



SHIFT838 Newsletter

FEBRUARY 15, 2017

VOLUME 3, NO 1

This newsletter is dedicated to the ongoing support for the Texas Instruments TI-99/4A and Myarc Geneve 9640 user community and is published by SHIFT838.

Welcome to Volume 3 Issue #1 of the SHIFT838 Newsletter!

If you have not subscribed to the newsletter yet please go to the below link to subscribe. This is the first newsletter edition that I have sent out via the new site, hosted by 99er.net!

If you have not yet subscribed to the newsletter, follow the links below to register:

For the Italian version: <http://www.ti99iuc.it/web/go?TE27BR>

For the English version: <http://shift838.99er.net>

I have been working with **Ciro Barile** so that the newsletter can be released at the same time in Italian for the Italian TI users. If you have not visited his site please do so at <http://www.ti99iuc.it> .Ciro also created some of the graphics used in my PDF newsletters!

2017 is going to be an extremely busy year for me at my employer. I plan on still releasing the newsletters as scheduled but they may be a little later than usual due to major capital projects already underway that require my involvement.

Anyone wanting to submit a TI/Geneve article for publishing within the newsletter please send me an email. All participation in the newsletter is encouraged and appreciated.

2017 marks the **3rd** year since I starting publishing the **SHIFT838** Newsletter! The last few years have been hopping in development aspects for hardware and software for the TI-99/4A. It seems every time I turn around I am reading about something new and exciting being developed for the TI.

The amount of support our little machine continues to bring amazes me. I know of a few new TI'ers that have started building their systems and it almost always is because they have found the AtariAge TI forum by doing a web search.

Monthly Highlights

- **TI Fest West 2017 - April 29, 2017**

Fest West 2017 is just right around the corner! Fest West is usually where new software and hardware products are unveiled as well as finding some cool stuff you always wanted and someone there is selling it. SWEET!

For more information:

<http://atariage.com/forums/topic/260465-fest-west-2017/?hl=+fest%20+west>

- ArcadeShopper has released a new version of the Atari Joystick Adapter.

I must say, I was never really a fan of Atari Joysticks and actually preferred the TI Joysticks. But with all the new arcade style micro-switches out you can build you a nice arcade quality joystick for less than \$35 US. Putting this adapter together is very simple. I recommend to all to get one as we all know the TI joysticks go out and they do cramp your hand quite a bit. So why not build your own!

You can buy the adapter pre-built or solder it yourself.

https://www.arcadeshopper.com/wp/?page_id=11#!/Joysticks-and-adapters/c/21773047/offset=0&sort=nameAsc

- Ralph Benzinger is actively working on his new FinalGrom99 cartridge project.

This cartridge sounds like it will be the be-all cartridge to be able to load ROM and GROM images. Ralph has enabled the use of folders to allow for more image files to be stored on the SD card. Read the below thread for a lot more information:

<http://atariage.com/forums/topic/260917-the-finalgrom-99/>

- TIMXT Update for the NanoPEB version 1.x (9902 version)

Insane Multitasker has adapter a version of TIMXT to run on NanoPEB Version 1.x devices. Remember your system will need the F18A video upgrade use this.

There was a lot of testing done with this version of TIMXT and it seems very stable. Once Insane identified the reason why it was not working he was able to adapt his code fairly quickly.

Insane M. has reworked the keyboard scanning code and has improved on it where I am not seeing any more dropped characters that we first were seeing in the first couple of revisions when typing a message. Of course some really fast typist may see a couple here and there.

Please remember this version it is still under testing but Insane has allowed it to be posted on **Heatwave**, **FuSiON BBS** and **AtariAge** to expand the user base to help identify any issues that the few of us that have been testing have not seen.

Once he has time he will incorporate some other changes and hopefully merge the two TIMXT versions together so there will only be one.

To obtain your copy and to read more about it read the below thread:

<http://atariage.com/forums/topic/259886-timxt-with-nanopeb-version-1/>

- Shift838's TI-99/4A All-In-One System

Not to toot my own horn, but I figured this project I am doing will benefit many if they choose to do this.

Most of you probably already know that I have been working on for the last few weeks or so (very slowly) slamming all the needed components into one ATX Full tower system to include 99/4A, PEB cage and lower PCB as well as JediMatt's TI99 USB Keys and the F18A. I have even been able to install a new power source for the 99/4A that delivers all three voltages required by the system. This power supply was actually found by *'helocast'* on AtariAge. An excellent find and it all works great.

I am still slowly getting it going slowly. Follow the below thread on AtariAge for all the updated information:

<http://atariage.com/forums/topic/260883-new-project-for-my-4a-and-peb/>

TI STARTER

Hardware

New NanoPEB & Sidecar RS232 in 2017!

Developed by *Custodio Malilong (Jaime)*

I bet I have your attention now!

I have been communicating with Jamie last year to help get the DSR code for the NanoPEB v1 in order for Insane Multitasker to get TIMXT working.

During this communications with Jaime I found an issue with my NanoPEB version one that it was not reporting the SIO name and therefore Fred Kaal's CF2K program would not work. We found that many of us NanoPEB users had this issue.

After communicating this to Jaime, he then told me that it would not be fixed as this version of the NanoPEB was 'End of Life' and a newer more robust NanoPEB is in the works and almost production ready.

The NanoPEB will not have a serial port and Jamie is working on a standalone RS232 that is going to use the same exact code as the original TI RS232 card.

The new NanoPEB is targeted for 2nd quarter of 2017 and the standalone RS232 by 4th quarter of 2017.

Disclaimer: These are new projects are subject to change or termination.

The below is an exact quote taken from Jaime of the new benefits and options of the New NanoPEB:

“

SD/Fat32

Using a microcontroller a new version of nanoPEB will fully utilize FAT32. Unlike TIFile, the file's extension will contain most of the attributes (e.g. <file>.DV80, <file>.IF254. Unfortunately, no sector level access. This is an uncompromising switch to FAT32.

Wifi

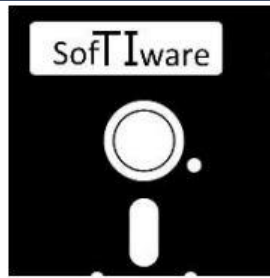
Also on the new version of nanoPEB a microcontroller will provide Wifi access to your router. I will provide a Windows app (later Linux) that will host file access on the server. Later, a cloud base option might be possible. Although the Web is accessible the TI-99/4a lacks the processing power for a full featured Web Browser, it would be possible to write a scales downed version. Linux has several of these.

Side Car Peripherals

I am working on a set of boards that will be based on the original TI design. The goal is compatibility with legacy software. The RS232 sidecar will be my first attempt. The sidecars will actually be a set of boards that can stack like PC/100 bus industrial SBCs. In reality, it would be a miniaturized version of the PEB.

I am currently testing a mock-up of the first two new item and will start on a prototype on the Side Car Peripheral soon.”

Once the Jaime has finished mocking up and getting a few boards printer I have been graciously offered to help test, which I jumped at the chance. Once I have more information I will pass it along.



TIMXT for NanoPEB v1.x

Insane Multitasker has adapter a version of TIMXT to run on NanoPEB Version 1.x devices. Remember your system will need the F18A video upgrade use this.

As the original version of TIMXT supports:

- 80 Columns
- ANSI
- XMODEM file transfers
- Up to 38400 bps

This version does too!

I have verified it will work with the latest tcpser and a null modem cable with either a Windows machine or a Linux box like the Raspberry Pi3. The Windows version that works for transferring files is on the FTP site at:

ftp://ftp.whitech.com/Users/Chris_Schneider/tcpser

To obtain your copy and to read more about TIMXT and the NanoPEBv1 read the below thread:

<http://atariage.com/forums/topic/259886-timxt-with-nanopeb-version-1/>

New Scott Adams Sequels (maybe)

I have been chatting with Scott Adams, the programmer that coded adventures for the TI Adventure cartridge like Adventureland, Pyramid of Doom, The Count and many more. I have obtained approval to release sequels to his adventures. I have a few ideas for some sequels and may pursue that path. So for all of you TI Adventures that would like to see some or even have ideas for any sequel shoot me a private email. It's all about carving the time out to do it.

