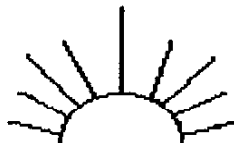# Vol.8 No.05   May 1990

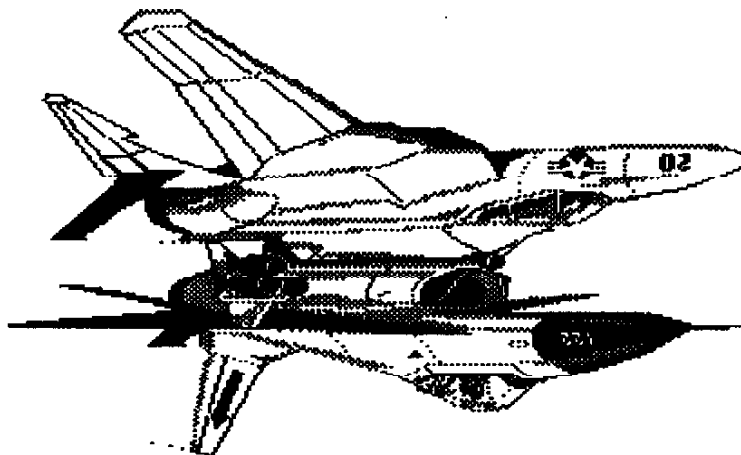## NH NEW HORIZONS

NEWS LETTER

NORTHWEST OHIO COMPUTER CLUB FOR THE TEXAS INSTRUMENTS 99/4A

AND THE MYARC GENEVE 9640 PERSONAL AND HOME COMPUTER

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Group. Material may be reproduced without permission provided that the Author
and the source are Acknowledged. For more information consult one of the
following officers: Yearly Dues $15.00 per Family or Individual...........
  THIS MONTHS MEETING MAY.12,1990 SATURDAY AT UNITY CHURCH 12:30 PM.
       Behind Wendy's off Secor Road on Executive Dr.

Are you sure these puppies will land on Executive Dr.?

PRESIDENT'S CORNER
Bill Tiep

It's getting warmer and harder to stay inside to play with our computers, let me asure you it is worth it. Coming up this month is the Lima computer Conference. Which is the main event in this area related to the 99/4A. For more more information on this please come to the meeting.

Which brings me to the the date of our meeting , NEW HORIZION TI MEETING WILL BE 12, May 1990, at UNITY CHURCH, AT 12:30 PM AS USUAL. Bring thoughts , and questions, and anything else you may wish to express to the club.

The club disk will be 2 or 3 disks. Harrison software of classical music,another of games, and third of some utility programs by Roger Feinauer which he put togather. As usual Micropendium will be on sell at the disk table.

One other item how many of you bother to check whats available in the club, Software and Newsletter Library's Burr Mallory, John, and Chris Dewey would like to see more use of there services.

Next month June's meeting will be the last meeting before summer break. Do we want to do somthing special?? With this I will close till June.

THE NEW HORIZONS COMPUTER CLUB

EDITOR

Well May is upon us and I won't bother you with too much. On the newsletter this month will be more information then anything else. First off I have included a great deal of information on the Lima meeting. There are a fue pages on a down load of whats up with the Myarc Pascal Runtime, and a Survey by Roger Brittain.

One good item I have going for me is that my Geneve is running and well. I feel good about this as it died back in June of 89, almost 11 months. What was found was a regulator chip was marginal. The regulator works like a safty valve to drop off the current if the system over heats or gets to much current. Which is wonderful if they work right, but when they are marginal, as in my case turn the current on sometimes and other times it don't, but a lot better then replacing a couple hundred dallars in chips. Total cost $10 for the regulator, and I paid the person who did it for me $20. Don't ask who did it as I promised him I would't.

With this I will have to go. I promised this month I would have some articles on disk controllers but I will save this for June newsletter till then see you : Roger Feinauer, 166 S. Mckenzie St., Adrian, MI. 49221.

TI MULTI USER GROUP CONFERENCE - FINAL UPDATE

Reed Hall (formarly Student Activities Bldg)

Ohio State University Lima Campus

Lima Ohio

SCHEDULE OF MAIN EVENTS:

Friday May 25.   Setup and disk copying from the Lima UG software library 6-9PM. If you are arriving from out of town Friday evening, come join us to help of just for fellowship.

