know what you think of the PDS (but be polite okay?).

TUTORIAL - ARCHIVER 2.4 % from: Mid-South 99/4A Users Group by: Al Beard

This article is a short discussion of the Barry Boone compressed archiver version 2.4. It is the most common form of archiving in use on the TI-99 and Hyarc Geneve.

Barry has implemented an archiver, called archiver 2.4, which uses LZW compression techniques to "squeeze" the archive to the smallest possible size. This archive format is NOT the same as is in common use on IBM PC's, the TI-Pro or other machines (where the archive technique is commonly called ARC or PKARC). It is a format unique to the TI-Pp.

The basic concept behind Boone's archiver is to archive everything in normal TRAVER format (named for Barry Traver, who wrote the first archiver in ExBasic for the TI-99), and then compress the entire archive using LZW.

This method allows the maximum possible compression, since everything (including file headers) are archived. It does NOT provide compatibility with other archive formats.

Fortunately, Barry used a different archive format for the compressed format than the normal Traver format. If you download a file, and the file is:

DISPLAY/FIXED/128 : The file is probably a TRAVER uncompressed archive.

INTERNAL/FIXED/128: The fale is probably a BOONE compressed archive.

OTHER

: The file is NOT archived.

If the file is INTERNAL/FIXED/128 format, then you need a copy of BOONE's archiver 2.4 to unpack it. If the file is in DISPLAY/FIXED/128 format, then you can use the TRAVER ExBasic version, but the BOONE archiver is preferred (it is just a little more polished and faster).

Archiver 2.4 was distributed on the Genial TRAVeler computer disk-a-zine, Volume 2, Issue 1.

NOTE: The Archiver II is FAIRWARE, not FREEWARE or PUBLIC DOMAIN. If you are running this, and haven't sent Barry Boone a donation, then stup immediately, write a check to Barry, and drop it in the mail. If you do not, then software authors such as Barry will just stop writing great stuff like this.

Running the archiver is easy. Just go to the Editor/Assembler menu (Item 5), insert the disk into the disk drive, and use 5 RUN PROGRAM FILE, and enter the name of the archiver: DSK1.ARC24.

One file will be loaded from the disk, and the following menu will be displayed:

Archiver II -- Version 2.4

General Purpose Archive Utility 1/30/88

Press <1> Pack Files

- <2> Unpack Files
- <3> Compress
- <4> Decompress
- <5> Utility Menu
- <6> Load FW 4.0

Items 1 and 2 relate to Traver format archives - they unpack and pack files in normal Traver (pronounced Tray-ver) format. Items 3 and 4 are a compress/decompress utility - they take a file in display/fixed/128 format and compress it into an internal/fixed/128 format, ur vice-versa.

The utility menu is a set of simple file management utilities (similar to the disk manager utilities). They just make things simpler when running the archiver, since the TI-99/4A doesn't have any built-in file management capabilities.

INTERNAL/FIXED/128 FILES

An Internal/Fixed/128 file must first be "Decompressed" before it can be "Unpacked". Decompressing is easy. Just select Item 4 on the main menu (decompress) and follow the prompts. For example, if you downloaded the new MDOS c99 compiler, called DSK1.C99MDOS you would select Item <4> Decompress. The selection:

Source Drive (1-9) 1 1 Source Filename : C99MDOS Output Drive (1-9) 1 1 Output Filename : C99MDOSU Swap Disks? (Y/N) : N

Press any key to start, BACK aborts 1 1

Press a key to execute the decompress function. Note that the filename of C99MDOS was one made up and it can be any filename.

When the archiver completes the decompressing process, then two files will be sitting on your disk:

DSK1.C99MDDS - the original compressed archive in Internal/Fixed/128 format.

DSK1.C99MDDSU - the decompressed archive in, Display/Fixed/128 normal Traver format.

You still don't have the final files! All you have right now is a normal Traver archive in Display/Fixed/128 format. To get the files you want, you must UNPACK the archive DSK1.C99MDOSU and you're ready to go!

