

CPUG NEWSLETTER

Volume 5 Number 4

99ER

April, 1987

MINI-MINUTES

March 19, 1987

Prior to the general meeting, Marty thanked Wayne Simon for his past efforts as Editor of the newsletter.

Ms. Peggy Edmonds of Bell of PA conducted the demonstration on "Technology--it's good for you" in front of the 35+ members and guests. The presentation was mainly on the services that Bell has to offer with their phone lines. This also included the advantages of fiber optics in communications. The use of digital transmission allows the sender the potential of over 2 BILLION bits per second of information to be sent without any static or noise. The use of fiber optics and digital transmission makes it almost impossible to tap. Ms. Edmonds stayed for a brief Q&A from the floor.

After a short break, Nick gave the Treasurers report and mentioned the items that we had for sale in the 'Store'. This included our long-awaited supply of I-Shirts. Special thanks went to Terry Longenecker for his donation for our new silver-colored membership cards. (Sec). I will be mailing everyone a new card along with the ballot for 1987.

Dave Ratcliffe reported on our BBS WIZ/TIPS. Dave is in the process of rebuilding the board since the Gremlins hit it on Friday the 13th. The rebuilding and additions will take several months, but the board is still up and running.

Since Wayne resigned as newsletter Editor, Nick and Barry will co-edit the paper until after the elections, but it looks like they will work jointly even after that. Dave Ratcliffe will help with putting the entire newsletter on disk for those members who so desire. Nick asked that ALL material for the newsletter be given to him in DVB00 format or typed no later than 2 WEEKS prior to our monthly meeting.

Marty discussed the mail-order membership, the time involved, the burden on those who will handle it, and the need to keep accurate records. Since no one stepped forward to volunteer, no action was taken at this time.

Barry had left notes concerning the receipt of labels from II to solicit new members. Marty will discuss the area with Barry and a request will be sent to II with all of the zip codes we would like.

An inquiry was made as to putting

on a local II-FEST. Again, WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!!! Marty will contact other users groups to get their response and commitment. This will be published on BBS as well.

Mention was made of the upcoming Ham-Fests in the area. Timonium and Lancaster.

Nick gave a brief description of GENEVE. Myarc has started shipping and he hopes to have one to demo at the next meeting.

Nominations for officers were read. Motioned and seconded. Barry will send out ballots to all members of record next week with a return date of April 13th. Note: If your membership has expired, Renew NOW and VOTE. (Ires.)

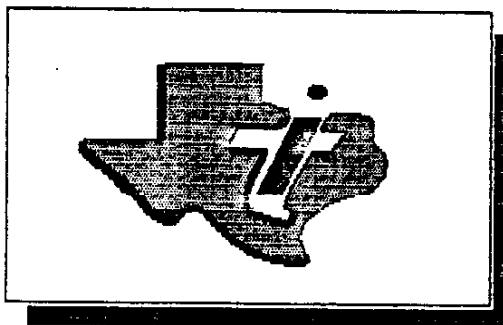
Motion was made to send a letter of thanks to Ms. Edmonds for her demo. Seconded and passed.

Members gave their approval for Barry Fox, a Ham Radio Operator to speak and demo at the May meeting.

I'll next time,
Barry Long, Secretary

Don't forget, NEXT MEETING :
THURSDAY MAY 21st.

NOTE:: I WANT TO TAKE THIS TIME TO PERSONALLY THANK DOT SWARTZ AND NICK VARNALIS IN TAKING OVER FOR ME SINCE I COULDN'T MAKE THE MEETING. THIS IS COOPERATION!!!
THANK YOU FOLKS.
Barry Long



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Central Pa 99/4A Users Group

Newsletter takes on new look

As you might have guessed by now, the newsletter has acquired a different look this month. Thanks to a desktop publishing program I am using on my Aniga, sorry II'ers. Its not that the II can't do this with FONT-WRITER or PRINTER'S APPRENTICE, but the limitations of the II's screen make it a little difficult to work with, but I promise I will attempt to use the II in some future newsletters. With the apologies aside I hope the members like the new format of the newsletter. I would appreciate your comments and input as to how the newsletter appears. There is no set format right now. This issue is a prototype so to speak. I thought the first page should contain the Mini-Minutes every month the other pages are more or less random as to how they will be formatted. I will also be starting up a column for Industry news, not necessarily about the II, but the computer industry in general. Any thoughts on this let me know.

I would like all articles for the newsletter to reach me at least 2 weeks prior to the next meeting. This will give me enough time to format and make changes to the newsletter. Newsletter article may be submitted on disk if you like, I will transfer them to my Aniga via connecting the II and Aniga together through the RS232 port, or you may submit them on paper which ever is more convenient for you. I must stress though that we need articles or else no matter how fancy our newsletter looks it will be worthless. Well enough said. Enjoy this issue I believe you will find it informative.

