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AIRPORT AREA COMPUTER CLUB
POST OFFICE BOX 710
CORAOPOLIS, PENNSYLVANIA 15108

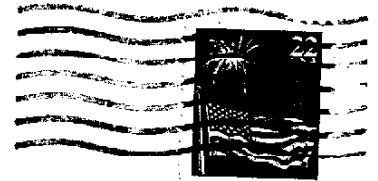
NEXT MEETING: 6:30 PM Sunday, March 6, 1988 at the Patrick Henry building (library), at Robert Morris College. See map inside for location.

March, 1988

Newsletter

Vol. VI No. 3

Airport Area Computer Club
P.O. Box 710
Coraopolis, PA 15108



DALLAS TI COMPUTER GROUP
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LAST MONTH: We had several demos during the meeting. Bob Dudley brought in the Atarisoft Moon-Patrol module. This has been around for some time, but not everyone had seen it. Wes Lewis gave a good demonstration of the program. Wes also demonstrated a light show program that uses the cassette input to display different color patterns in response to the input. Bob and I did not have much luck keeping the airplane from the obstacles in an XB program called Bird Strike. The Club as a whole did fairly well with the Trivia 99 program that Bob also brought, getting at least 80% of the questions right. The Trivia program was a nice programming effort and contains some interesting questions. It also allows users to input his own questions. We discussed briefly the changes to the Legends program and the fact that a new version was in the works. Finally, I talked a little about the new PRBASE data base program and provided some copies of an older version to those that wanted to take a look at the program's features.

THIS MONTH: See Pg 4 for location. As part of our program this meeting we would like to demonstrate TI99/4A telecommunications. We will be able to connect with one or two of the services that allow computer users to access information about their computers, do banking, manage their finances, go shopping, etc. These services include Compuserve, GENIE, DELPHI, and The Source. Of these, the first three have Special Interest groups providing information and software for the 99/4A. The Source did have a SIG for the TI, but I am not sure it still exists. Along the lines of telecommunications, there is a new SHAREWARE terminal emulation program available for the TI called TELCO. It features pop-up windows for configuration, buffer use, file transfer selection, etc. The program also features a 99 number autodialer directory that is fully configurable to your modem command set. It also has auto-logging, screen dump, and print spooler capabilities. There have been some minor problems associated with its use on some systems, but most of them can be overcome. Hopefully its author will support the program and fix the reported problems. If you get a copy of TELCO and use the program, the chances of program support will be increased if you send appropriate compensation for the effort already spent in getting the program developed. Getting away from the telecommunications area, Marty Krall has released a companion program to his shareware Disk Catalog library software. This new program allows the addition of comments to each file stored in the data base created with the original program. Thus you can add full descriptions to some program with an obscure file name or quickly determine what program a given LOAD file belongs to. This addition makes Marty's program unbeatable for organizing a disk library. Finally, there is a revised version of the Graphic Label Maker program that I showed a couple of months ago. This version will search your disk for a graphics file and display the file name. You can choose to load the file or continue the search. In addition, I further modified it to include the assembly routine into the XB program to decrease the load time. T.I.C.O.F.F.'88 - This computer show is in its third year. This year, it will cover both the TI99/4A and MS-DOS compatible computers. Although I thought the '86 show was better than the '87 one, I still managed to pick up some good deals last year at the swap shop. This year, the swap shop will continue, along with a vendor area, some

lectures and demonstrations, and a Fairware table. The show will be on Saturday, March 26th, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Roselle Park High School, NJ. We will have directions available at the meeting for anyone interested in attending. R/D Computing has issued a newsletter recently, after a period of silence and speculations of its demise. The most interesting thing in the newsletter was an advertisement for a new version of Monty Schmidt's Command DOS for the TI. The program uses the memory in the module area, so a Super Space, Supercart, Gramkraker, or similar device must be used. The program provides a MS-DOS type command language for doing disk management functions and displaying text files to the screen. It also contains an editor (TI-Writer) that allows creation of batch files. These files allow for interactive or automatic execution of multiple DOS commands. For those who are used to a MS-DOS type system or are planning the purchase of a GENEVE in the future, this program may be of interest.

BONUS NEWSLETTER: We are sending this newsletter to all 1987 members, whether or not they have renewed. There are several reasons that we are doing this. First of all, we have enough funds at this time. Second, we would like to see more people renew. Finally, we have not managed to update the membership list for the address labels. So if you have not renewed yet, enjoy this issue and think about it. If you have renewed, you should get a newsletter next month. If you don't, let us know. There may have been one name that slipped away.