Saturday May 26.

Doors open 7:30AM.

First formal presentation 8:30AM

Formal presentations end no later than 6PM.

Cleanup 6-8PM.

Dutch Treat pizza party at local restaurant 8PM till?

FORMAL PRESENTATION SCHEDULE:

These will be in two different rooms with staggered 1/2 hour starting times using mostly one hour time blocks.

Room 160
9:00AM- Gary Bowser (O.P.A.): "Latest hardware and software from OPA."
10:00AM- Jim Horn (Disk Only Software): "How to give away computers."
11:00AM- Bruce Harrison (Harrison Software): "The secrets of assembly language music programming for the TI."
Noon-   User group officers meeting, a discussion of common problems.
1:00PM- Bud Mills (Bud Mills Services): "The latest hardware from DMS."
2:00PM- Gary Taylor (Pittsburgh User Group): "A demo of TI's Compact Computer 40, TI's Hex Bus peripherals, and the Mechatronics HexBus disk drive."
3:00PM- Chris Bobbitt (Asgard): "The Asgard mouse and other neat and new stuff from Asgard."
4:00PM- Barry Traver: Title to be announced.
5:00PM- Maybe an additional last minute presentation by someone. One hour is available. Any takers?

Room 150

    8:30AM- Andy Frueh (Lima Ohio User Group): "Home Filer
v2.2 and other original fairware."
    9:00AM- Charles Good (Lima Ohio User Group): "A
preview of FUNNELWEB version 4.3"
    9:30AM- Barry Traver: "How XB programmers can easily
use assembly in their XB programs."
    10:30AM- Chris Bobbitt (Asgard): "The latest software
from Asgard."
    11:30AM- Paul Scheidemantle (P&&A Software): "A demo of
PAGE PRO v1.5 and some of the graphic utilities designed for
use with PAGE PRO."
    1:30PM- Carl Romstedt (C.O.N.N.I.): "Some original
label utilities in XB.
    2:30PM- Gene Chandler (Great Lakes Software): "The
latest software projects from Great Lakes Software."
    3:30PM- Irwin Hott (C.O.N.N.I): "Using AL SAVE"
    4:30PM- Bill Hudson (C.O.N.N.I.): "A fast assembly
langage PreScan for XB programs."
    5:00PM- There is one hour of possible presentation
time still unscheduled. Any takers?
    VENDOR TABLES IN THE EXHIBIT AREA:
    ASGARD: extensive inventory of original software and
hardware, and a magazine.
    WAS CONTROLS: (William A. Shores) offering kits that
allow you to add up to 5 groms to a standard extended basic
cartridge.
    GENIAL COMPUTERWARE: offering subscriptions and back
issues of the GENIAL TRAVelER magazine on a disk.
    TIGERCUB SOFTWARE: offering original software and
very inexpensive disks of public domain software. New
additions to TIGERCUB's PD software library will be
available.
    P&&A SOFTWARE: offering original software by Paul
Scheidemantle.
    HARRISON SOFTWARE: THE HARRISON WORD PROCESSOR, and
disks annotated of classical music programmed in assembly.
    DISK ONLY SOFTWARE: representing MYARC INC. and the
Geneve computer.
    BUD MILLS SERVICES: Horizon Ramdisks, PGRAM cards,
and MEMEX memory expansion cards for the Geneve.
    OASIS PENSIVE ABACUTORS (OPA): original software and
hardware, including RAMBO for the Horizon Ramdisk, a "review
module library" multi cartridge peripheral, and DISKODEX for
indexing your disk library complete with DSKU comments.
    L.L. CONNER ENTERPRISES: a general dealer in TI and
third party hardware and software.
    RAMCHARGED COMPUTER: another general dealer in TI and
third party hardware and software.
    GREAT LAKES SOFTWARE: original assembly language
software.
    COMPODINE: original software by Rodger Merritt will
be available at the Kawarthia 99er table.

USER GROUP TABLES IN THE EXHIBIT AREA:

The following user groups have reserved table space.
Most will have stuff for sale, mainly used hardware and
original software. Members of other user groups (including
groups from Macon GA, Akron OH, Champaign IL, and Lower
Burrell PA, to name a few) here have told us that they too
will attend. These other groups have decided not to request
table space.

```
Cin-Day UG..................Cincinnati and Dayton Ohio

Great Lakes UG..............Detroit Michigan area

C.O.N.N.I.  ................Columbus Ohio

Northcoast UG and TI-Chips..Cleveland Ohio area

Erie UG.....................Erie Pennsylvania

The Fort's UG...............Fort Wayne Indiana

New Horizon's UG............Toledo Ohio

OH-MI-TI UG.................Toledo Ohio and SE Michigan

Hoosier UG..................Indianapolis Indiana

Pittsburgh UG...............Pittsburgh Pennsylvania

St. Louis UG................St. Louis Missouri

Kawarthia UG................Peterborough Ontario Canada

Lima Ohio UG................Guess where?
```

```
5 ! IF YOU NEED MORE INPUTS
  THEN 300 CHANGE THE 300 IN
THE PROGRAM AT BOTH PLACES
TO WHAT YOU NEED.
7 !TO ENTER LINE 10 TYPE
  UNTILL YOU GET TO THE END
 OF THE EDITOR BUFFER PRESS
 ENTER THEN FNCT 8 AND CON-
 TINUE ENTERING PROGRAM LINE
9 CALL CLEAR ! BY
          GINO COSTA
          CLUB 99
          ATTLEBORO. MA
  +++++++++++++++++++++++++
10 DIM A(300):: INPUT "ENTER
#"&STR$(I)&"? ":A(I):: C=C+A
(I):: FOR J=0 TO I-1 :: PRIN
T A(J);"+";:: NEXT J :: PRIN
T A(I):"/";I+1;"=";C/(I+1)::
  INPUT "MORE?(N=NO)":A$ :: I
F A$="N" OR I=300 THEN END E
LSE I=I+1 :: PRINT :: GOTO 1
0
```

Fortunately the computer virus did
no harm to our records. It was immediately
devoured by all the bugs in our programming.

Vietor's   **FUNNY BUSINESS**

"See? There it is again."

VIDEO TAPES OF FORMAL PRESENTATIONS:

All formal presentations will be video taped simultaneously using a video camera to show the presentor and a second VCR to show the monitor screen by recording output directly from the computer. From these duel masters, an edited version of all formal presentations will be made available to ANY user group (even those not attending the MUG conference), to any dealer attending the conference, and to those individuals who give the presentations. This edited version will include about 16 hours of viewing. Those groups, dealers, etc. who want a set of these video tapes should leave $15 (which includes postage) OR three VHS tapes and $3 postage at the Lima UG table, or send us your check for $15. Those groups leaving three VHS tapes and $3 at the Lima table should make sure that your tapes and money are CLEARLY MARKED with your group's name and return address. The Lima UG will copy your tapes and send them back to you 4th class mail. This offer is not extended to individuals unless they are paid members of the Lima OH User Group (hint hint).

COPYING DISKS FROM THE LIMA UG SOFTWARE LIBRARY:

A representative of ANY user group can make disk copies of any and all software that has been added to the Lima UG software library since the last MUG conference in May 1989. This privilege is extended to UR representatives only and not to individuals (except individuals who are paid members of the Lima UG). There are 179 such new library software disks, all flippies. Commented listings of the contents of each side of each flippy are being sent with this newsletter to all user groups

known to be likely to attend the Conference.

We want to try to avoid the waiting for disk copies that occurred at last year's MUG Conference, so we have expanded the times copying will be available and the number of systems available for copying. One set of our library disks and one system will be available for copying Friday evening during setup from 6-9PM. Two sets of our library disks and two systems will be available all day Saturday at the Lima table to allow you to make your copies. Almost everything in the library is in SSSD format. BRING YOUR OWN BLANK DISKS with you when you arrive at the show. Some dealers may be selling blank disks, but the Lima UG will not have blank disks available.

In order to conserve the Lima UG's limited manpower, all disk copying this year will be self service. User group representatives will sit down at our systems and make the copies themselves. REDISKIT and TURBO COPY will be the copy programs in use. These are both rapid whole disk copy programs that do not require preinitialized copy disk. Members of the Lima UG will be available to explain how the copy programs work and to assist with the operation of our copying hardware, but visiting user group representatives are RESPONSIBLE FOR TAKING THE NECESSARY TIME to make their own disk copies from our software library.

"This was approx. in Nov. of 1989"

Sysops note: This file is a CIS conference, and downloaded from that service. It contains much good info for all Geneve owners.

(1-3,Jim Horn) Ok, folks going formal. Who has the first question? No statement.
(1-2,CB) ?
(1-3,Jim Horn) Go ahead, CB. Eli asked for no opening comments
(1-2,CB) ok...just wanted to know about software status/support for Geneve add Myarc at this time.
(1-8,Eli) ok...I will try to answer at some length to anticipate further questions....
(1-8,ELI) Some time ago (SOME time ago!) Myarc contacted Pecan regarding a port of the p-System to the Geneve. They opted to take out a license to distribute the P-System runtime, but to do the port themselves. Their object code license was duly paid for when executed. Per our agreement (NOT part of the license) we sent Myarc relevant 99/4 sources for the machine-specific parts of the system object code for the machine independent part of the system, and relevant documentation. Myarc was entitled to the same support any licensee was entitled to... a certain period at no charge, payment for the further support... "Support", incidentally, means answering general questi ons about the... Power System and its functions. Since Myarc opted to do the port themselves... support obviously does not include handing us a piece of their code... and saying "why doesn't this work".... we have, however, answered such questions on a number o f occasions on... a consulting basis (ie. we were paid for our time)... As to why the port has taken so long, especially given that Myarc... has the 99/4 sources, I can only say that you're asking the wrong person... Similar ports have been done for different machines and operating systems... in far less time — and not only inhouse at Pecan, but also by others... working independently. ga

[75116,2373] (1-4,JimR) .
[74716,3525] (1-11,JerryC) ?
[76703,603] (1-3,Jim Horn) ga jimR
[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) I am saying that Pecan is not the cause of the delay, and I don't know the cause of the delay. ga
[76703,603] (1-3,Jim Horn) ga jimr
[75116,2373] (1-4,JimR) I just wanted to mention that the 99/4A p-system...
[75116,2373] (1-4,JimR) was not written in native 9900 code, but rather was..
[75116,2373] (1-4,JimR) written in a proprietary TI language not included in M DOS.

"WHO PUT THE PAN OF EGGS IN THE MICROWAVE?"

[75116,2373] (1-4,JimR) ga

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) Jim, I haven't studied the sources....

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) I personally am not a 99 person...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) But I can say that we gave them what we had, that at l east part of what...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) we supplied _was_ in assembler, and that we have not ha d any indication...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) from Myarc that anything was missing. ga

[75116,2373] (1-4,JimR) Was not saying that something was missing...

[75116,2373] (1-4,JimR) just thought it was relevant that there is some transl ation delay involved...

[75116,2373] (1-4,JimR) for the information of attendees.

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) For what its worth, I believe that the PME

Real Programmers strive to insult users with error messages.

....

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) (the p-machine emulator, the heart of the machine-speci fic runtime)...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) _was_ written in assembler. However, as I say, I ca''t make a definitive...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) statement on that. ga

[75116,2373] (1-4,JimR) done.

[76703,603] (1-3,Jim Horn) ga jerry

[74716,3525] (1-11,JerryC) You say the source code was for the 99/4a ... Ti al so did a port for the 9995 ...

[74716,3525] (1-11,JerryC) (for the 99/8) -- Did you get rights to that one?

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) Jerry, I do not believe that we obtained the rights to that...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) I do know that we did not obtain the software for that.

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) This was, of course, known when Myarc and Pecan signed the license...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) At the time, the job seemed to involve two phases:..

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) converting the code (or rewriting it, as they saw fit) for the 99/8...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) and upgrading the code from IV.13 p-System, to the then current version...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) of IV.21. The latter part of the job should have taken no more than 3 ...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) to 4 weeks. We were not sufficiently expert to estimate how long...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) the former part of the job would take, but Myarc seemed to believe that

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) it would take them no more than a few months. ga