Nick Varnalis
Editor

TURBO PASCAL TO BE RELEASED FOR TI99/4A

The wait is over. Available soon, TURBO-PASC 99. This package is not from Borland, famous for their TURBO PASCAL for other systems, but is a program imported from Germany. Seems the Germans are always coming up with excellent software and hardware. TURBO PASC 99 is an integrated software package that includes a command processor, full featured editor, lightning-fast single pass compiler, and a linker. You can use existing standard PASCAL programs, or write your own. To use TURBO-PASC 99 you will need a disk system, 32K memory, EA cartridge, and, of course TURBO-PASC 99. Included with the system disk will be an extensive user manual and WINDOWS-99 (a window management program). Future applications and programming aides, which include a graphics programming toolbox, will become available in the near future. TURBO-PASC will sell for \$79.95 and is available from Texaments. For anyone interested in obtaining more information you may call Texaments at 516-475-3488, or you may write them at 53 Center St., Patchogue, NY. 11772.

CorComp to release new word processor

CorComp's new word processing program, Writer-Ease, is now available for purchase, according to Jackirae Sagouspe, president of CorComp.

The program features a 38,000 word dictionary and spell checker. A single word or an entire document may be checked against the dictionary without the user leaving the edit mode.

The program also enables the user to see a list of possible words which his/hers misspelled word might be intended to be.

List price for the two disk package is \$49.95. Mike Norton of CorComp says that minimum requirements to use the program are SS/SD drive with a II or CorComp disk controller.

WRITER-EASE files can be printed from the edit mode rather than requiring entry into a formatter mode. The program also features help menus.

COMMODORE, ATARI SETTLE LITIGATION

The 3 year-old battle between Atari Corp. and Commodore International Ltd. relating to Commodore's Aniga computer ended last week in an out-of-court settlement, the sum of which was not disclosed.

The suit was first initiated by Atari chairman Jack Traniel after he was ousted as president of Commodore in 1984. Having left Commodore, Traniel acquired competing computer maker Atari from Warner Communications, inc. and subsequently sued his former company for breach of contract.

Traniel filed his litigation when Commodore began its acquisition of Aniga Inc., a small California concern that designed the chip technology responsible for the Aniga computer's advanced visual features.

Atari first sued Aniga and subsequently added Commodore as a defendant. Prior to the initial suit against Aniga, Atari had negotiated a technology-license agreement with Aniga for its computer chips.

The litigation has hovered like a black cloud over the Aniga computer and Commodore ever since. Commodore, financially troubled during much of that time, is viewed by the industry as dependent on the success of its Aniga computer line.

PERIPHERAL CABLING

By Wm. Conson Wynn
BOSTON COMPUTER SOCIETY 1199 USERS GROUP

INTERFACE PERIPHERAL CARD

If you have an interface card for your TI and have wondered how to make your own cables, this article is for you. There have been many times when I have to get my interface to work with a printer, modem or some other kind of input/output device. It is only after hours of aggravation trying this and that, that I finally have the answers. Here is what I have learned by trial and lots of error!

PARALLEL PORT INTERFACING

The parallel port is used solely for a printer sending all data bits in 8 parallel data lines. Parallel printers are compatible with most computers. They make no judgement as to what kind of system you use. The cable that connects between the computer and the printer can vary greatly. This is where most of us go to the nearest computer store and try to find a preassembled cable instead of doing it our selves. There is nothing really special about making your own cables. Most of the connectors are now built so that you don't need to strip off wire insulation or solder connections. The tools you will need consist of the following:

SISSORS, HAMMER, A SMALL FLAT SCREW DRIVER

To make your parallel cable, you will need the following parts that can be purchased at your local RADIO SHACK store:

- 36-POSITION MALE PRINTER RIBBON CONNECTOR #276-1533
- RS232 RIBBON CABLE 25 CONDUCTORS #278-77

The only part you may have trouble finding and need is the 16 POSITION HEADER RIBBON CONNECTOR. There are only a few select stores that stock them and it is not a very standard item. I got mine at a computer trade show this past year. I still have a few left. If you have trouble finding it, I can get you one. All of the parts will cost you about \$12 to \$15 dollars total. If you should find a parallel cable for \$17.00 or less, BUY IT and stop reading this.