President's Report: This has been another busy month for me, but as a result rather slow on the computing news side. I did receive my copies of the new set of disks for the Geneve and put them into limited use. The new MDOS works well. I formatted and copied all of the DOM disks with the Geneve. If you have any problems with the disks you receive, please let me know so that I can evaluate the compatibility of the Geneve in this respect. The disks are copied as SSSD so they should run on any TI99/4A with a disk drive. MDOS commands are so like the MS-DOS commands I use at the office I personally find it easy to use. I used the new version of GPL to copy a number of cartridges which had failed to work the first time I copied them to disk with an earlier version. Most of them worked this time. There are fixes out for Chess and another cartridge

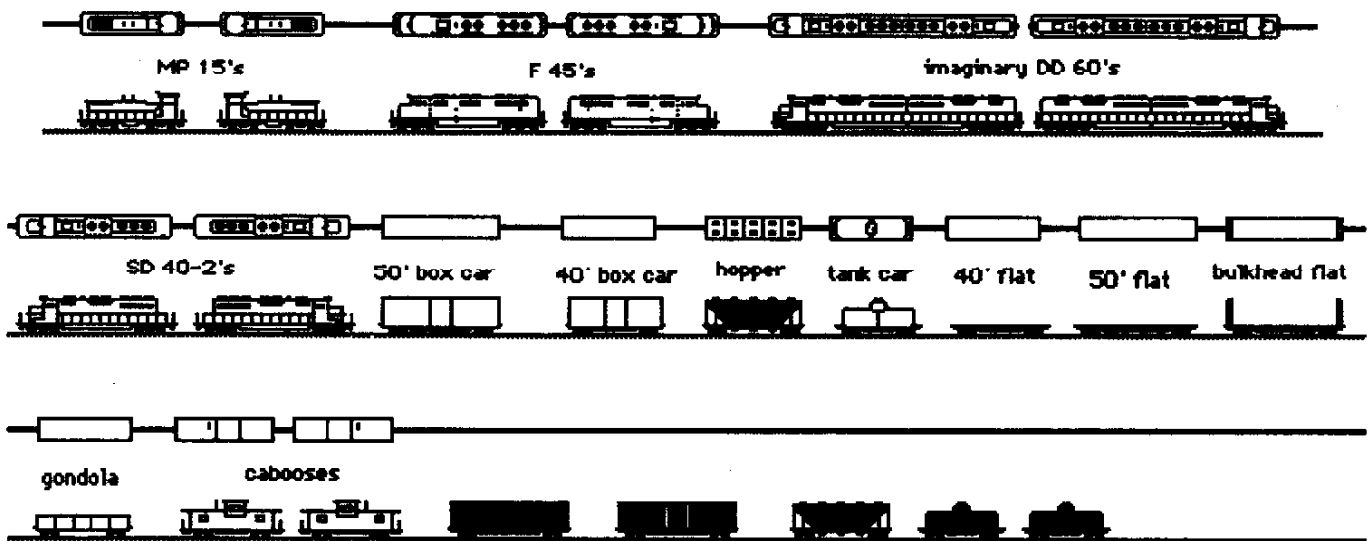
which wouldn't work without help. I haven't merged the new files into those programs to give them a try yet. We are promised several new programs soon. The initial efforts tend to be in the word processing, data base, drawing program areas. To date no one has touched any entertainment software for the Geneve. This seems to me to be one area in which the graphic capabilities of the new machine could easily be utilized to their best advantage. Without a lot of software the principal advantage of the machine is a much

nicer screen display. I have to agree with Joe Spiegel that at present you can't do much with it that you can't do with the 99/4A, but the games are more pleasing to me on a clearer screen. At this stage that is not adequate return for the price of the machine. When this is being written Joe Spiegel and I are planning to do a communications program for this month - rather I am hoping that Joe will. I am a total failure at that so I am encouraging the program to learn some basic skills.

Here's some graphics to show off Bob's Lazer Printer:

0 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160 180 200

The following drawings are an attempt to reproduce real and imagined railroad locomotives and cars. In the drawings, each pixel (dot) represents a square foot.



Trains



Disk of the Month March 1988: The disk this month contains a variety of programs which I hope will provide something of interest for everyone.

ADVTCOPYER	E/A	Use to transfer adventures between tape & disk
ASTEROIDS	E/A	Assembly adaption of title game
BUG-QUEST	B	Find computer bugs in this text adventure
DISKO-DSDD	E/A	Examine & change contents of a disk
FILE/PRINT	B	Print text files in several formats
GRAPHSHEET		Create your own 8 x 8 graph paper
INTERUPT		Text tells about TI interrupts
LABELS		Print tiny labels
LOAN	XB	Computes loans
MAZE	XB	Creates mazes on screen or printer
OMEGASS	E/A	TI sequel to Parsec. Two players.
SCRIPT	XB	Redefines characters on Star SG-10
SETCOLXB	XB	Changes screen color in XB
SNOOPY_P		TI-Artist picture
VDPUTIL3	XB	Run BASIC programs that use character sets 15 & 16 in XB
WARGIRL_P		TI-Artist picture

This is a SSSD disk and costs 25 cents.

March Meeting Location:

