

**THE FLUG
TI ROUNDUP**
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE FOREST LANE T.I.
USERS GROUP - DALLAS, TX

USERS OF THE TI 99 AND
COMPATIBLES



DEAD OF THE MOORE 3640

**THE FEBRUARY
FLUG MEETING
IS AT
2 PM
SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 7TH**

FEBRUARY 1987
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6
EDITOR: Richard A. Fleetwood

NEW OFFICERS FOR 1987:

PRESIDENT	Richard Fleetwood
VICE PRESIDENT	Dale Kaliser
SECRETARY	Keith Joyner
TREASURER	Ron Kuhlman
CORRESPONDENCE SECT.	Wilson Taylor
MEETING PROGRAM CHAIRMAN	James Carson

Next meeting of the Forest Lane Users Group is:

MARCH 7TH, 1987

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FEBRUARY MEETING INFORMATION

By Richard A. Fleetwood

Below are the planned activities for the February 7th, 1987 meeting of the FOREST LANE USERS GROUP.

- 2:00 - BUSINESS MEETING
 - Officers reports
 - Add OFFICE of SYSOP to Constitution
 - New BBS phone Number
 - Library information
 - Dallas TI Faire-More Info-Interested Parties
 - Programming Contest-winners and Prize handouts
- NEW BUSINESS

-NEW BUSINESS

- 2:30 - END OF BUSINESS MEETING
- 2:30 - 2:45 -- BREAK/RAFFLE for hardware/software
- 2:45 - Demonstration Of Myarc Model 9640 Computer
- 3:30 - Preview of the Chicago TI Faire Videotape
- 4:00 - OPEN FORUM
 - TI WORLD NEWS
 - HARDWARE HELP
 - SNAP SHOP
 - QUESTION AND ANSWERS SESSIONS
- 5:00 - END OF FEBRUARY MEETING

Please help this and all future meetings run smoothly by asking questions at convenient times and not interrupting presentations.

RAF'S ROUNDUP

By - Richard Fleetwood

ANOTHER busy month has come and gone. FLUG now has a new slate of officers and a whole year ahead of us, just waiting to be filled with lots of fun, useful information. The TIBBS keeps going, the meetings keep flowing, and this newsletter keeps GROWING. This may be our biggest newsletter to date. It also is a little lopsided, with a definite lean towards the hardware aspect of the 99/4A world. We have info about the Horizon Randisk and upgrading it, info about the NEW IBM interface from Willers Graphics(now called NG), info about the Myarc 9640(in this column), two reviews, several officers reports, and info about a TI Faire. We just keep growing by leaps and bounds.

LAST MEETING

January's meeting brought about some new changes, all for the better. We elected a new set of officers and made some decisions about our yearly dues and how we were setting them up. We also got some volunteers to help us begin the planning stages of a TI Faire for Dallas this year. Finally we selected the sub-librarians for our long-awaited official software library. Hopefully, with 8 people helping, we'll have the library ready for operation in the next month or two. Still lots of work to do, but now we know whose going to be doing it.

THIS MEETING

If Myarc delivers, we'll have a real live Model 9640 Computer to show at our meeting. I talked with Myarc Thursday, Jan 29th, and they were preparing to ship the unit that day. Only thing I can think of that might cause a problem is weather up north. They've had some really nasty snowstorms lately, and possibilities exist that the UPS truck might have gotten stuck that day. We'll know for sure before the meeting if the unit will be there. As a backup, we have a video tape of the 1986 Chicago TI Faire, donated by Ken Young of our users group, that shows Lou Phillips running a demo unit, with a selection of the programs that should come with our unit. It looks GREAT on tape, so I hope it will look even better in person. I am worried about one thing, though. I know of several users groups across the country who have gotten units in the same way we are getting ours, and when they have received the unit, they have NOT received any documentation with it, telling how to load and run the software. I don't even know if the unit we get will be an actual PRODUCTION unit, or if it will be one of the BETA test units. Oh well, we'll do the best we can with whatever shows up. Just be prepared to watch it on videotape if we can't get it to run in time, due to lack of some kind of exotic hookup, like an RGB monitor.

DALLAS TI FAIRE

As I mentioned, this newsletter contains an article I have written to explain why I think Dallas should have its own TI Faire. This article also serves a purpose as the PROPOSAL that I will be sending to the other TWO Dallas/Ft. Worth users groups, to see if they will join up with us in sponsoring such an event. I think that I covered everything I needed, but if you can add anything to what I mention, please do so. Making a Faire happen is going to take YOUR support, as well as many others.

SOFTWARE LIBRARY

FLUG's software library was handed out at the December meeting to several volunteers, to catalog all disks, and verify that all files were good and complete. So far, none of the disks have been returned. We NEED to get these disks back, so that we can sort them out by sub-library, and get them to the proper librarian so that the HARD COPY catalog of our software can begin production. If you are one of the individuals who has these disks, please return them at this meeting, and give them to Dale Kaliser. Dale is going to be responsible for making sure all programs given to the club go into the proper library. We will also verify that all programs are usable and are NOT copyrighted. The sooner we can get the sub-librarians working, the sooner we'll have our library doors open to EVERYONE. Thank you for your help in this matter.

FLUG TIBBS NEW PHONE NUMBER

Our future sysop, Rick Morgan, has had the phone line installed in his home in preparation for the reception of the FLUG TIBBS system. The new number for the FLUG TIBBS will be:

(2 1 4) 3 9 8 - 7 1 6 2

BE SURE TO WRITE IT DOWN WHERE YOU CAN FIND IT!!!
It will become operational the first weekend of March.

DELPHI

How many people who read this newsletter own modems? How many of you call BBSes around the country occasionally? How many of you have heard about COMPUSERVE, the SOURCE, or GENIE? Did you know there is another national database system called DELPHI? This is the same system that Randy Halcomb, the author of the early articles about the 99/4a in the Computer Shopper magazine, used to talk about from time to time. Did you know that the TI section is being revised from the ground up, with lots of new additions, and lots of big names? Jeff Guide, owner of Disk Only Software, is the SysOp of the TI Information Network on Delphi. He has asked such noted luminaries as Ron Albright, Paul Charlton, Walt Howe, Art Byers, and Chris Bobbit to head a PROFESSIONAL COUNSEL for all Tiers to turn to for help, fun, and information. Well, guess what else? Jeff has asked ME to join these well known Tiers to make it an even half a dozen!! He wants me to become one of the PRO Counsel because he likes what he has seen. The nice thing about it is that in return for helping out, I get a few free hours each month to browse around, and rub elbows with some of my idols!! I just received my signup kit in the mail recently, and I am waiting word from Jeff before I get started. Delphi is pretty reasonable for the average TI user. The signup fee can be as small as \$10, and there is no monthly minimum for billing. It only costs \$7.20 an hour during non-primetime, and offers features not found on some of the other database services. I'll keep you posted on what I find out about the system. I know for a fact that at this moment, Delphi has in its download files the MANUALS for the NYARC 9640-the TECH manual, the programmers guide, and the advanced basic guide. Only Delphi users have access to these files, and are requested NOT to pass them out or make copies of them. I hope I can get on there soon so I can take a peek at them!!! I'll be sure to pass the word on all the goodies I find there.

HORIZON RAMDISK EPROM IN THE WORKS

The latest issue of the Boston Computer Society newsletter contains some info from J. Peter Hoddie about a new hardware device that should make all owners of Horizon Ramdisks shudder with delight. Peter has been working on an Epron upgrade to the HRD that, among other things, will add a complete E/A 3 loader, an E/A 5 loader, ability to run programs at powerup, ability to set drive number at powerup, ability to catalog RAMdisk from basic with a call, increased ram capacity, support for 256k ram modification, and BEST OF ALL, no more lost operating system since it is locked in ROM. Peter says that all work on this project is now done, including a special BOOT program by John Johnson based on his popular MENU program. It is due to be released in early February and it will cost between \$20 and \$25. Peter says that he is the person who modified the operating system from a Nyarc Ramdisk to create this epron. It will be available through Genial Computerware. Thanks, Peter, for making a product that has such fantastic possibilities.

PROGRAMMING CONTEST NEWS

I'll have to announce the winners of the programming contest at the meeting, and will have the prizes there to give to me at that time. With my work schedule, this newsletter, and my family, I have not had enough time to thoroughly go over the programs entered. I can say that everyone who entered will receive a prize, with some getting more than one. We do have some neat programs, and will have them available on disk at the march meeting, if you would like to receive them.

REENTRY EMPTY!!

=raf=

MESSAGE FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT

DALE KALISER

I want to take this opportunity to thank those members that had the courage to show up and vote for the 1987 officers. Based on my past experience working with those elected, this years team of officers are truly dedicated to guide this club in the right direction so that all members regardless of one's experience with the 99/4A will gain some knowledge at each and every meeting. If you don't, please let me know but unless you attend, ask questions and participate then there's no way I can help you to further grow in the computer world.

In the upcoming year, there will be many meetings to plan, demonstrations of new/existing products and educational sessions. So if you have the knowledge and, most important, the willingness to help fellow members, then speak up; otherwise, the meetings will be no different than the boring lecture days of college.

In the past, a majority of the meeting was centered around discussion of club business and not addressing the reason why we are members to learn more about the ever growing 4A. Personally, that is a waste of time especially when the discussion centered around topics that should have been handled by the officers prior to the meeting. Speaking for my fellow officer's, this will not continue in 1987.

Again if there is anything that you would like to see as part of the meeting or as part of the format don't hesitate to speak out. One last request, please listen to the opinions of fellow members/officers just as you would like them to listen to you.

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

By - Keith Joyner

3 JAN 1987 Members present:21

Treasurer's Report:

December ending balance - \$607.41. Received \$303 from sales and dues and dispersed \$182.71 to Crown Computer and \$56 for telephone expenses and stamps.

Sysop's Report

About 200 downloads are being added the to system. The system is to be moved in the next month or so. The new phone number will be posted ahead of time and notice given as to the move date. The new sysop will be Ricky Morgan.

Business:

The dues structure has been set at \$15 per year or \$1.25 per month. members can join at any meeting in the year for a full year. The TI Artist mass buy order has arrived and is ready for pickup. Another Ramdisk mass buy in being worked up. The Ramdisk is \$45 for the boards and instructions (parts would be bought separately).

The idea of getting together to sponsor a TI fair along with other groups in the Dallas area was brought up. Roy Willis, Al Herring and Richard Fleetwood volunteered to start planning for it.

The programming contest will be judged in January and the winners announced.

Dale Kaliser will coordinate the software libraries. Any freeware which you would like to share with the club should be given to him. He will get it to the appropriate software librarian. The librarians are as follows:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Richard Denamur - Assembly | Al Herring - Graphics |
| Richard Fleetwood - Telecommunications | Dale Kaliser - Text Files |
| Ron Kuhlman - X Basic | Wilson Taylor - Basic |
| Bill Addington - C, Fortn, Pascal | Trey Seastrunk - Miscellaneous |

Elections were held and the following were elected as officers for 1987:
 President - Richard Fleetwood
 Vice President - Dale Kaliser
 Correspondence Secretary - Wilson Taylor
 Treasurer - Ron Kuhlman
 Secretary - Keith Joyner
 Program Chairman - Jimmy Carson

Copies of last month's Micropendium were available for sale, along with supplies (disketts, disk banks, etc.).

Demonstration:
 TI Writer, Funnweb 3.4 and the Mechatronics mouse were demonstrated.

FLUG 1987 MEETING AGENDAS

By - James Carson and Richard Fleetwood

In an effort to help make the meetings of the coming year run smoothly and have some semblance of order, we have come up with the following list of proposed ideas and programs for the coming months. What we have listed are by no means set in cement, and may be changed if necessary. Please take a look at the list and if you have any comments, ideas, suggestions, or ADDITIONS, then please let us know. We want FLUG to be THE place to come to learn about the things YOU want to know about your computer.

meeting date	program format
FEBRUARY 7TH	DEMONSTRATION OF THE NYARC MODEL 9648 COMPUTER and A preview of the Chicago TI Faire from 1986
MARCH 7TH	COMPLETE SHOWING OF THE CHICAGO TI FAIRE VIDEOTAPE
APRIL 4TH	SHOW AND TELL-MEMBERS DEMOS OF SOFTWARE FAVORITES- Bring your favorite software and show us what you like most!
MAY 2ND	MEMORY MANIPULATION-Memory Expansion, 512k, Horizon HARDISK, MECHATRONICS GRAMKARTE, MG GRAMCRACKER
JUNE 6TH	TELECOMMUNICATIONS-FLUG TIBBS, STARTEXT, GENIE, and different software packages
JULY 4TH	----(NO MEETING DUE TO HOLIDAY)----
AUGUST 1ST	HARD DISK EXPANSION FOR THE 99/4A
SEPTEMBER 5TH	NEW SOFTWARE DEMOS-LATEST RELEASES
OCTOBER 3RD	DISCUSSION AND PREPARATION OF THE TI FAIRE
OCTOBER 17TH -- TENTATIVE DATE OF THE FIRST DALLAS TI FAIRE	
NOVEMBER 7TH	LANGUAGES-BASIC,C,PASCAL,ASSEMBLY,FORTH, and PILOT
DECEMBER 5TH	ANNUAL MEETING-ELECTIONS, CHRISTMAS PARTY, SOFTWARE SNAP

As we mentioned, this is just a POSSIBLE list-something for us to shoot for. Besides all of these main programs, we will also spend more time every meeting having the meeting open to questions, problem solving of your systems, and member input.

If you can help with any of the above programs, or you know someone who can, please notify one of the club officers so that everything can be arranged.

Thanks for your previous input, and look forward to a great year for FLUG.

TREASURERS REPORT

By - Ron Kuhlman - FLUG Treasurer

	Paid to or Received from	Amount	Date	Balance	Reason
RON STALLARD,FLUG TEXINS		\$609.73	1-7-87	609.73	transfer of club funds.
		(\$1.00)	1-7-87	608.73	charge for transfer of funds.
MEMBERSHIP FEES		\$371.25	1-19-87	979.98	fees a \$10.00 donation from Ken Young
MEMBERSHIP FEES		\$45.00	1-20-87	1024.98	fees recieved from R.Fleetwood
WILLIAM MEYER		\$22.00	1-20-87	1046.98	paid for paper
RICHARD FLEETWOOD		(\$58.20)	1-20-87	988.78	stamps and news letter costs
RON KUHLMAN		(\$15.38)	1-20-87	973.40	luggage cart.
SOUTHWESTERN BELL		(\$45.85)	1-20-87	927.55	BBS phone bill.

ASSEMBLY LINES

ASSY. TUTORIAL BY RICHARD DENAMUR

(Column 7) 02/87

Hello out there. Anybody reading. If so please note the name of the column has been changed. As noted in the last column, I am no longer the V.P. of F.L.U.G.

As you can see in the title heading, this is my 7th column on assembly. As of this writing, I have received absolutely no feed back from what I hope are loyal readers. Therefore, I am committing to a minimum of 5 columns after this one. If I have received no response after that I can only assume that no one is reading this stuff and I am wasting my time.

The only other thing I can think of is that I have been writing on too elementary a level for my readers. Therefore, this time I plan to get a bit deeper. Prepare for my longest program to date.

The program I am about to present will use something from every column I have written to date. If you are a new reader, or an old one who has missed a column or so and you want copies of back columns, you may obtain them as follows:

Write to:
 Richard Denamur
 1716 Spanish Trail
 Plano, Texas 75023

Include a list of the column numbers you want copies of, your name and address, and two first class mail stamps for each column requested. Yes, thats 22 cents per copy plus postage, but I can't print and mail for nothing. Also I can always use stamps and their more valuable than rubber checks.

Here's the program, a discussion will follow:

```
DEF START L01
REF VNBW,KSCAN,VSBW L02
STATUS EQU >837C L03
KEYADR EQU >8374 L04
KEYVAL EQU >8375 L05
START MOV R11,RETURN @ L06
LI R0,2 L07
LI R1,TEXT1 L08
LI R2,12 L09
BLWP @VNBW L10
CLR @KEYADR L11
SCAN CLR @STATUS L12
BLWP @KSCAN L13
CB @ANYKEY,@STATUS L14
```

	JME	SCAN	L15
	LI	R0,66	L16
	NOVB	@KEYVAL,R1	L17
	BLMP	@YNSB	L18
	NOVB	@KEYVAL,R1	L19
	NOVB	@KEYVAL,R2	L20
	AND1	R1,>0F00	L21
	SRL	R2,4	L22
	AND1	R2,>0F00	L23
	CI	R1,>0900	L24
	JGT	CON1	L25
	AI	R1,>3000	L26
	JMP	CON2	L27
CON1	AI	R1,>3700	L28
CON2	CI	R2,>0900	L29
	JGT	CON3	L30
	AI	R2,>3000	L31
	JMP	CON4	L32
CON3	AI	R2,>3700	L33
CON4	LI	R3,VALUE	L34
	NOVB	R2,*R3+	L35
	NOVB	R1,*R3	L36
	LI	R0,60	L37
	LI	R1,SIGN	L38
	LI	R2,4	L39
	BLMP	@YNSB	L40
	LI	R1,>0020	L41
	NOVB	@KEYVAL,R1	L42
	CI	R1,'0'	L43
	JEQ	TEST2	L44
	CI	R1,'0'	L45
	JEQ	TEST1	L46
	B	@SCAN	L47
TEST1	NOV	@FLAG,R1	L48
	CI	R1,0	L49
	JME	TEST1A	L50
	B	@SCAN	L51
TEST1A	NOV	@RETURN,R11	L52
	CLR	@STATUS	L53
	RT		L54
TEST2	NOV	@FLAG,R1	L55
	CI	R1,0	L56
	JEQ	QON	L57
QOFF	CLR	@FLAG	L58
	LI	R0,10	L59
	LI	R1,TEXT2	L60
	LI	R2,4	L61
	BLMP	@YNSB	L62
	B	@SCAN	L63
QON	INC	@FLAG	L64
	LI	R0,10	L65
	LI	R1,TEXT3	L66
	LI	R2,4	L67
	BLMP	@YNSB	L68
	B	@SCAN	L69
TEXT1	TEXT	'QUIT IS '	L70
TEXT2	TEXT	'OFF '	L71
TEXT3	TEXT	'ON '	L72
ANYKEY	DATA	>2000	L73
FLAG	DATA	>0000	L74
SIGN	TEXT	'>'	L75
VALUF	DATA	>0000	L76
RETURN	DATA	>0000	L77
	ENG		

Assemble, load and run the program. The program name is "START". When run, the message "QUIT IS OFF" will be displayed. Pressing the "Q" key will change the message to "QUIT IS ON". If "Q" is pressed while the "QUIT IS ON" message is displayed, you will exit the program. If this happens by accident, simply use option 4 of the assembly module and enter START. The program will run again.

Now, with the message "QUIT IS OFF" displayed, press any key on the console. If the key pressed is a displayable character, it will be printed to the screen, after which the HEXIDECIMAL value of the key pressed will be displayed. Note that any key combination may be pressed. That is to say: FCTN, CTRL, SHIFT and UPPER and LOWER case. This program may be used to

document the hex value of the ASCII code for any key combination pressed. Reminder: Hexidecimal and Ascii codes were discussed in columns 1 through 3. Ok, that's how to use it. Since I haven't been able to generate any question from previous columns, this and other programs presented will not contain any explanations of the code function. Questions may be sent to the address above or, via the F.L.U.G. BBS 214-321-4238. If there are enough question on a particular column, I will dedicate a future column to answering them. Else, bye.

Richard DeLamar

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By - Annie Fleetwood

I'm glad to be writing this article for the newsletter this month and I am planning to write future articles for future newsletters as well. There are two subjects I am covering in this article, the first being the membership status since the beginning of the year. The second part of my article covers membership input and participation.

As this is a new year many memberships were up for renewal and some new users have joined just recently as well. The number of members was 45 to begin the new year and we are now including more memberships each week. This club has grown in a year and a half from 8 members to this flourishing club of people--some not even from this area but living in towns and states other than ours.

To all of you--we welcome you and hope that you will enjoy your stay and learn from others in the group. To those who may not have joined--you are most welcomed and encouraged to come to our meetings or browse around the bbs--it will keep you coming back.

The beginning of this year has seen some other changes as well--like the election of a new sysop for the bbs and most important of all group participation. Much of last year saw only the creativity at meetings and on the bbs of a very "small" handful of people. This new year there are more people interested in becoming an active part of the club and I am glad to see this.

If by any chance you are still holding back then let me encourage you in some way to become involved and volunteer--there are many areas of this club that need volunteers to make it run and be interesting. We need people to do demonstrations and write articles, and there are always SIGs (special interest groups) to be helped or run. Most of all don't be shy--no one will laugh at you and no one will put you down. Even our illustrious president makes mistakes. Always remember that everyone is different and there will be times when you may not agree on something. If so, then talk to someone in the Executive committee, and then go on with the club. Don't let it stop you from growing and learning as an individual. You are important to this club as well as being an important individual and what you think does count. So be a member who contributes and shares and profits--don't just come for yourself, come to share. What you contribute may be what someone else needs.

PERIPHERAL DIAGNOSTIC MODULE

PDM-99

BY

DALE KALISER

From time to time all of us have come across a piece of software to test the 99/4A and its associated hardware. Just recently TI released such a product to the user groups. But all of them except PDM-99 require the proper functioning of your hardware in order to load the software to test your system.

Well, if your disk drive won't read a disk or your 32K isn't functioning, then how can you load the test program to indicate the nature of the malfunction? That is exactly why I like PDM-99. CorComp designed it as a plug in module to test your Disk Controller, 32K Memory Expansion and RS232 cards. The PDM is compatible with all CorComp and TI cards whether located in the PE-Bus or a stand-alone. I tried to test a Myarc card but with no success.

The purpose of the module was to easily and quickly trouble shoot your system. The kit comes with the PDM cartridge, manual and loop back plug to test the operation of the RS232 card without a printer connected. This way you can

determine if the problem exists with your card or the printer.

Installation is simple, just plug in the cartridge and select the appropriate number. I had no problem selecting the cartridge from the Horizon RAM Menu program. Once selected, you have three options: Disk Controller, 32K-Memory or RS232/P10.

The Disk Controller will test SSSD, BSSD, S500, D000 along with the Head Stop Times and drive motor speed. Once the appropriate test is selected, PDM will perform a Read/Write Test in the format selected, and let you know via the screen if a problem was encountered. The booklet includes a list of all error messages and a description of each error.

The 32K Memory Expansion Test consists of two tests: Memory Bit Check and Memory Retention Check. The first test Writes and then Reads data to all 32,768 locations in the memory. The second test also Writes data to all 32,768 locations in the expansion memory. If an error is found the address of the error is provided.

The last test available from the main menu is for the RS232 Card which consists of four tests: RS232/1 to Printer, RS232/2 to Printer, RS232/1 Loop to Printer and P10 to Printer. Each test allows for the selection of seven different baud rates with the configuration set to the standard TI default settings of 7 data, 1 stop and odd parity. While performing each test all of the keyboard characters are printed in upper and lower case. The Loop Back feature is unique in that it allows you to test the RS232 ports even if you normally use a parallel printer.

At the writing of this review, the product was available from Tenex for \$25.95. Based of PDM's speed and ease of operation I would have to rate the product as an A.

**** THE PRINTER'S APPRENTICE ****
(Version 1.03)

A Review by Steve Langguth
Ozark 99'er Users Group

REPORT CARD

Performance.....A+
Ease of Use.....B
Documentation.....B
Value.....A+
Final Grade.....A-

Cost: \$22.50

Manufacturer: McCann Software
P.O.Box 34160
Omaha, NE, 68134.

Requirements: console, monitor or TV, memory expansion, disk system, RS232 interface, Epson or Gemini printer, Extended Basic or Editor/Assembler. (TI-Artist optional but strongly recommended.)

Until recently, users of the TI 99/4A who wanted to mix text and graphics on a single full-size sheet of paper had to literally "cut and paste" to get the job done. In the past few months, however, several programs have been released that allow the computer to combine the text and graphics portions and then print an entire page with one pass of the sheet through the printer. This gives you, the 99/4A user, a new tool for creating newsletters, advertisements, announcements, fancy letters, and other projects where both text and pictures need to be on the same page. One of the most powerful of these new packages is The Printer's Apprentice from McCann Software.

The Printer's Apprentice is really a set of four separate programs, (written in Forth), which allows you to convert text files created with TI Writer (or other text editors that can save text in DF/80 format) into "text graphics" that can be integrated with "picture graphics" created by many of the "artist" programs currently available. The Character Editor allows creation

and editing of various type styles (called fonts). The Picture Editor allows you to draw pictures or to edit pictures created by other programs. The Formatter takes the text, created with a text editor, converts it into a font of your choosing, and formats it into columns of a chosen size. The files created with the formatter and the Picture Editor are then used by the Scheduler to put the text and pictures anywhere you want them on the page.

Performance

The Printer's Apprentice package comes on a "flippy" diskette. One side of the diskette contains the four programs described above. It uses "forth-style" disk access and therefore backup copies must be made using TI Disk Manager II or a "bit map" or "track" copier. The disk is not copy protected, however, and making a backup copy was done easily. (I used the bit map "disk copy" function of DM1000 to back it). The second side of the disk contains an assortment of font and picture files, some of which are used in the examples in the documentation.

The programs autload from Extended Basic or Option 3 (Load and Run) of the Editor/Assembler module. Upon loading, a menu is displayed that allows the user to choose any one of the four programs, exit to TI Forth, or exit to the TI color bars. Once a program has been loaded, the diskette can be removed and replaced with a data diskette (for those with a single drive). When you wish to leave a program, a prompt to put the program disk back in drive one appears, and once that is done you are returned to the main menu screen.

The Character Editor is similar to many sprite and character editors we have all seen. It allows you to create font characters one at a time by turning on or off squares in a grid. Text prompts at the bottom of the screen remind you of the options at all times. (The prompts are in TI Forth's "64-column" characters, and might be hard to read on some monitors or TV's.) Characters can be quickly rotated around either a vertical or horizontal axis, and can be printed out to your printer at any time to see how they look on paper. Fonts that have been created earlier can be loaded into the Character Editor for editing, and text strings can be printed out while in the Character Editor to see what the font looks like in use.

The Picture Editor is sort of a "bare bones" drawing program. It allows you to draw pictures in "bit map mode" in beautiful black or gray. More importantly, though, it lets you edit pictures created with other more powerful drawing programs. The files loaded into the Picture Editor must be the "P" portion of a TI Artist picture, but since TI Artist (version 2.0 or greater) can convert pictures drawn with other programs, files from those programs can be used, also. Once a picture file has been loaded into the Picture editor, it can be "cropped" to the size you need. This means you can use whatever portion of a picture you want. Once again, prompts appear at the bottom of the screen (in "64-column" type), and once again you can print out to a printer at any time to get a better idea what the picture will look like. When printing, you have several options of size and density from which to choose. The Picture Editor also has an option, called a "Klipper", that lets you save characters off the screen into a font file. This makes it easier to convert the various fonts available for TI Artist and the other drawing programs into the form used by The Printer's Apprentice.

The Formatter takes a text file and converts it into the font of your choice. The text can be formatted into columns of any width. The right margin can be ragged or "microjustified". There is even an option that allows you to move through the text file, as it is converted a line at a time, deciding whether you wish to hyphenate the word at the end of a line or not. Output from the Formatter can be printed out on a printer or saved to disk in a form that can be used by the Scheduler.

The Scheduler, then, takes all the various pieces and puts them together into the final product. A "schedule" is a sort of data base. You enter data into a schedule one "record" at a time. Each "record" contains the following pieces of information: the name of the file containing each "piece" (a picture file or a section containing formatted text), and the point on the page where the upper left-hand corner of that particular piece will be printed. Using a Gemini 10X printer there are 120 points per inch horizontally and 144 points per inch vertically. (Epson printers apparently have even more points to choose from in both directions.) This allows very fine control of the placement of each piece on the page. After a "record" is entered into the schedule, the program figures out for you where the bottom and right edge of that piece falls and displays those values for you. This helps you keep track of how much space is being used by each piece. The

schedule (your collection of records) can be saved to disk or "run" at any time. When a schedule is "run" the Scheduler takes all the pieces from the disk as they are needed and prints the picture or formatted text out exactly where you "told" it to do it. Pieces can "overlap", so if you want to put a "frame" around a picture, or wrap several columns of text around a picture, you can easily do it. And because each "piece" is saved separately, you can have more than one font appearing on the same page.

Along with the four programs just described, you also receive several font files of varying sizes. Two are small and appropriate for large amounts of text, other fonts are larger and can be used for headlines or where bolder type styles are needed. This saves you a lot of time because it isn't necessary to create any fonts from scratch. A small picture file is also included, but this is mainly for use in some of the examples. You will have to spend some time creating art work or use any of the many pictures available in the various "companion" sets, if you want pictures in your projects.

After all the graphics and text files have been created and the schedule has been set up, you get to see your creation printed out on your printer. But that step takes quite a long time. The Scheduler program has to check each of the various pieces on the data disk and figure out which files have portions to be printed on each line. This involves a lot of computation and disk access. The documentation suggests using a RAM-disk to store the data files, but so far I have not been able to get the program to recognize my Horizon RamDisk. Also, if the page you are creating is very complicated, all of your data files may not fit on one disk. (Version 1.04 saves formatted text in a "compressed" format, which may help with this problem, somewhat.) With two regular disk drives being used, it took me about one hour to print out the front page of my users group's newsletter. But the results were worth the time it took! (The documentation also suggests that a print buffer or spooler would help speed the printing process.)

Ease of Use

Usually, the more powerful a program is, the longer it takes to learn how to use all the possible options. Well, The Printer's Apprentice is no exception to this "rule". Each of the four separate sections has several layers of menus and prompts, and although some choices are easy to understand, others are at first a bit vague. After using the programs for a while it became much easier to get them to do what I wanted, but this isn't a program that you can just sit down and use without even having to think about what you are doing.

Page layout programs such as this for other systems such as the Macintosh or the various IBM compatibles are usually "what-you-see-is-what-you-get" setups. In other words, you design a page on the monitor screen and what you see on the monitor is what gets printed out on the page. The Printer's Apprentice, on the other hand, is a "what-you-get-is-what-you-get" type setup. You don't really know what the page is going to look like until it gets printed. Even when you plan the page layout ahead of time on graph paper, some fine adjustments in the placement of some pieces will probably need to be done. This adjusting is not difficult but because it is a "trial and error" process, it can take a lot of time and use up a lot of paper.

Documentation

The set of programs comes with 36 pages of documentation, but what is included in the first thirty pages or so is similar in content to what you find in the Editor/Assembler manual (and we know how useful THAT is as an instructional tool!). It describes each possible menu or prompt choice, but doesn't really explain how to USE each function. When trying the package out for the first time the author recommends that you go through the four "scripts" found in the back of the instruction book. I would consider this an absolute necessity! There is one "script", a sort of guided tour, for each of the four programs included in the package. By following each script along, you get shown how most of the functions available for each of the four sections works. But moving from using the scripts to creating on your own is a big step and will require a lot of referring to both the scripts and the rest of the documentation frequently at first. Unfortunately, it's sometimes difficult to find the description of the function you wish to use.

The other thing that is not addressed in the documentation is page layout "theory". There are whole books written on the subject of layout and design,

and the author of The Printer's Apprentice couldn't be expected to cover the subject in his documentation. But, if you are really serious about creating pages that look "professional" (and this set of programs gives you the power to do just that), you will want to do a little outside reading on the subject, too. Luckily, "desktop publishing" is a rapidly growing use for personal computers, so there are a lot of "how to" books available in computer bookstores these days that contain information on layout and design and lots more.

Value

At \$22.50, this set of programs is a real bargain. I am not aware of any other program for the 99/4A on the market today that allows such complete control of the mixing of text and graphics. Combine The Printer's Apprentice with TI Artist and several of the "companion" disk sets available, and you have an extremely powerful "desktop publishing" system. It takes a bit of time and effort to become comfortable with working with The Printer's Apprentice, but if you want to create pages that combine text and graphics, it will be time very well spent.

HORIZON RAMDISK UPGRADE

Courtesy of the Front Range 99ers

HORIZON RAMDISK 256K EXPANSION PROJECT
by EDWARD A. HALLETT
SOUTHWEST NINETY-NINERS

Edited by Kevin Kopus, Front Range 99ers
for use with HORIZON SOURCE CODE VER 04

The HORIZON RAMDISK is available in 90K SSSD (360 SECTOR) and 180K USSD (720 SECTOR) sizes. This project expands the size to 256K (976 SECTORS) for an increase in storage capacity of 64K (256 SECTORS) or 35.5%.

This increase is accomplished by adding one 74LS154 (4 to 16 DECODER), one 74LS07 (NOR GATE), and eight 8K 6264LP-15 STATIC RAM chips, removing one 74LS138 (3 to 8 DECODER) chip, and modifying the BSR CODE to recognize the existence of the added memory. The original HORIZON RAMDISK CIRCUIT does not fully decode one of the five memory address lines from U9 limiting it to 180 K. By fully decoding this line we pick up eight more CHIP SELECT SIGNALS bringing us up to 256K (976 SECTORS). This utilizes the original design to its fullest potential with only a few SIMPLE MODIFICATIONS.

CAUTION: THIS MODIFICATION IS UNDERTAKEN AT YOUR OWN RISK AND MAY VOID YOUR HORIZON WARRANTY

CAUTION: REMOVE THE NICAD BATTERIES FROM THE RAMDISK BEFORE STARTING. USE CARE WHEN HANDLING THE RAM CHIPS TO AVOID DAMAGE FROM STATIC.

1. Remove U1, the original 3 TO 8 DECODER CHIP, from its socket and DISCARD.
2. Remove the EIGHT PIGGYBACKED PAIRS of 8K RAM CHIPS from their sockets U3-U6 and U12-U16.
3. Remove U2, the original 4 TO 16 DECODER, from its socket.
4. Remove U10, the original NOR GATE, from its socket.
5. Install a THIRD ADDITIONAL 8K RAM CHIP PIGGYBACKED on top of the

removed PIGGYBACKED PAIRS of 8K RAM CHIPS connecting EACH PIN to its CORRESPONDING PIN below with the EXCEPTION of PIN 20 (CHIP SELECT). BEND PIN 20 outward like PIN 20 on the CHIP below it. Reinstall these EIGHT PIGGYBACKED TRIPS into their sockets (U3-U6 and U12-U13) and RECONNECT the ORIGINAL lines from PIN 20 of the CENTER CHIPS to their ORIGINAL POINT on the EXPANSION JACK next to U3.

6. Install the ADDITIONAL 4 TO 16 DECODER CHIP (74LS154) PIGGYBACKED on top of the ORIGINAL 4 TO 16 DECODER CHIP, U2. Connect PIN 12 and PINS 20 THRU 24 to their corresponding PINS below. Bend PINS 1 THRU 11 and PINS 13 THRU 19 OUTWARD. Reinstall the PIGGYBACK PAIR of 4 TO 16 DECODERS in its U2 socket. Connect lines from the UPPER CHIP PINS 1 THRU 8 as follows:

PIN 1 TO U1 SOCKET PIN 15.
 PIN 2 TO U1 SOCKET PIN 14.
 PIN 3 TO U1 SOCKET PIN 13.
 PIN 4 TO U1 SOCKET PIN 12.
 PIN 5 TO U1 SOCKET PIN 11.
 PIN 6 TO U1 SOCKET PIN 10.
 PIN 7 TO U1 SOCKET PIN 9.
 PIN 8 TO U1 SOCKET PIN 7.

These provide the CHIP SELECT SIGNALS to the ORIGINAL (CENTER LAYER) of 8K RAM CHIPS.

Connect lines from the UPPER CHIP PINS 9 THRU 11 and 13 THRU 17 as follows:

PIN 9 TO PIN 20 U3 TOP 8K CHIP.
 PIN 10 TO PIN 20 U4 TOP 8K CHIP.
 PIN 11 TO PIN 20 U5 TOP 8K CHIP.
 PIN 13 TO PIN 20 U6 TOP 8K CHIP.
 PIN 14 TO PIN 20 U12 TOP 8K CHIP.
 PIN 15 TO PIN 20 U13 TOP 8K CHIP.
 PIN 16 TO PIN 20 U14 TOP 8K CHIP.
 PIN 17 TO PIN 20 U15 TOP 8K CHIP.

These provide the CHIP SELECT SIGNALS to the ADDITIONAL EIGHT 8K RAM CHIPS (TOP LAYER)

7. Install a new NOR GATE (74LS02) PIGGYBACKED on top of the ORIGINAL NOR GATE, U10. Connect PINS 2, 7, and 14 to the CORRESPONDING PINS below. BEND PINS 1, 3 THRU 6, and 8 THRU 13 outward. Reinstall the PIGGYBACKED PAIR of NOR GATES in its U10 socket. Connect LINES from the UPPER CHIP as follows:

PIN 1 TO PINS 18 AND 19 U2 UPPER CHIP.
 PIN 3 TO U1 SOCKET PIN 6.

These provide the CHIP SELECT SIGNAL for U2 UPPER 4 TO 16 DECODER CHIP thus fully decoding the available MEMORY ADDRESS LINES.

PINS 4 THRU 6 and PINS 8 THRU 13 of the UPPER NOR GATE U10 are not used and are left NOT connected. They may be used in future modifications.

This completes the HARDWARE modifications to the RAMDISK CARD. Next the DSR SOFTWARE must be modified so that this ADDITIONAL MEMORY can be accessed.

Software Modifications updated to Ver_04 by Kevin Kapus

The original DSR CODE, CALL SUBPROGRAMS, ETC. are located in RACKS 90-92 at the top of the RAMDISK MEMORY MAP. The MODIFIED RAMDISK MEMORY MAP now extends to RACK 124 and the DSR must be moved to the new top, in RACKS 122-124.

NOTE: IF THE CODE IS NOT MOVED IT WILL BE ERASED WHEN THE RAMDISK IS INITIALIZED TO MORE THAN 720 SECTORS.

The changes to the CODE consist of changing ALL REFERENCES for the three upper 2K blocks of memory to a NEW LOCATION, changing the LOADER PROGRAMS to LOAD the NEW CODE at the NEW LOCATION, changing the MAX SECTOR CALL, and MAX SECTOR CALL, and modifying the FORMAT ROUTINE of

the DSR.

Luckily, this is much EASIER than it might appear since the SOURCE CODE for the HORIZON RAMDISK was provided with the KIT and is very well Documented!

The following PROGRAMS will need to be modified and then REASSEMBLED with the EDITOR-ASSEMBLER. CALL/S, CREATE/S, LOADER/S, PARTA, SVXB/S, and XB/S.

1. CALL/S
Change "CI R2,1441" to "CI R2,977" at LABEL MAX02.
2. LOADER/S
Change "DATA >B000" to "DATA >FB00" at LABEL LINK.
Change "BYTE >BB" to "BYTE >FB" at LABEL MXL1.
Change "BYTE >BD" to "BYTE >FB" at LABEL MXL2.
Change "BYTE >BF" to "BYTE >FF" at LABEL MXL3.
3. PARTA
Change "DATA 720" to "DATA 976" at LABEL MAXSEC.
Change "DATA 720" to "DATA 976" at LABEL FORSEC.
Change "DATA >B000" to "DATA FB00" at LABEL LINK1.
Change "DATA >B000" to "DATA FB00" at LABEL LINK2.
Change "DATA >BF00" to "DATA FF00" at LABEL LINK3.
Add the LINES "C R0,1441" and "JEQ FFDONE" after the LINE "INC R0" (fourth LINE after LABEL FHTLPI.)
Add the LINE "FFDONE MOV R0,R3" after the LINE "JNE FHTLPO" (sixth LINE after LABEL FHTLPI.)
4. SVXB/S
CHANGE "LI R1,>BF00" TO "LI R1;FF00" (FOURTH LINE after LABEL SVXB.)
5. XB/S
CHANGE "CI R2,1441" to "CI R2,977" at LABEL MAX02.

Reassemble CALL/S, LOADER/S, SVXB/S and XB/S to create NEW OBJECT FILES. ASSEMBLE the ORIGINAL FILES "CHAR/S" and "DOWNLD/S" from the HORIZON SOURCE DISK.

Type in the following program with the Editor Assembler.

```
COPY "DSK1.PARTA"
COPY "DSK1.PARTB"
COPY "DSK1.PARTC"
COPY "DSK1.PARTD"
COPY "DSK1.PARTE"
```

Assemble this file, use DSR256 as the object file, with the R option.

Next RUN the "LOADER" program assembled from "LOADER/S" to LOAD the following:

```
"DSR256" into BLOCK 1.
"CALL" from the assembled FILE "CALL/S" into BLOCK2.
"CHAR" from the assembled FILE "CHAR/S" into BLOCK 3.
"DOWNLD" from the assembled FILE "DOWNLD/S" into BLOCK 3.
```

Now RUN this BASIC program.

```
100 CALL INIT
110 CALL LOAD("DSK1.XB")
120 CALL LOAD("DSK1.SVXB")
130 CALL LINK("SVXB")
140 END
```

NOTE: The RAMDISK MUST be set CRU 1000 for the SVXB program to work as it does NOT search for the HORIZON CARD CRU like the other programs do. If you have another CARD at CRU 1000 (like the MTRC 120K or 512 K CARD) you can change the sixth LINE of the "SVXB/S" FILE from the "LI R12,1000" to "LI R12,(CRU of your HORIZON CARD)".

The modified DSR CODE, CALL SUBPROGRAMS ETC. are now LOADED in

their NEW locations in RACKS 122 THRU 124.

This completes the BSR modifications. All functions of the HORIZON RAMDISK will function as they did originally but now being able to UTILIZE 976 SECTORS (256K).

Editors Note: The VER_04 MENTEST I have will not work. Use Disk Manager II's comprehensive test to check your upgraded ramdisk.

When formatting the 976 SECTOR RAMDISK will show "974 SECTORS FREE" and "466 SECTORS USED". This is because the DISKMANAGER is trying to format 1440 SECTORS and reads 466 USED during SECTOR VERIFICATION. This does not affect RAMDISK OPERATION in any way, but it can be corrected to show "974 SECTORS FREE" and "2 SECTORS USED" by changing BYTES 10 and 11 of SECTOR 0 from >05A0 to >0300. The following program is used to correct the SECTORS FORMATTED number.

```

DEF START
SECTOR DATA >03D0
START LI R12,>1000 (CRU OF YOUR CARD)
LI R1,7
SMPB R1
LDCR R1,8
MOV @SECTOR, @>580A
SBZ 0
RT
END START
    
```

This completes the HORIZON RAMDISK 256K EXPANSION PROJECT for VER_04.

If you have questions concerning this expansion project you can send them to Kevin Kapus, 1026 Norwood Ave., Colorado Springs CO 80906, or phone (303) 576-3199 or contact Edward A. Hallett, 5600 S. Countryclub #64, Tucson AZ 85706. Phone (602) 889-6936.

IBM COMPATIBILITY FOR THE 99/4A

By - Craig Miller - HG

Technical Info:

1. Two part system. A TURBO XT and a small bridge box that connects to the side I/O port on your 4A.
2. The TURBO XT is an 8 Mhz, 4.77 Mhz (switchable) mother board, power supply, XT style case, CGA color graphics card (both RGB and Composite), Floppy Disk controller 1 half high DS/80 disk drive, Parallel port and 256K of Ram on the mother board. The mother board has sockets for up to 640K of ram. There are 8 expansion slots, two of which are used by the CGA card and the Floppy disk controller.
3. The bridge box has inputs for 4A Video in, XT Video in and outputs for XT Keyboard out and Monitor out. It also contains the software for Keyboard switching between 4A mode and XT mode and the software to convert the 4A key strokes into XT keycodes. It also has a pass through so you can keep your P-Box or other Periphs hooked up.
4. Mode switching from 4A to XT can be done through Basic or X-Basic with CALL XT or by holding down FCTN CTRL ENTER on power up of the 4A.
5. Mode switching from XT to 4A is done by pressing FCTN CTRL ENTER.
6. The ONLY items shared by the two systems are the 4A keyboard and your current monitor or TV. Yes you can get 80 columns out of a composite monitor, but it is easiest to read with the color turned off in 80 mode. The XT allows MODE 40 which also gives you 40 column mode. Graphics programs, such as games and drawing programs work fine in 80 column and most other software that doesn't combine weird foreground and background text colors are also quite readable.
7. By not sharing the disk drives it is possible to do concurrent processing on the XT. Example: Go into XT mode, start up your

COMMUNICATIONS software, log on to a DOS and start a down load. Now you can switch modes back to the 4A and do whatever you would like in 4A mode while the XT is still down loading from the DOS!!.

6. We have tested this system on a number of 4A system configurations and have found it to be very compatible. Since it is an IBM clone it is also fully compatible with both IBM software and IBM HARDWARE. Yes, you can add ANY IBM cards you would like to the system.
9. The minimum 4A system requirements: A TI 99/4A console and a monitor or a TV set with RF modulator.

General Info:

1. This system is being marketed by Triton Products Company in San Francisco, CA. They are also handling the production of the bridge boxes and they have contracted for the Turbo XT clones to their specifications.
2. The system has a 30 DAY money back guarantee and a 1 YEAR parts and labor warranty.
3. The cost for this system (Turbo XT, Bridge box and cables) is 499.00 plus 19.90 for shipping and handling.
4. Their toll free number for additional info and/or a 6 page 4 color brochure on this system is 800-227-6900, Monday through Friday - 6AM to 6PM and Saturday 9AM to 4PM, Pacific Time. PLEASE DON'T CALL THEM UNTIL MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 1987 FOR TECHNICAL INFO OR QUESTIONS. You can call before then to get a brochure. The people that answer the phones are going through a training course this week so they won't be able to properly answer your questions until then.
5. Delivery is scheduled to start on March 1st of this year.

We have been using this system for awhile now and we are very pleased with its performance. This isn't vaporware, ALL RD, testing and software is complete and the units are ready for production, so the March time frame is a reality.

At last, a MAJOR expansion for the 4A. We hope you are as pleased with this product as you have been with our other products in the past. As the Triton Brochure says:

MAKE THE IBM CONNECTION TO YOUR TI99/4A
-----HG-----

DALLAS TI FAIRE-MORE NEWS AND...

By - Richard A. Fleetwood

Many of you readers have seen in the last few issues of this newsletter some mention of a possible TI-only Swap meet or TI Faire to be held here in the Dallas area some time in the near future. I have been mentioning it at every possible opportunity to try and get as much feedback as possible, so that I could gauge the response, and see if that interest would support actually planning one and making it happen. I have been asking not only local TI users, but many contacts I have out of town, who might be interested in attending such a meet if it was to be held. The feedback I have gotten from all I have asked has been very positive.

However, I know that there are many of you out there reading this who say, "Why do we need to have something like this happen here, and who would do all the work for it, not to mention provide the money to sponsor it?"

Let me answer this three part question one part at a time. First, I'll answer the WHY. I have several reasons why we SHOULD (with ME standing for not only the FLUG users group, but the DITHCG, the MET99ers from Tarrant County, and several other users groups from north Texas, and for that fact, all Texas users groups) have a TI Faire here in Dallas, the home town of the Company that made our orphaned computer.

- 1.) I want to bring together all local users groups for the simple reason

that we could see what all groups would have to offer to the public, and to let everyone meet each other in person. This would lead to new friendships being formed, more exchange of information, and lots of future possibilities if things went well the first time.

2.) I want to bring into town for at least one occasion all of the well known names in the TI community-names that we have only heard about or seen in magazines, names that we've seen on opening screens of the best programs, people who have made owning a 99/4a the best investment we have ever made. These people come from all corners of the U.S., and would make the trip to visit us just because that want to MEET US!! I've talked to dozens of people from out of state who are interested in coming to Dallas-Scott Darling(SysOp of the GENIE TI Roundtable), Jeff Guide(Owner of Disk Only Software, and SysOp of DELPHI's TI SIG), Craig Miller of Millers Graphics fame (He will come IF we DO make it a multi-user group sponsored event, according to Scott Darling), Cynthia Becker, from the Boston Computer Society, Jim Horn(SysOp of the COMPUSERVE TI Forum), as well as many more TI users. With just this small list of names, we could draw others like Lou Phillips of SXARC, John Koleon, publisher of Micropendium, and literally hundreds of others that we have yet to meet.

3.) The third, and biggest reason, I have for holding a TI Faire here in Dallas would be to draw out of the woodwork those people who have had 99/4a consoles stashed in their closets for the past several years, never taking them out because that did not know what the machine could do. There must be THOUSANDS of owners of neglected consoles here in the greater Dallas area who would be curious to see the latest developments, the latest software, the latest hardware, or just see that the 99/4a is REALLY USEFUL! If these people knew about the vast quantity of things available for the computer, they would PROBABLY become USERS of their computer, and then would be likely to join one of the users groups in the area, so they could continue to learn after the fact. They would be able to meet representatives from all the local users groups at this faire, and also be able to expand their systems and knowledge to make it worthwhile.

These three reasons are the WHY of why I think we should go for it. I want everyone who reads this to think about it and decide for themselves what reasons they would have FOR or AGAINST such a faire. How many people do YOU know who own a computer, who would pass up a chance to learn as much as possible about their brand of computer if such an even came about, or had the chance to happen? It could be a once in a lifetime thing, or it could be the start of a yearly happening---but whatever it is, it needs YOUR support.

And SPEAKING of support, to get back to the original question, who would do all the work for such a faire if it came into existence? Why, isn't it obvious? USERS of the computer would be needed to help with all the preparation, all the labor, all the planning, and all the FUN. And where's a good place to find users? Where else....USERS GROUPS....but not just one users group....what about ALL the local users groups? What about getting volunteers from each group to volunteer for particular jobs that would be needed? We'd need people to man the ticket counter at the front door, people to set systems up, run demonstrations, sit at a table and sign people up for membership in the various users groups, sell disks out or our libraries, direct traffic, provide security for the whole faire, answer questions, set up tables, help vendors, clean up, make signs, help with publicity....the list goes on. It will take dozens of volunteers to really pull it off. It will also take a COMMITTEE of delegates from each users group to set up everything, decide what needs to be done, and generally plan the whole faire, making sure that everything that needs to get done GETS DONE. To promote, sponsor, and pull off an event of this proportion takes MORE than one person....it takes TEAMWORK! It takes SEVERAL responsible people to sit down, discuss, speak for their group, and pull together to make an event that could help so many other people happy, happen.

I want the Dallas TI Home Computer Group and the Northeast Tarrant County 99er Users groups to consider this article to be a proposal from the FOREST LANE TI USERS GROUP to think about, and decide, if they would like to join us in sponsoring a DALLAS TI FAIRE, to be held tentatively this fall, at a location yet to be located. I would like to offer to meet at a date in the next month or two, delegated representatives from each users group to discuss the merits, and problems, of sponsoring and making happen, this faire. I have already contacted BARB WEIDENHOLD, of the Seattle users group, about getting information derived

from actually holding the SEATTLE TI FAIRE last September. She has already mailed me some literature which I should receive shortly, that will help to guide this committee around any problems that might occur. I am also mailing out requests for information to the promoters of the CHICAGO TI FAIRE, the NEW ENGLAND TI FAIRE, the LA 99ERS TI FAIRE, and any other group that I can contact who has had experience with this type of event. I will keep all interested parties posted with all info I receive.

Please send all correspondence, literature, offers of help, or questions to me at the FLUG's PO Box. Below is the address. I will attempt to do everything I can to bring together whatever it takes to make the FIRST DALLAS TI FAIRE a reality. Please help if you can.

Richard A. Fleetwood-C/O FLUG-P.O. Box 743005-Dallas, Texas-75240

BASIC PROGRAMMER NEEDED

The FLUG is in need of an individual to provide for the club a monthly column in the club newsletter on how to program in BASIC. We have several new members, as well as readers outside the club, who could put any information provided to good use. BASIC is not difficult to learn, but you have to provide a starting point and lots of helpful hints to enable non-programmers to understand what it takes to learn it.

The individual who steps in to fill this void in the club must be able to describe step by step how to use the different commands found in TI BASIC or EXTENDED BASIC, and give short programming examples that explain what is going on within each command.

If you would be willing to write a monthly column for us, and if you would be available to answer questions pertaining to BASIC or EXTENDED BASIC programming, then contact Richard Fleetwood or Jimmy Carson. You will be providing a VALUABLE service to our club and to the TI community in general.

Thanks

Richard Fleetwood

PART TWO - FLUG TIBBS HELP - MAIN MENU

By - Richard A. Fleetwood

Last month I tried to show you how easy it is to log onto the FLUG TIBBS. I gave you a tour of all the menus available from the main menu. You probably noticed that we do offer quite a bit of information to all users, even for those who may not necessarily be paying members. I also covered a little bit the essence of the access levels and what each level offers users.

This month I will provide you with the online HELP file that is available by pressing the ? key while at the main menu. It explains in detail how to access some of the major portions of the FLUG TIBBS. If something is mentioned that you still don't quite understand, all you have to do is ASK! There are many help files available throughout the TIBBS program besides the main menu. We have a help file for READING messages, WRITING messages, UPLOADING programs, and DOWNLOADING programs, both in XMODEM protocol and TELI protocol, and then we even have a help file in my creation the ASCII ARCHIVES.

Next time you log onto the TIBBS, check out the various help files in the different areas-you might find something interesting that you didn't know before.

TIBBS MAIN MENU HELP

A-ASCII ARCHIVES

A special section unique to the FLUG TIBBS. This option contains a large

selection of Text files that you may either read while online or download via XMODEM protocol.

B-BULLETINS
Read the SysOp bulletin.

C-CHAT With Richard
Page the System Operator. If he is around, he will answer. Occasionally he may interrupt you to say hello personally, because he really is a nice person!

E-ENTER a Message
Place a message into any of the data bases on this TIBBS.

F-FILE TRANSFERS
Terminal Emulator II and XMODEM file transfers are supported for TI 99/4A Computers. Non-TI computers may upload via xmodem if they wish(ASCII or BASIC programs only, please). All uploads must be followed by a description of the file uploaded.

G-GOODBYE
Disconnect from TIBBS. Please use this route to leave the board. Users who just stop carrier or pull the plug may find their level lowered the next time they call.

H-HOME CURSOR/CLEAR SCREEN
This function lets you decide which way you like to receive data to your screen. If you toggle Clear/Home -ON- then at various places thruout the FLUG TIBBS, your screen will clear and your cursor will move to the upper left hand corner. This function is a unique and quite different method of seeing everything in a different light-almost like going to a totally new board each time it resets. I'll be adding the programming to TIBBS that will keep your last setting in your user file until the next time you decide to change it.

H-MISC. STATS.
Your (and the system's) status.

M-NEWSLETTER -- Sub board
This multiple section area is filled with useful text files on all kinds of TI subjects imaginable. Local Bulletin Boards, hardware, software, TI news, 99ONLINE magazine--and much more!

O-OTHER TIBBS
A long list of TI bulletin boards from all over the country.

P-PASSWORD CHANGE
Allows you to change your 1-4 character password.

R-READ/SCAN MESSAGES
This TIBBS allows you to read or scan any or all messages. Advance to the next message with the touch of a finger. While reading messages, you have several ACTIVE keys. If you hold

down the N key while msgs. are printing out, you will be advanced to the next message instantly. Holding down the A key will abort you out of the message base back to the A,F,R,I,N prompt. S (Control-S) and Q respectively will STOP and START printout if you get behind in your reading. After a message is printed to the screen, you have the option to (A)abort,(N)ext, (R)eply to the message, or (D)on't Stop, for non-stop message reading. Pressing one of these keys or any other key will continue.

S-SCREEN COLOR CHANGE
Change your screen color while online. For TEL users only!!

U-USERLIST
Contains a list of all users of the FLUG TIBBS and if they are paid members, it lists their expiration date.

V-V.I.P. - Sub board
The menu for the VIP section of the FLUG TIBBS. Only paid up ASSOCIATE MEMBERS and FLUG MEMBERS may access this portion of the board.

X-XPRT MODE ON/OFF TOGGLE
Expert mode suppresses most menus-A real time saver once you get the hang of things.

?-HELP!!!
The file you are now reading.

Many other prompts on the FLUG TIBBS contain help files, so if you get lost at any time, just press ? and you should find some help.

There you have it! I'll bet you didn't know everything above, did you! As changes are made to the system, or to the main menu, this file will be updated to show how to access the new feature, and describe more about it for you.

Next month I'll cover the Message Base of the FLUG TIBBS, showing you several interesting messages, how to answer and leave mail for other users, and how to modify a message while you are writing it.

If you are having any problems with any portion of the TIBBS, and need special help in some area, or would just like to get some hands on experience, then let us know. The JUNE 1987 meeting will be set aside specifically to cover the TIBBS, some other database systems, and various software packages that allow you to use your TI 99/4A as a Terminal to connect to the outside world.

Please forward all questions about the above or the TIBBS or Terminal Emulator software to me, either thru the TIBBS, the PO Box of the club, or at the meeting.

Til next time, we'll be watching for you on the boards...

-raf-