Building A Parallel Cable

1. Cut one end of the extra wide ribbon with the sissors just enough so that you can with your fingers strip away 16 wires from the rest of the ribbon. The 16 pin connector can now be added to one end of the 16 wire ribbon cable. The connector should have a bump on one side. This is the side you insert the ribbon into with the colored striped side facing the bump. This end of the cable is a "straight thru" connection. There is no need to flip-flop or change wires.
2. Carefully tap the connector with the hammer to close it tightly.
3. Trim off the excess ribbon remaining

with the sissors. Hold up the connector with the pin holes facing you and the index bump on the top side. Pin ONE is the first pin in the upper left.

Now comes the hard part.

- The other end you must flip, cut and move wires. Most, but not all, of these wires will lead into the other connector.
4. Four wires must be cut off entirely. Wires 12,13,14,15 are not to be used.
 5. Using the sissors, carefully cut between the wires (about 3" inward) separating them from each other.
 6. Place the wires individually into the connector following the pin to pin connections below for proper placements.
- NOTE:** The 36 pin connector also has a pin ONE numbered on it as well located in the left corner on the wide edge side.
7. Again carefully tap the connector closed with the hammer.

PIN NO. FUNCTION/DESCRIPTION 36 TO 16 PIN CONNECTOR

- 01 to 01 Handshake OUT
- 02 to 02 Data, LSB
- 03 to 03 Data
- 04 to 04 Data
- 05 to 05 Data
- 06 to 06 Data
- 07 to 07 Data
- 08 to 08 Data
- 09 to 09 Data, MSB
- 11 to 10 Handshake IN
- 19 to 11 Logic Ground (GROUND)
- NC to 12 10-Kilohm pull-up resistor to +5 volts
- NC to 13 No connection
- NC to 14 Logic ground (GROUND)
- NC to 15 1-Kilohm pull up resistor to +5 volts
- 16 to 16 Logic ground (GROUND)

If you have continuity meter, check your connections for any errors. If you don't have one, try using the cable as is. The chances of damaging your system from improper placement of the pin connections is very slim. If you have made a mistake take the connector apart with the end of the screw driver and try again. If you are still having trouble, please contact me as your last resort. I will be happy to try and give you a hand with it. Contact me at my home number (617) 839-5116.

SERIAL PORT INTERFACING

The serial port is used for communication with a computer with another serial port interface and a modem. The serial port can also be used for a printer as well. There are some people that have the idea that if you have a parallel printer it will run faster than a serial printer. NOT SO... The speed is only relative to the printer you own. For example, having a printer rated at 120

characters per second (cps), and asking it to print at a 2400 BAUD RATE or 240 cps, won't make it go any faster. The computer will wait for your printer to catch up. Most all printers will run at any of the common BAUD RATE default values you give it, provided that the DIP switches on the printer are set for the same BAUD RATE. If you do have a serial printer it may be as fast as the next guys. The most difficult thing for me when getting started with a serial printer was figuring out the correct software switch combination options needed to make it work.

OPTION #1 BAUD RATE= 110,300,1200,2400,4800 or 9600 you can take your pick. (Printer DIP switches must be set for the same value)

OPTION #2 DATA BITS= 8 for a printer, 7 for everything else.

PARITY= (O)dd, (E)ven, (N)one. This is the only default that you may have to try by error.

For example: RS232.BA=2400.DA=8,PA=N

To make your serial cable, you need the following parts that can be purchased at your local RADIO SHACK store:

2 - SOLDERLESS RS232 D-SUB FEMALE CONNECTOR #276-1565

RS232 RIBBON CABLE 25 CONDUCTORS #278-77

All parts will cost you about \$12 dollars. To build this cable for your printer is extremely simple.

Building A Serial Cable

1. Slide one connector onto the ribbon and squeeze together.
2. Slide the other connector onto the ribbon with it facing the same identical direction as the other connector and tap together. This is a so called "straight thru" cable connection. It couldn't be any easier.

Building a serial cable for a modem is a different story.

1. Same as previous step 1.
2. Note that the ribbon connector makes the ribbon wire numbers different in the order that they are counted. Example:
1--2--3--4--5--6--7--8--9-10-11-12-13
-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-
Cut free the group of wires 2-15-3. These are stuck together in a row. Now twist them so that they get inserted in the reverse order into the connector.
3. Separate the 11th wire counting from the edge of the ribbon (wire #6).
4. Separate the 14th wire counting from the edge of the ribbon (wire #20).
5. Cross over the wires #6 and #20 and insert them into each others location into the connector.
6. Carefully tap the connector closed.

Note all of the wires need to be checked for continuity. There are only a few that carry the signal to the peripheral device.

