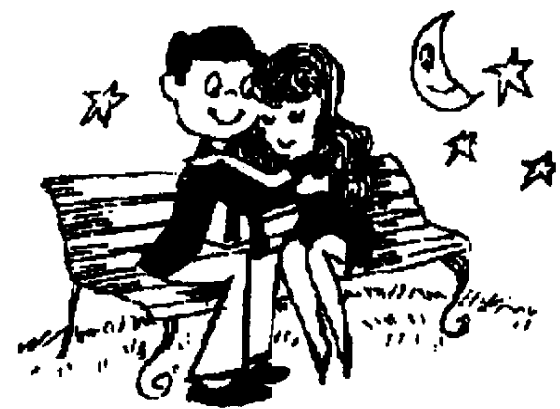


NEWJUG 99ER'S NEWS

FEBRUARY 1993



BE MY VALENTINE

DISCLOSURE ONLY DISCLOSURE

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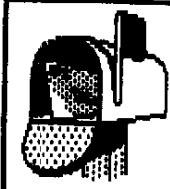
FROM:
 NEWJUG 99ER'S UG
 P.O. BOX 1463
 SAVREVILLE, N.J.
 08871-1463

**POSTAGE
 GOES
 HERE**

TO:

**AFFIX MAILING LABEL
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**NEWJUG 99ER'S UG
 P.O. BOX 1463
 SAVREVILLE, N.J.
 08871-1463**

Joke Of The Month



On the brink of closing the biggest business deal of their lives, Fred's partner, Henry, dies of a heart attack. Fred, desperate for his late partner's advice, decided to go to a psychic. When he was seated in her chambers, he noticed three prices listed for her services: \$25, \$50 and \$75. "What do I get for twenty-five dollars?" he asked.

"For twenty-five, you can talk to Henry," the psychic replied. "And for fifty, he will talk back to you."

"And for seventy-five?" he asked.

"For seventy-five, you can talk to Henry and he will talk back to you - while I'm drinking a glass of water."

Editor's Forum



We've made it through the first month of 1993 and the only new hardware to hit the streets since the MUG conference (LIMA 92) has been the AMS card from Agard. While others have announced new hardware products, the only thing we've seen so far are proto-type boards which are

in need of device drivers (DSR's). I am glad that new blood such as Gary Bowser and Don O'Neil has come to the forefront to bring the TI community into the 1990's, but I wish that their announcements would be shortly followed by the actual product. As a potential buyer and software developer for these devices, I find my interest wanes as each month passes.

Over two years ago, a 80 column developer's package was promised. This package was supposed to open up the 80 column market and flood the TI community with software. To make a long story short, the package never was released and the many 80 column programs I envisioned writing, remained as my hopes and aspirations. With the assistance of a fellow TI enthusiast, we have developed graphic routines for 699 enthusiasts that use 68 mode. We still haven't finished work on our first 80 column project, but we are making some excellent progress now. Had the developer's package become a reality, I imagine that our project would long be complete.

While going through some exchange newsletters, I ran across a rather devastating story concerning the Atari Users Association (a group of 1800 Atari enthusiasts). While the article relates the experience of two factions of the Atari community, the overall loser in the entire battle was the generic Atari user. How many times have we seen this happen in the TI arena? In any case, I just wanted to inform you that we (the TI community) did not have dibs on this dilemma.

At first, I thought the

article had been printed in its entirety, but soon realized that it only represented the first installment of a two part

series. When and if I find the second installment of the article, I'll reprint the article in its entirety.



CLUB NEWS

BY

DAN GAZSV



This past month we managed to get quite a few things done. First off, the membership decided to renew it's MicroPendium subscription. As you might have guessed, monthly MicroPendium's are one of the most popular items signed out from the club's reading library. As the new treasurer, I've had the opportunity to find a branch of the Chemical Bank which is convenient for me. After dispensing with the mundane items, such as repaying the secretary for postage, reading and accepting the secretary's and treasurer's reports, we got down to a real live demonstration and repair SIG.