DISPLAY/FIXED/128 FILES

If you download a file and it's in Display/Fixed/128 format, or if you have decompressed a Boone archive to Display/Fixed/128 format, you are ready to UNPACK it. To do this, select Item $\langle 2 \rangle$ on the main menu and follow the prompts.

For example: to unpact the previous file DSK1.C99MDOSU, choose item $\langle 2 \rangle$ Unpack Files, and enter the following:

Source Drive (1-9): 1 Source Filename: DSk1.C99MDOSU Output Drive (1-9): 1 Unpark All Files? (V/N): V Swap Disks? (Y/N): N

Press any key to start, BACK aborts

Several files will now be extracted from the C99MDOSU archive, and placed on Disk Drive 1, as follows:

DSK1.-README DSK1.C99C DSK1.C99D DSK1.CSUP

These are the FINAL files you were after!

Other Notes...

- 1> You can catalog an Arc-File using Item 2 on the Utility Menu. This function not only catalogs Uncompressed Files, it also catalogs Compressed files (it does it by a trick method it actually decompresses the first few sectors of the archive where the directory information is stored and then lists it). It also tells you whether the archive is squeezed (compressed) or not, but of course you can also tell this by the file type (Int/Fix/128 compressed, Dis/Fix/128 uncompressed) remember?).
- 2> If you have a RamDisk, this is a good place to put the decompressed arcfile it makes the decompress process go a lot quicker, and when you are done you can just toss the intermediate (uncompressed) arcfile.
- 3> Some archives (I think Telco was in this category) contain other archives. Why? It keeps the total number of files you need to look at (and understand) small. For instance, a program might have a main routine, five or six program document files, and ten or twenty library routines. The main archive might contain:

-README (instructions)
MAIN (the main program)
DGCS (the documents archived)
LIBS (the library routines archived)

In this case, you would need to decompress and unpack the primary archive, creating 4 files, and then unpack the documents and library archives.

Confusing eh? Well, hopefully such archives will have clear instructions on how the archive is to be unpacked.

4> Other menu item selections allow you to delete files, protect/unprotect files, rename files, copy files, and return to FunnelWeb (if desired). After reading this. you may think that all of this archiving stuff is a waste of time. But it has the following main advantages:

- 1> A compressed archive is abut 60% of the size of the original files. This saves you ALOT of money on download time.
- 2> It ensures that all of the files you need are contained within an archive. I have heard complaints in this regard, whereby downloaders of software can decide for themselves what files they want to download and which ones they don't want (and that they get everyting they need to run a program!).

However, as a software developer myself, who puts a lot of things in public domain (and shareware/fairware). My opinion is that the software author is the best judge of what files the user needs. After all, it is the software author who is putting it into the public's hands in the first place, and he/she may want to make sure that you download files which might contain copyright notices and the like.

3> Less storage is needed to save files on a BBS or other network. This is an advantage to the System Operator (Sysop) and is an advantage to you in that the Sysop can make more files available with the same amount of disk space.

The main disadvantage to an archive is the trouble you have to go through to decompress/unpack it. But remember, this process is done on an essentially FREE system (yours), and you are probably getting a software bargain.

(This document was prepared by request of Ron Lepine, moderator of the TI conference on Byte Information Exchange. It is copyrighted

Note On Revision 1...

Revision i corrected the statement that RRC24 couldn't catalog a compressed archive. Thanks to Barry Boone, and Jerry Coffey for pointing out that it could indeed! Nice to find a feature that you didn't know was there... Anyway, corrected this article to fix the mistake, made a couple of other minor editorial fixes, and reposted.

al b. 16-July-1988

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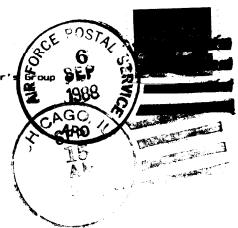
EAR 99'ERS

East Anglia Region 99'ers User's

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 5 SEPTEMBER *88

FROM:

SSgt D S Copeland 1979CS/XP PCS Box 5927 APO NY 09179-5379



TO:

The months of the species of the spe