PIN NO. FUNCTION/DESCRIPTION 25 TO 25 PIN

"D" CONNECTOR

- 01 to 01 Protective Ground
- 03 to 02 Input Serial Data port 1
- 02 to 03 Output Serial Data port 1
- 05 to 05 Clear To Send port 1
- 20 to 06 Data Set Ready Output
- 07 to 07 Logic or Signal Ground
- 08 to 08 Data Carrier Detect Output port 1
- 08 to 12 Data Carrier Detect Output port 2
- 05 to 13 Clear to Send Port 2
- 03 to 14 Input Serial Data port 2
- 02 to 16 Output Serial Data port 2
- 06 to 19 Data Terminal Ready port 2
- 06 to 20 Data Terminal Ready port 1

In short, the connections for a Port 1 cable, are straight thru except for pins 2 & 3 and pins 6 & 20. The connections for a Port 2 are again the same but pins 16 & 14 and pins 6 & 19. Good luck with you cable making.

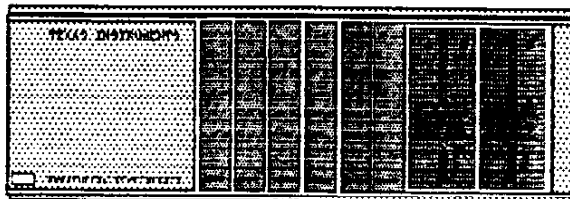
PRINT FILES FROM EXTENDED BASIC

The Nor-Cal News, the newsletter of the Nor-Cal Ti Users Group of Occidental, California, recently carried a short program called PRINTCOPY by Bob Sims. The program is used to output a display-type file directly from disk to printer. It is the equivalent of printing a file using the TI-Writer editor. Change the LINPUT in line 130 to INPUT for use with internal-type files. The program requires Extended BASIC.

```

80 ? PRINTCOPY
90 ? BY BOB SIMS
100 INPUT "PRG NAME":PR$
110 OPEN #3:"PIO"
120 OPEN #1:PR$
130 LINPUT #1:A$
140 PRINT #3:A$
150 IF EOF(1) THEN 170
160 GOTO 130
170 CLOSE #1::CLOSE #3
    
```

Reprinted from January 87, MICROpendium



GENEVE DEMONSTRATED AT II-COFF COMPUTER FEST

By Nick Vernalis

The second annual II-COFF computer fest at Rosell Park, New Jersey was held again this year on March 28, and again I attend the show with Dave Ratcliffe and Dave Hultberg to see what's what in the II world. This year the show was much better than last year with more II vendors as opposed to vendors who sell those other "computers". Plus this year Myarc actually had the Geneve up and running with software to demonstrate. As a matter of fact there were a few Geneve's featured in a few booths, though I saw none that were actually for sale. A lot of big names in the II world were there such as Lou Phillips of Myarc, Peter Hoddie of Font Writer fame, Jim Horn of Disk Only Software, and Paul Charlton of FastTerm fame just to name a few.

Being a potential GENEVE 9640 owner, I for one was very pleased to see the Myarc computer demonstrated, and was able to get a close hand look at this amazing new computer. Lou was very eager to demo and answer questions about his computer. Let me start off by saying that the Geneve was very impressive and if I use the word fast a lot, well it was. Part of that speed can be attributed to the fact that the Geneve is using a second generation cpu from II the DMS9995 running at 12Mhz with no wait states. Contrary to popular belief the 9995 is actually a 8/16 bit cpu. Internally it does computations 16 bits at a time. Externally it sits on an 8 bit data bus as opposed to the DMS9980 used in the II99 which is a true 16/16 bit machine, its just that II put it on an 8 bit bus. Much of the computer speed is directly attributed to the fact that all coding is written in pure assembler and the only time GPL comes into play is when the Geneve is emulating the II99, but even in the II mode it was considerably faster than the 4A.

The computer comes ready to plug into your existing PE-BOX in the slot which is now occupied by the flex cable interface. An IBM style keyboard comes standard with the computer. There is available an enhanced keyboard which has the cursor control keys on a separate pad. The keyboard had a nice feel to it, but it was hard for me to get used to the fact that I now had 95 keys to work with instead of 48 keys! The screen display was razor sharp in the 80 column mode using a high res Analog RGB monitor, and in fact looked sharper to me than the IBM color display I use at work. The monitor they were using was a Magnovox RGB monitor. The Geneve also supports composite output so you could use your existing color monitor though the resolution and clarity will not be there. When the system is power up the first thing that gets booted up into the machine is M-DOS which looks similar to the MS-DOS operating system. You have the option of setting the time and date because the 9640 contains a real time clock built into the computer. Once your are at the DSK1> prompt you now have access to DOS; if you don't like the look of the prompt you can change it to look like the MS-DOS prompt "A)". Many of the commands are very similar to MS-DOS such as DIR to get a directory of the disk, DISKCOPY to copy disks, FORMAT to of course format your disks, and a few commands that are unique to M-DOS. Once you're into DOS you have the option of loading your programs off disk by simply typing in the name of