Highlighted User System



For 2017 I want to highlight a system for every newsletter. Once a system has been submitted the TI'er does not have to submit again. To submit your system for consideration please send me a PM on AtariAge or direct email with a subject of '**Submission for TI Highlighted System**'.

The system does not have to be a completely decked out or an expanded system. It's really about the story of how the fellow TI'er came into the TI fold and why they like the machine so much. I want to include a personal story from each TI'er chosen to help the rest of us learn a bit about them.

Submit your system configuration and story to me for the next newsletter. The best story gets mentioned in my next newsletter.

Calling All GAMERS!

**GAME OVER YOU GOT A
HIGH SCORE
ENTER YOUR INITIALS**

Owen Brand (**Opry99er**) has started a TI Gaming competition on AtariAge where a TI-99/4A game is chosen every month and TI'ers can compete to see who can get the highest score. At the months end the person with the highest scores receives some type of prize.

If you want to read the message thread in its entirety and possibly participate in the friendly competition then click below:

<http://atariage.com/forums/topic/241547-official-ti-994a-hi-score-competition/page-1>

Please join me in congratulating the last few month's winners.

Month	Game Title	Winner (AtariAge User Names)	Score
October 2016	Protector II	Michael Zapf	9425
November 2016	Centepede	Michael Zapf	67024
December 2016	Alpiner	Globeron	56268
January 2017	Tetris	IWantGames	405

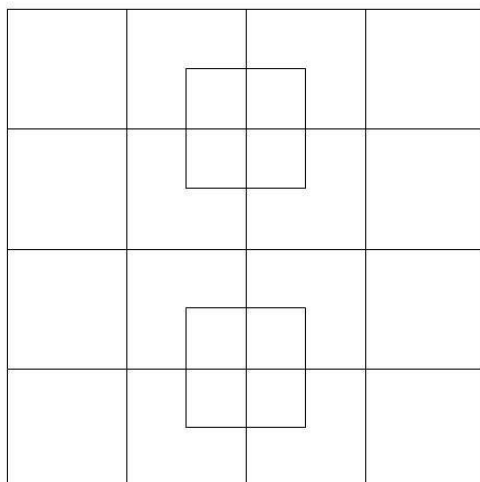
February 2017 game is 'Bouncy'



The last edition had the 2 Brain T.I. aser:

Teaser #1:

How many squares do you see in the picture below?



Puzzle Solution : 40 Squares
Winner : Lee Stewart

Click below to see the solution – animated gif that outlines every square.

http://shift838.99er.net/images/squares_sol.gif

Teaser #2:

What is the next letter to appear in the below series?

WITNLTAITB

Solution:

The next letter in the series is : " **S** "

If you look at the statement: "What is the next letter to appear in the below series" and then look at the series "**WITNLTAITB**". You will notice that each letter in the series is the first letter of each word in the phrase. So the '**S**' would be the next in line for the word 'series'.

GOTCHA!

No winners reported in. So can I say I won since I stumped everyone?

This month's Brain T.I.aser is:

A **Palindrome** is a word that reads the same when spelled backwards and forwards.

A couple of examples are : **Level** and **Racecar**

How would the word "**Footstool**" be considered a palindrome?

If you figure it out send me an email at shift838@att.net with the solution. If I do not receive a solution from anyone by the time I publish the next newsletter I will publish it then.

Sorry, no prizes, but the first one to figure it out gets bragging rights and will be mentioned in the next edition of the newsletter along with how they figured it out.

I also am still waiting for someone to find my Easter egg in my adventure, '**The Stafford Predicament**' that is used with the Adventure module. This adventure game can be downloaded off the FTP site, FuSiON BBS and soon will be offered on my website.



Resources

Contact information

To contact me please feel free to visit my website and click on the 'Contact' tab.

<http://shift838.99er.net>

Newsletter Topics

If you would like to participate in the writing of this newsletter or provide any topics for this newsletter please contact me via my web site.

Sites

There are a few of sites that I think should get their own list below. These are for the TI Hall of Fame and TI-99ers Unsung website. Please visit these below sites as both have great information.