After promising to bring in my TIM console and RGB monitor for the past few month's, I finally made good on my word. While I didn't have much software with me to show off the TIM or the monitor, I did manage to run some software that made use of bitmap graphics. I don't expect anyone to run right out and buy an 80 column device or an RGM monitor, but I felt it was worthwhile showing the membership how I expanded my 99/4a system.

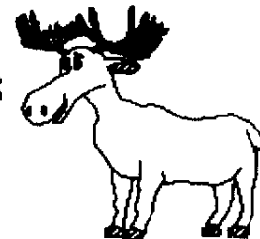
The remainder of the meeting was spent getting Simon Grindlinger's system working again. While we weren't actually able to find anything wrong with any of his equipment, we did manage to test all the disk drives he brought with him. When it was all over, we managed to schedule some software demonstrations for the next few months. At the next meeting, Joe Ross will demonstrate the features of Barry Boone's Archiver.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.



MARVIN

SECRETARY'S REPORT



The regular monthly meeting of the TI-99/4A New Jersey User's Group (NewJUG) was held at the Iselin Public Library, 1081 Green Street, on Tuesday evening, 1 December 1992.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by the President, Mr George Lytle. There were no minutes of the previous meeting. There was no Treasurer's report except that a balance of \$307.01 is shown in the checkbook register. The nominating committee's slate of officers for the new year was presented.

The following names were placed in nomination:

George Lytle - President
 Joseph Ross - Vice President
 Johan I Nykvist - Secretary
 Dan Gazsv - Treasurer

A MOTION was made and PASSED to cast a single ballot for the slate of officers nominated for the new year.

A single ballot was cast for the slate of officers.

A MOTION was made and PASSED to reimburse Mr Dan Gazsv \$37.79 for the mailing of newsletters.

Dues were collected. Messrs. Haefeli, Lytle, and Macieski renewed their membership for 1993.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Johan I. Nykvist
 Secretary



This month I surprised myself and found the time to put this column together. While much of the column is the words of others, the time it takes to scan message logs for this material is disproportionate to the time it takes to build the column. Anyway, I think I've located some interesting material for you.

FAX Software

36307 2-DEC 10:34 General Information
 RE: FAX SOFTWARE (Re: Msg 36289)
 From: SSLICER To: FFRENCH

Barry Boone was working on a software/hardware bundle that would bring fax to the TI world. I don't know its current

status, but you could ask him directly. His Delphi membername is BBOONE.

36381 5-DEC 12:58 General Information
 FAXING SOFTWARE
 From: FFRENCH To: BBOONE

SSLICER SAYS YOU'RE WORKING ON FAXING SOFTWARE/HARDWARE FOR THE 99. PLEASE UPDATE ME ON THE STATUS. THANKS!

36438 7-DEC 23:51 General Information
 RE: FAXING SOFTWARE (Re: Msg 36383)
 From: EGERKEN To: FFRENCH

The brief mention was here in Tinet forum, and one member said to the other that he wished there was such Fax software, and the other replied that it would not be too hard to do. But it was only nusing, as near as I could see. It was about a month ago, if you care to search for it.

36513 13-DEC 01:32 Communications
 RE: FAX (Re: Msg 36507)
 From: BBOONE To: FFRENCH

I have some stuff in the works (waiting for me to get time to finish up some of the modem-related code), my software can currently print (and display, if you have an 80 column card or Geneve) fax files, and needs a little work on conversion routines (to things like IPA format, etc.)... not sure when I will get time to work on it, I am currently working on senior level Electrical Engineering classes :-)

Barry

AMS MEMORY CARD

Recently, Asgard announced their AMS card and posted a programmer's development package on some of the major services. While the following messages only reflect the opinions of two individuals, it's quite clear that some have chosen sides. My opinion on this matter is that both parties (4aMEMEX vs. AMS) would like to have their card chosen as the standard for TI memory cards.

36725 25-DEC 09:56 Hardware
 AMS
 From: EICHER To: ALL

After having read the AMS and FD conferences, I would like to add my .02.

A. CB> This is the way TI intended memory expansion to be done. That is how it was done on the 99/8. True, that is how it was done on the 99/8, BUT TI built a 128K memory card for the 4(A). This card kept the lower 8K of memory expansion in place at all times and banked the upper 24K.

B. Before CB has stated that programmers should write software for the largest market, thus his emphasis on

cassette based system. According to Chris's own logic, he is being illogical about AMS. If he was concerned about the largest market. There already exists plenty of extra memory cards. Myarc and Corcomp 512K's, Foundations 128/512K cards, Rambos and Geneves.....

C. Jeff Whites comparison of the 4a memex to the AMS/REMS.... As of this point the 4a memex hasn't been produced, debugged or software written for it. It would be prudent to withhold comparisons until the card is built and debugged. It may be necessary to remove some features to facilitate construction, one never knows....

D. FD - Harrys dislike of nice..... One of the things that made Telco SO popular was that with ever piece of hardware you added, you also added functionality to the program. Adding mouse support may be enough for all those software starved mouse owners to be the program. The same can be said for adding support of other memory devices to the software. Imagine how frustrating it must be to have had a 128K Foundation/Morning star memory card.... Now here comes along software who's functionality could be improved by using all the memory that is just sitting out there.... BUT... This memory will not be supported, because it carries the stigma of ... "Not invented here.....". IBM had that kind of philosophy for years and it has finally resulted in their down fall.

Dan H. Eicher

36817 2-JAN 23:49 Hardware
RE: AMS (Re: Msg 36725)
From: BRADSNYDER To: EICHER

Dan, I have a few comments on your message about the AMS.

A) The AMS sounds very similar to the TI card that you mentioned, except that the AMS doesn't bank out that whole upper 24K at one time, only 4K blocks. You can emulate a 24K bank by paging 6 blocks at a time, as I do in XBPACKER. The lower 8K is in place at all times just like the TI card.

B) I don't think that Chris is being illogical about the AMS. He is just trying to build up a large enough base of one kind of memory card to make it profitable to write software for it. I disagree with you when you say that there are plenty of other memory cards around. Especially the Rambo and Geneve part.

C) I agree completely with you that the AMS should not be compared to a fictitious memory card.

D) I personally don't see the need to have mouse support in a word processing program, but it probably should be added to satisfy the largest audience. later.....Brad

RE: AMS (Re: Msg 36825)
From: BRADSNYDER To: SSLICER

I wouldn't pull out the 512K card either! That wouldn't

make any sense at all right now. Luckily, the AMS is compatible with my Horizon ramdisk, 'cause there is no way I'd be pulling out my HRD. I really hope that Chris can build up some support for his AMS though, it really is a pretty nice card.

And it is -such- easier to write programs for it than for the Myarc 512K card. When you bank switch the 512, the entire memory space switches banks, which means that your program is now in another bank. It takes a few tricks to bank switch the 512K such as moving code into the scratch pad to do the switch.

ASGARD ADDRESS

36938 9-JAN 21:56 Announcements & News
NEW ADDRESS
From: C-BOBBITT To: ALL

NOTICE

Asgard Software and Asgard Peripherals has moved!

Our new address is 1423 Flagship Dr., Woodbridge, VA 22192. Our new phone number is 703-491-1267. This phone is available between the hours of 7PM-10PM E.S.T. Mon-Fri, and 12AM-10PM E.S.T. on Saturday and Sunday. During business hours on weekdays, Asgard can be reached by calling 716-778-9104.

I'd like to apologize for any inconvenience we may cause our customers during this move. Asgard Software has maintained the same address for 11 years now - this is the first time our mailing address has changed, ever. While we expect to have our Rockville Post Office box for another 9 months, we will be unable to answer mail sent to that address as promptly as mail sent to the street address. However, on the plus side, mail sent to the street address will be processed on a daily basis, instead of the current weekly basis that mail sent to our previous address was processed. This should speed up orders and questions profoundly.

Thank you! -Chris Bobbitt & Harry Brashear

VIDEOFLEX

The following messages reminded me of a device that was being developed quite awhile ago for 9640 users. Until I saw the following two messages, I wasn't aware that the device had actually made it to production.

36578 17-DEC 01:33 9640 GENEVE
ANOTHER BBS
From: JTOMPKINS To: ALL

Lloyd Wagner, a long time 9640 and TI person in Renton Washington has asked me to mention to all interested in BBS activities that there is now another one to add to your

list. Not entirely sure of most of the details, only that the number to call is (206) 255-8662. Anyone familiar with the Queen Anne Computer Shop BBS in Seattle should know who Lloyd is. Also I recently (today) talked to a friend who has a couple of Videoflex cards for sale. I don't think they are working but I understand that it wouldn't be hard to get them working. Leave a note if interested and I will find out more.

36652 21-DEC 01:16 9640 GENEVE
 RE: ANOTHER BBS (Re: Msg 36633)
 From: JTOMPKINS To: JSVZDEK

I spoke to Russ today and he didn't seem to offhand know what was wrong with the cards as its been a few years since he's touched them. I do believe though that he wants close to a hundred dollars for them. They are the original cards. Tom and Chuck Wynns are local to this area also and could fill in a lot of blank spaces on the subject I believe. All I know is that it is a card that interfaces to the Geneve. It plugs in to the P-box and a ribbon goes to the 9938 by means of a socket between the 9640 socket and 9938 chip. And out the back of the card comes a connection to interface your composit video device, such as a UCR. It does have software, as I found a disk full in my stuff. It runs out of MDOS and has character generator that utilizes TI artist Fonts. It also has a drawing program. It really looks impressive but I'm speaking blindly as I don't have a card here to play with, however the graphic overlays and demos I saw a few years back, seems like it would really be quite a toy if you were to get one going.

XB3

A few month's ago, there was some talk of Asgard releasing a product called XB3, but since then things have been real quiet. The following two messages are the ONLY thing I've seen lately on the topic.

RE: First Draft (Re: Msg 36784)
 From: C-BOBBITT To: SSLICER

well, yes we make our own cartridges, but no, we don't. That is to say we MANUFACTURE them but we contract out the HARDWARE DESIGN. The cartridge we are using is a very sophisticated design that allows us to do a number of things. For one thing, our final design has TE2 text-to-speech built into it - accessible directly from XB3. This was accomplished by loading the proper code into the module. Since we have space left in the cartridge, we are pondering other additions that may be of use to XB users (other than the obvious ones of XB3, TE2 and EA in the same module).
 Of course, the price may go up.

---Chris

36791 31-DEC 10:05 99/4A
 RE: First Draft (Re: Msg 36787)
 From: SSLICER To: C-BOBBITT

I like the idea of having the TE2 text-to-speech built into XB III, instead of the CALL SAY that was in TI's XB. The text-to-speech is really very, very good, and it was very limiting to have it confined to BASIC. For sure it's fine with me if it adds a few dollars to the final price of XB III. More space left in the module? Perhaps those with TI or ComComp controllers might like some disk manager functions? (Please don't fool with my Myarc's CALL DIR or CALL MDM, though! I -love- these, and I imagine TI & CC folks would really go for a work-alike.) I'll bet if you ask the users, they'll come up with plenty of ideas!

XCOPY

John Johnson returns from the FAR EAST and brings with him a utility that IBM-MSDOS users have grown accustomed to using.

36799 1-JAN 23:20 General Information

NEW
 From: JERRYVC To: ALL

NEW:

A New Year gift from John Johnson -- his version of an XCOPY command -- (those of you familiar with MSDOS will know what this is, the rest of you are in for a pleasant surprise). John's username is ADASHI.

GENEVE/HFDC Repair

While it still seems that 9640's are still being repaired and returned to their owners, it's quite evident that it's not being done by Lou Phillips or MVARC. It's refreshing to know that Secure Electronics is taking their commitment to the TI community seriously. For those who would like to save themselves the time and cost of doing some of the common repairs, the last two messages briefly describe the symptoms of overheated cards and how to replace the heat sinks on the cards.

36595 15-DEC 22:18 General Information

returned geneve
 From: DOUGPHELPS To: ALL

I came in for lunch today and you'll never guess what UPS had delivered to my porch. It was my geneve I had sent to Lou in September of '91. It was fixed with a short note that someone had replaced regulators, heat sinks, and the ep rom. Wonders never cease. Oh yeah, there was no charge. And, no, I am not suggesting that everyone start sending in their equipment to LOU to fix. Unless you don't care to wait 14 1/2 months ha ha. Truth is stranger than fiction. Doug

36557 16-DEC 21:36 General Information
 RE: returned geneve (Re: Msg 36535)

From: JSCHROEDER To: DOUGPHELPS

Most likely it was repaired by Don Walden not Lou. All repair is now done by Cecure Inc Milwaukee Wi. Checkout Micropendium November issue. CECURE INC. (419)679-4943

36976 11-JAN 22:39 9640 GENEVE

RE: Bucking Transformer (Re: Msg 36972)

From: EJWILSON To: JERRYC (NR)

Sounds like something I might be able to handle without blacking out half the county. I'm running into persistent problems with the 9640 overheating and locking up. I had it in a half shell to improve ventilation, then finally removed even the half shell and placed a small desk fan behind the PEB. So far it seems to be working, but I'd rather have a more permanent solution. Would extra heat sinks help? I know they've been discussed on Delphi in the recent past, but I'm not too inclined to plow through several months worth of messages to find them.

Is there any real trick to adding heat sinks? Will any type work? I'll be at the mercy of either the local Radio Shack or computer store, so any advice will be most appreciated. Eric

RE: Bucking Transformer (Re: Msg 36976)

From: JPLESLIE To: EJWILSON (NR)

You definitely need heat sinks on your 9640! And while you're installing them, put them also on your HFDC. You need to get 70-220 type heat sinks. They are actually quite easy to install (I did it!). Just take the nut and screw off that hold the heat sink to the PCB, apply heat sink compound ONLY to the side of the heat sink that will face the regulator, NOT the PCB. Then slide the heat sink under the regulator and reinstall the screw and nut. The heat sinks come with a pre-drilled just for that. I've put them on all my 5V regulators on my 9640 and HFDC and am quite pleased. I still have my clamshells on both. As for where to get them, I have a local electronic parts store where I get all my parts. Dunno if RS has the heat sinks, never looked. Try em though.

GEN-TRI

The following three messages relate to Gen-Tri and it's HFDC support. The first message explains the author's choice of limited sub-directory commands within Gen-Tri, while the last two messages discuss the need to use WDS1./HDS1. pathnames.

36978 5-DEC 11:11 9640 GENEVE

RE: Gen-Tri (Re: Msg 36277)

From: WAYNESTITH To: EJWILSON

Since others have responded to #1 and #2, I will address

only #3: I thought seriously about including hard drive management but decided against doing so at the time because there was little standardization in the way the hard drive was addressed. There were multiple OS's floating around, some of which were patched, etc. etc. I could have added the subdirectory routines, but elected to skip all routines except for copying, deleting and renaming. This proved to be satisfactory to users, but even though I took this conservative approach, some users experienced severe problems with the hard drive routines, thus confirming my original suspicions about the OS. I think the approach I took was the right one. Very few users would have need for my hard drive formatting program (if I had written one). Directory management was a close call, I admit. The tricky part about writing lower level routines was that I had to rely on the code on the HFDC written for the 4A since the corresponding routines had not been included in MOOS itself. The buyout of MOOS promises faster floppy and hard drive access, so we may very well see the need for others to write directory management programs. In fact, I have one floating around in the back of my head which -may- (no promises) make it to release. Tinel Tinel Tinel Wayne

WDS1

From: EJWILSON To: WAYNESTITH

Re: msg 36833, I use Gen-Tri on a hard drive with MOOS 1.21H and found that any files in a directory preceded by WDS1 cannot be accessed. Using HDS1 presents no problems. The situation was reversed with 1.14. I'm keeping all Gen-Tri program files in DSK1 on the HD. This isn't a complaint, since everything works, just curious why I had to change the directory designation on the HD. Eric

36970 10-JAN 23:16 9640 GENEVE

RE: WDS1 (Re: Msg 36933)

From: WAYNESTITH To: EJWILSON

MOOS 1.14 accepts WDS1 while in GPL mode, but hds1 in MOOS mode. I can't speak for 1.21H since I don't use it. In theory one should be able to use HDS1 or simply C in the mythical final version of DOS. (Pardon my cynicism, it's not directed at those who are preparing MOOS now, but rather at those in the past whose actions delayed a much needed OS.) Gen-Tri accesses the 4A epron on the HFDC if it sees "W" as the first letter of the file name or rather the path. This worked in 1.14. It should also work with later MOOS versions, but apparently it doesn't. If you use HDS1 in any version, the call is not trapped by Gen-Tri but is passed on as a floppy access, and I can only guess that the master DSR traps it and supplies the right call code (>20 instead of >10, for example). As you suggested, there should be no trouble keeping G-T files in a DSK1 directory; the master DSR traps all accesses and does its thing. Regarding your experience with WDS1 and MOOS 1.21H, do you mean that this device name -NEVER- works in G-T in any way (downloading, copying, saving WP files, etc.)? Wayne

FOUNTS

The following three messages discuss how to create CHARAI type program files. The suggested source of these files were font files from some of the art programs. Keep in mind that text type fonts can only be 6x8 pixels in size.

36761 27-DEC 17:02 General Information
 RE: PROGRAM (Re: Msg 36705)
 From: WAYNESTITH To: D24

You sure did dig up an old one! As I recall, that program converts output files of KWIKFONT to CHARAI files. I think it appeared on one of Barry Traver's Genial Traveler disks. I think the KF output was a DVE0 file, and of course a CHARAI file is a non-executable PROGRAM image file. Whether I wrote it using my 9640 or my 4A eludes me. In theory it should run on both machines; I don't recall doing anything tricky (though it's conceivable) which would preclude its use on the 9640. I don't remember the details, but I suspect that it was somewhat user-unfriendly; i.e. the source file might have to be specified in a certain way. Beyond that my recollection is really foggy. If this is as clear as mud, so is my memory. BTW, the CHARAIFIX program is a bit friendlier. Wayne

36798 30-DEC 22:01 General Information
 RE: PROGRAM (Re: Msg 36763)
 From: WAYNESTITH To: D24

Constructing a CHARAI file is not difficult. All one has to do is put the data in VDP and call a DSR routine. The problem would be reading the DVE0 file because there are so many ways one can specify a font as text. If I had to write it, I would make sure I understood exactly what the alien font was supposed to do in the long run. Then I would just write a quickie routine to read the file and throw the result into VDP. You might be able to get a similar result by using XB's LINPUT statement. Once you read in a font line by line you can print it back to disk in KWIKFONT's format (whatever it was, I forget...). The conversion work would be done in XB. Then you could run the KF>CHARAI utility. Lemme know if this works for you.

36812 2-JAN 21:00 General Information
 RE: PROGRAM (Re: Msg 36790)
 From: WAYNESTITH To: D24

The character pattern definition table is located in VDP at 0800, methinks. (Check the EA manual to be sure). Whatever is located in the 2048 bytes beginning at that address will be the 256 possible character patterns. It doesn't matter how the info gets there. What many programs do that need to have a different alphabet is to load a CHARAI file to that VDP address. If you want to tinker with the definitions, all you have to do is throw data into VDP. You can try it with KWIKFONT by altering some character which is currently displayed. You might want to put CHR\$(32) in the box and edit it. Whenever there is a space on the screen, you will see your new character. This is cute as far as it goes, but really screws up serious editing. The CHARAIFIX program uses a couple of tricks to

allow the user to redefine the character set without screwing up the display. To create a CHARAI file, one has to call the computer's built-in SAVE routine. It is much like any other assembly level file access. The main difference is that the programmer tells the computer to SAVE in PROGRAM image format a certain number of bytes located at a specific VDP address. This part of it is easy; the real trick is figuring out how to handle the font you want to convert. That's why I suggested using XB's LINPUT statement. You can open a DVE0 file and tinker with it until you figure out exactly what's going on. At that point you could call an assembly routine to SAVE the data in PROGRAM format by using a CALL LINK statement at the appropriate time. Let me know what you come up with in experimenting with LINPUT. Wayne