the program, no more "DSK1.filename", or with a command bring up a menu asking you which cartridge you wish to load off the disk. From this menu you may also load in the II99 operating system. To emulate the II99 you load from disk the operating system of the 4A which consists of GROM 0 and Grom 1. Simply type in II99, after about 10 seconds the familiar II main screen greets you complete with the original 1981 copyright! After that it looks and operates just like a 4A system; the prompts, the colors everything looks and feels the same, except on the RGB monitor everything is crystal clear. In the 4A mode the system is about 3-4 times faster than the II99. As far as compatibility is concerned, the Geneve should run according to Lou Phillips; nearly all the assembly language programs that are out there on disk, the only programs he says that might not work are programs that do funny things in the Scratch Pad Area of the operating system. Note: (even the Apple II GS is not 100% compatible with the IIe). Also Myarc has stated that the Geneve will work with your existing hardware and is compatible with the II, Myarc, and CorComp disk controller cards, and RS232 cards and will work with the Horizon RAM disk card by replacing the EPROM on the card. I was told that many of the major software packages such as FAST-TERM, which we did see running on the Geneve, and II-ARTIST are being rewritten to take advantage of the Geneve's advanced features, along with many new programs designed specifically for the new machine. We also were shown the Enhanced version of II-Writer which takes advantage of the 80 column mode. The enhancements made were very nice, and the speed increase in scrolling and cursor movement is a welcome touch. Another nice feature is that with 512K of RAM the editor and formatter both reside in memory and you can switch between editor and formatter with a touch of a key. On the bottom of the screen, on the 25th status line is your ruler which shows your tab and left and right margin settings. The 80 column display sure makes a big difference when you're used to working with a 40 column display. Most of the other features were pretty much the same, but with this version you can have two documents loaded in memory at the same time and page between them. Whether you can cut and paste between documents I don't know. The text editor now allows for a 56k text buffer instead of the 18k text buffer available on the II99. With the system you also get Advanced BASIC 3.0, which I did not see because we were told that it was still being beta tested to work out the bugs, but I did take a look at the manual to see what it consisted of. It looks like a very powerful BASIC with a lot of new commands to support the Geneve. Myarc BASIC seems to incorporate IBM Basic, Macintosh, and of course II X-BASIC commands. Your 80 column support is there plus total access to the graphics modes of the system. There are seven graphics modes by the way. The BASIC supports Integer and Floating point math, there are mouse commands that allow you to write applications using the Myarc mouse, windowing commands and a whole host of other commands that are unique to the Geneve, in addition to all the standard commands found in a full implementation of BASIC. According to Lou, when released it will be totally compatible with

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existing TI Basic, X-Basic and Myarc Basic 2.12 programs.

But I must caution the potential buyer. I have gone through three different versions of Myarc Extended Basic II for my TI before I got a copy that would in fact run all my current Basic programs. The manual I saw was a final copy, professionally typeset, and consists of 358 pages of information about the Geneve. The manual was broken down into four sections. The first section had to do with setting up the Geneve and attaching the cables and keyboard. Section two had to do with Myarc DOS and how to use it. Section three was about Advanced BASIC, and section four was technical information about the Geneve. I was told there will be a Programmers Reference manual written, along with the Programmers reference manual for the Yamaha 9938 AVDP chip and how it can be accessed through assembly language programming, which brings me to the part I like best and was the most impressed with, the graphics. But before I get into that I should mention that when the machine finally reaches the end user will also receive an improved 80 column version of TI MultiPlan which runs very nice and fast, a copy of PECAN USCD PASCAL runtime disk which means you cannot write applications with it but can purchase already made programs for Pascal, and a program that will convert your cartridge software to disk. There was a lot of talk that the GrandCracker format for saving cartridges would be incompatible with the Geneve but Lou said that they worked with MG to have the same format. This means that if you already have the GrandCracker and have alot of your cartridges on disk they will load into the GENEVE system.