<http://www.ti99hof.org/index.html>

<http://www.ti99ers.org/unsung/>

Floppy Days

Randall Kindig's Floppy Days: A great resource for PODCASTERS to listen about information about old computer systems!

These are the links available for '**Floppy Days Podcast**' covering the TI-99/4A that have been done over the last few months.

Episode #49 : <http://floppydays.libsyn.com/webpage/2015/11>

Episode #50: <http://floppydays.libsyn.com/webpage/2015/12>

Episode #51: <http://floppydays.libsyn.com/webpage/2016/01>

Episode #52: <http://floppydays.libsyn.com/webpage/2016/02>

Episode #56: <http://floppydays.libsyn.com/webpage/2016/03>

The main web site to Floppy Days:

<http://floppydays.libsyn.com/>

Remembrance

Also the below site has a list of all the TI-99ers that have passed. Please be sure to check them out.

<http://ti99ers.org/modules/Inspire/remember.htm>

Below resources are just a handful of sites that support the TI-99/4A and/or Geneve 9640 computers. It is in no way a full list. This section will be included in all future newsletters. If there is a site that you think should be mentioned then please contact me.

Web sites / FTP Sites

<http://www.99er.net>

<http://www.ninerpedia.org/>

<ftp://ftp.whitech.com>

<http://shift838.wix.com/shift838>

<http://www.ti99-geek.nl/>

<http://www.mainbyte.com>

<http://www.atariage.com>

<http://www.harmlesslion.com>

<http://www.ti99iuc.it>

<http://www.turboforth.net>

<http://www.ninerpedia.org/>

Yahoo List Groups:

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/TI99-4A/info>

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/TI994A/info>

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Geneve9640/info>

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/turboforth/info>

Active BBS'

FuSiON BBS

Access: Telnet

System: Emulated Geneve 9640 via MESS

Software: FuSiON BBS Software powered by S&T Assembly code

Location: Texas

Content: TI and Geneve file libraries, message bases. Full ANSI support, Text 40 and 80 Column modes and BBS E-mail.

Telnet to: **fusionbbs.ddns.net** port **9640**

HeatWave BBS

Access: Telnet

System: Geneve 9640

Software: S&T BBS Software

Location: Houston

Content: TI and Geneve file libraries, message bases, door games and e-mail.
Telnet to: **heatwave.ddns.net** port **9640**

The Hidden Reef

Access: Dial-Up
System: TI-99/4a Modified
Software: S&T BBS Software
Location: New York
Content: TI and Geneve file libraries, message bases, door games and e-mail.
Dialup : **718-448-9402 @ 8-N-1**

The Keep

Access: HTTP and Telnet
System: Pentium 4 running Windows 2000
Software: Worldgroup BBS Software (up to 256 user connections)
Location: Tigard, Oregon
Content: TI and Geneve file libraries, message bases, door games, multi-user and multiplayer games and e-mail.
Telnet : www.thekeep.net port **23** Web browser to <http://www.thekeep.net>

The Keep can now be connected to via telnet directly from the web page!
<http://web2.thekeep.net/telnetme.html>

The Keep has TI File libraries, Message bases, e-mail, door games, multi-user and multiplayer games. The keep also has a modem line connected for anyone that would like to contact The Hidden Reef BBS from the internet through The Keep.

Simply telnet to www.thekeep.net on port 23, login to The KEEP and then type **/GO DIALOUT** at the main menu, then D1 to dial out to The Hidden Reef. It's that simple.

Vendors

SHIFT838 – Provides used TI equipment as acquired. Check with me often. A lot of the items need rehomeing from other TI Users.

Arcade Shopper – Provides old and new TI equipment, upgrades and new runs of PCBs at www.arcadeshopper.com

Hummingbird EPROMS – Provides EPROM burning services for various TI/Geneve related EPROMS for original code and modified code. Contact Bob Carmany at Rmcarmany@aol.com for pricing and availability.

Repair Centers

Richard Bell

Repairs available on limited basis, please contact Richard at swim4home@verizon.net for wait-time before sending any repairs

Tim

Myarc-related hardware repairs on a limited, as-available basis. Contact Tim at insane_m@hotmail.com for wait times or to request service.