Now for the graphics of the machine. When I asked Lou about the graphics and how good everyone was saying they were I asked him to show me, which he promptly did by loading up a preliminary version of a paint program he calls MY-PAINT which will be sold with the Myarc Mouse. The program I saw did not yet have any pull down menus, everything was keyboard controlled except of course when you're actually drawing which is operated with the mouse. The graphics mode the program was using was the 256x424 mode which allows 256 colors on the screen at one time! There is another mode which will allow 512x424 pixels with 16 colors on the screen at one time. On the bottom of the screen was your color palette which allowed you to pick any color that you wanted from the 256 color palette. MY-PAINT was extremely fast. The line drawing routines were faster than my Amiga, I guess that's because the line drawing routines are in hardware as opposed to the Amiga which has its line drawing routines written in software. Everything was fast and I mean fast. Circles literally jumped up on the screen, color fill routines filled the screen in record time, the spraypaint option was nice and fast. Some demo pictures were loaded from disk and boy were they nice. The graphics I saw were on the same level of the Atari ST and Amiga computer. The video chip in the Geneve allows for true bit mapped graphics which means that every single pixel on the screen can be a different color, unlike the 9918 which does not allow two adjacent pixels to have a different color. With the ability to have 256 colors on the screen at one time, this would allow your

pictures to have that photographic look about them; because of the various shading that would be possible with that many colors. The final version of the program will have pull down menus and a lot more functions, such as rotate your picture at any angle, brushes of various styles, fonts of various styles and a lot more. Lou says that MY-PAINT, should be as good as Electronic Arts Deluxe Paint, and that's saying something. The video chip also allows for 32 sprites much the same as the 9918 in the TI but with a big difference, you can have up to 8 sprites on a line as opposed to 4 on the TI and each sprite can have a total of 16 colors as opposed to the 2 colors that the 9918 has available. The 9938 chip is completely compatible with the 9918 so that the graphics modes the TI99 has the Geneve has, but instead of 4 graphic modes that the 9918 is capable of, the 9938 has 7 graphic modes starting at the standard 32x24 graphics 1 mode to the graphics 7 mode, which allows a screen resolution of 512x424 pixels with 16 colors on the screen. That's better than the Macintosh which has a resolution of 512x352, and you know how good that looks! Also available is the ability to scroll on a pixel by pixel basis either horizontally or vertically with the 9938. This would allow for smooth screen scrolling, and page flipping capability which would allow for smooth animation routines to be used. Of course all this graphics capability is allowed because many graphics routines are in hardware and instead of 16k of VDP RAM, the Geneve comes with 128k of VDP RAM. This memory I was told could be expanded to 192k of RAM by piggy-backing some chips. So much for the graphics, they were impressive.

Not so impressive was the sound capabilities, because they use the same chip the TI99 has, 3 voices and 1 noise generator. Why? I forgot to ask, sorry. I'm sure they could have used another sound chip. The Commodore 64 sound chip would have been nice, but I guess you can't have your cake and eat it too. Standard RAM starts at 512k of CPU RAM instead of 256 bytes of CPU RAM the TI99 has. This RAM can be used as continuous RAM when you are running in the Geneve mode, or could be split up into a RAM disk, print spooler and CPU RAM. Expansion capability is 2MB of CPU RAM. This is accomplished by using the Myarc 512K memory card which has to be modified to be usable in the system. You must remove your present 32K card because it cannot be accessed by the Geneve. One question someone asked was when in BASIC do you have access to the full 512K, the answer is no, you have approximately about 128K for your BASIC programs. This apparently made the person asking the question unhappy. Why? Beats me. Even the Amiga computer with 512K of memory when in BASIC only has 27K free for your programs! I can't imagine writing a BASIC program that takes up all that memory. Another question often asked was how fast is the computer? I guess they were not looking at the screen at the time, dumb questions, I thought, considering the machine was demonstrating some pretty amazing graphics at blinding speed.

Another impressive demonstration shown was multitasking, this means allowing you to run more than one program at a time and networking or the hooking up of 2 machines. The demo we saw had the Geneve and a terminal connected up to the

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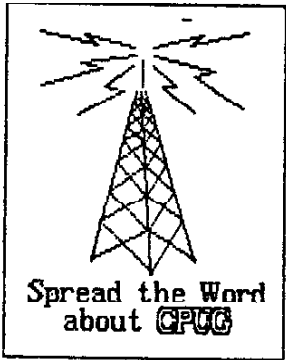
GENEVE CONT.

RS232 port and Lou and his assistant were doing two different things at a time. The terminal was in DOS and the other screen hooked up to the Geneve was running some graphic demos. Very impressive for a \$500.00 computer, I thought. This capability opens up some very sophisticated software possibilities, how about downloading from a BBS with a terminal package, doing wordprocessing and drawing a picture at the same time! Its possible with what I saw, I hope someone takes advantage of this power because its there. Well enough of all the good things to say, now for the bad news. Shipment has been delayed again. Why, you say? Lou says that they made a revision to the board and when the boards came back some of the holes did not line up with the runners, I thought, sure Lou tell me another, but to show me he wasn't just making excuses he did show me a board that did in fact look screwed up, he says the new boards should be at Myarc within 2 days and in fact at the time of this writing the boards have come in and production is under way with the first quantities to go to dealers and end users within 3 weeks. In conclusion, I must say that at times Myarc has promised a lot but has not delivered, after all the machine was supposed to be shipped 2 years ago, but what we saw was a computer that is completed and very close to production and shipment. I for one was impressed with the Geneve and did not see the machine crash, though at one point the monitor became jittery, whether this was a computer problem or monitor problem I don't know because it corrected itself after about a minute. Myarc must be congratulated for developing a computer system that is not only compatible to the II99 but goes a step further by providing the user with a very advanced system. Considering that Myarc, Inc. is not Commodore, Apple or IBM, building a computer is quite a feat in itself, not to mention the headaches of reverse engineering. If you are considering upgrading to another computer, I recommend taking a look at Myarc's Geneve. When I receive mine I will of course put it through the test of compatibility and reliability. Lou has said that each and every one of the Geneve's that are coming off the production line is being individually tested and hummed in for 24 hours, this he says will ensure reliability and allow Myarc to catch any bugs that might show up. By the way, the Geneve with a standard IBM type keyboard with six pieces of software will retail for \$500.00.

As Atari says "Power without the price". The Myarc mouse with MY-PAINT program will set you back \$49.95. I will mention also that the Geneve was not the only new product that Myarc showed. There is also a new Hard Disk controller card which will be available shortly and will also have a DS/DD floppy disk controller on board. The price will be around \$275.00. The card will allow you to hook up to 2 hard drives and 4 DS/DD floppy drives. Also hinted by Myarc is the possibility of an IBM emulation board being produced, but lets do one thing at a time Lou!

BLINKING IN XB

Here's a little tip that appeared in Bill Gaskill's *Odds and Ends* column in the *Front Ranger*, the newsletter of the Front Range 99er Computer Club of Colorado Springs, Colorado. It's a simple routine designed to cause text displayed on screen to blink rapidly when using a CALL KEY statement. The use of a DISPLAY AT statement within the CALL KEY loop does the trick.



Here's the routine:

```

0 CALL CLEAR
10 CALL KEY(0,K,S)::DISPLAY
AT(12,2):"THIS IS THE
MESSAGE":DISPLAY AT(12,2):" ":IF
    
```

SCREEN TEXT DUMP

Dane Heatherington of Largo, Florida, wrote this subprogram. It dumps text from screen to printer. (Its set up for a Gemini.) Use a GOSUB at the point at which you want the screen to be dumped.

```

1000 REM BY DANE
HEATHERINGTON
1010 REM LARGO, FLORIDA
1020 OPEN #1:"PIO"
1030 FOR ROW=1 TO 24
1040 FOR COLUMN=1 TO 32
1050 CALL
GCHAR(ROW,COLUMN,X)
1060 PRINT #1:CHR$(X);
1070 NEXT COLUMN
1080 PRINT #1:"
"! (enter 32 spaces
between the quotes)
1090 NEXT ROW
1100 CLOSE #1
1110 RETURN
    
```

Specifications between Myarc 9640, Atari ST, and Amiga 1000 Computers

Compiled by Nick Varnalis

	Myarc 9640	Atari ST	Amiga 1000
RAM (Standard)	640K	512K	256K
EXPANDABLE TO:	2 MB	4 MB	8 MB
MICROPROCESSOR:	TMS9995 12MHZ 8/16 BIT	68000 8MHZ 16/32 BIT	68000 7.16MHZ 16/32 BIT
INTERFACES:	RS232, PARALLEL	RS232, PARALLEL	RS232, PARALLEL
KEYBOARD:	95 KEYS IBM TYPE	85 KEYS	94 KEYS
SOUND:	3 VOICE, 1 NOISE	3 VOICE	4 VOICE STEREO
REAL TIME CLOCK:	YES	NO	NO
JOYSTICK PORT:	YES	YES	YES
MOUSE:	YES (OPTIONAL)	YES	YES
VIDEO PORTS:	RGB, COMPOSITE	RGB	RGB, COMPOSITE
DISK DRIVES:	5.25 DS/DD 360K	3.5 SS/DD 360K	3.5 DS/DD 800K
# OF DRIVES (MAX.)	4	2	3
EXPANSION BUS:	YES (PE-BOX)	NO	YES
GRAPHICS: Low-res	256X212	320X200	320X200
Hi-res	512X424	640X400	640X400
88 COLUMNS:	YES	YES	YES
COLOR PALETTE:	512	512	4096
ON SCREEN (MAX.)	256 COLORS	16 COLORS	32 COLORS
HARDWARE SPRITES:	32, 16 COLORS	NONE	8, 4 COLORS
SPEECH:	YES	NO	YES
HARD DRIVE PORT:	YES (OPTIONAL)	YES	YES (OPTIONAL)
SOFTWARE INCLUDED:	MYARC M-DOS 3.0 ADVANCED BASIC TI-WRITER MULTIPLAN CART TO DISK PROG. PECAN USCD PASCAL	GEM DESKTOP ATARI BASIC ATARI WORD ATARI LOGO	AMIGADOS 1.1 AMIGA BASIC GRAPHICS DEMO AMIGA TUTORIAL
RETAIL PRICE:	\$499.00	\$995.00	\$1495.00

This unit is without a doubt the most sophisticated machine ever offered in the Home and small business area to date. With over a year of design and development, including input from more than one hundred users, this machine has surpassed even our own expectations. Take a moment to review some of the many features that place this computer in a class of its own.

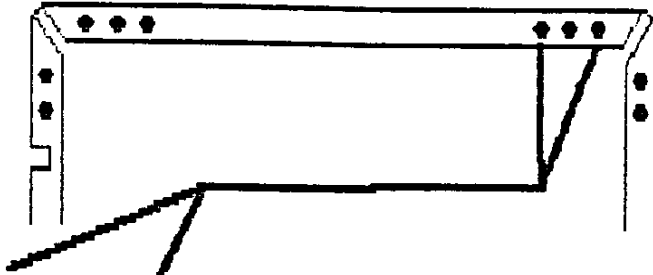
The speed, memory, graphics, and processing power of the 9640 computer surpasses that of all other microcomputers of its class. And because the 9640 represents the next generation stemming from the Texas Instruments 99/4A Home Computer, it is compatible with the many thousands of programs presently available for it.



MYARC "GENEVE 9640" FAMILY COMPUTER™

IDENTIFICATION OF 525" DISKETTES

Reprinted from QB-98'sers U.G. Newsletter



SEAL	COMPANY	COMMENTS
● ● ●	MAXELL	
COMPLETE SEAL	MEMOREX	Also ALBINAR (BEST CO.)
● ●	VERBATIM	
● ●	NASHUA	6 dots down each side
— —	BASF	
⋮⋮⋮⋮⋮⋮	ELEPHANT	
— — — — —	3M	2 bars down each side
	WABASH	6 sets of 8 stripes per side
● ● ● ● ●	FUJI	
— — —	CD	Storage Master
— — — — —	SYNCOM	3 bars down each side
● ●	CERTRON	8 dots down each side

MYARC SUPPORT ORGANIZATION FORMED

The formation of a new support organization has been announced. Its aim is to respond to the emerging interests and needs of the Myarc 9648 Geneve Computer user. Its initial goals are as follows:

- 1) To facilitate the development and distribution of a public domain software library.
- 2) To provide a technical information forum.
- 3) To establish a User database bringing together people with similar interests.
- 4) To encourage the creation and distribution of low cost user written software.

Your support and input are invited. If you are interested in participating, or would like further information please contact:

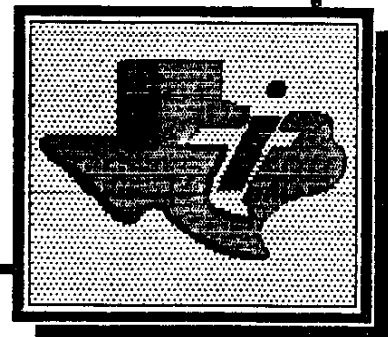
Jay Holovac via **Comuserve EMAIL**

ID Number 74756,413

Or write to:

Don Iverson
 MYARC SUPPORT GROUP
 483 Valley Road
 West Orange, NJ. 07052

NOTE: The Myarc Support Group is not affiliated with Myarc, Inc.



WE'LL LOOK FOR

YOU 

AT THESE MEETINGS

Circle your Calendar with these meeting dates

JANUARY	15	JULY	16
FEBRUARY	19	AUGUST	20
MARCH	19	SEPTEMBER	17
APRIL	16	OCTOBER	15
MAY	21	NOVEMBER	19
JUNE	18	DECEMBER	17

All meetings begin at 7PM but the Group equipment will be set up and ready for use at approximately 6PM.
All meetings are held at the **EAST SHORE BRANCH** of the **DAUPHIN COUNTY LIBRARY**.

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P.O. BOX 14126
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Dallas TX Home Computers Gp
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Dallas TX 75229

NEXT MEETING: MAY 21st, 1987 at 7pm