[74716,3525] (1-11,JerryC) There is an incompatibility between the 99/4a and P -system disk I/O that ...
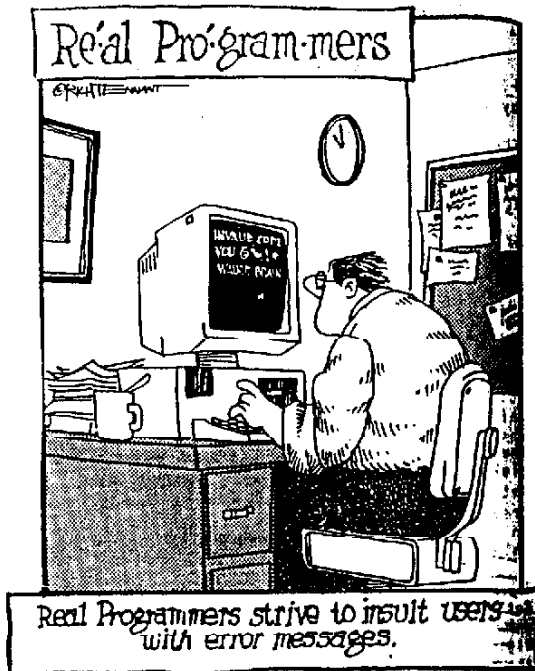
[74716,3525] (1-11,JerryC) TI avoided by locking into their own controller. I t had to be fixed for the ..

[74716,3525] (1-11,JerryC) Myarc controller -- I wonder..... ga

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) Possible, but I don't know...

[75116,2373] (1-4,JimR) ?

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) I do not believe that that is where they are hung up n ow, however -- but that is just my impression.

[74716,3525] (1-11,JerryC) If that is it, the best fix would be a slight patch in the initialization code. ga

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) Jerry, we have so far limited our assitance...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) to the p-System side of things -- by request, since the y are further along...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) on the TI learning curve than we are...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) Between you and me (and everynne else online, and anyon e who reads the...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) transcript, and JimH's readers in CB)...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) they would have been better off letting us do the port in the first place...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) because we are used to hopping from machine to machine.

[74703,500] (1-8,Eli) its no big deal for us to learn another processor add a ssociated hardware...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) software...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) and we DO know the p-System QUITE well...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) however, it becomes progressively harder to cut your lo sses, admit you made...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) a mistake and hand the work over to someone else as tim e goes on...

VIETOR'S FUNNY BUSINESS

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) I certainly sympathize with their plight! ga

[74716,3525] (1-11,JerryC) This one is pretty bizarre - maybe I'll look at the 9995 code (I have that ...

[74716,3525] (1-11,JerryC) machine) where lots of it is in ROM. ga

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) Why not talk to Lou and see if he'd like the help...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) one things for sure: we'd LOVE to see the p-System runn ing on the Geneve...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) no matter who does it. ga

[74716,3525] (1-11,JerryC) ME TOO (and he IS interested.)

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) Go for it! ga

[74716,3525] (1-11,JerryC) Oh for more time ... ga

[76703,603] (1-3,JimH) jimr

[75116,2373] (1-4,JimR) Assuming Myarc finishes their part, what can the syste m do? ga

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) (can it core a apple?)....

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) The p-System is a machine independent program developme nt....

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) and execution environment. It supports UCSD Pascal, FOR TRAN-77, BASIC...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) a new C compiler, assembler, a family of cross assemble rs and a host of...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) associated integrated development tools (editor, debugg er, etc.)....

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) its strong point is portability -- the development envi ronment is identical...

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) across all supported platforms, and code -- even applic ation object code --

[76703,500] (1-8,Eli) is portable across all supported platforms. These inclu de MSDOS, Mac, Atari,

OUT OF SPACE   CONTINUED NEXT MONTH.

PLEASE MAIL THIS TO   9640 Owners Survey
    MY HOME ADDRESS: 1854 College
                       Lincoln Park, MI.   48146

Please, sign only one copy.

9640   Owners   Pascal   Survey   Apr. 16, 1990
==

        My name is Roger D. Brittain and with your help I will take a surey and
inform all owners of the 9640 the results of this important survey. Who am I?
I'm just a 9640 owner and user like yourself who wants very much to see this
great computer take off and catch the competition, and maybe even do better
than just catch the competition! To do this, we need what MYARC was supposed
to give us with the 9640, and that is PASCAL. If Pascal were in our hands,
then the 9640 would indeed take off and we would have a much better position in
the market place for outside software companies. Software would soon be there
for us and we would have a very useable computer.

        If you the owners wish to see the 9640 make use of the unused power, then
Pascal will do that for us. And the 9640 has MUCH unused POWER!

        Here is the question for ALL 9640 owners: How much would you be willing
        to spend to contract Pecan Software to write Pascal for the 9640?

        I understand by what I've heard, we need Pascal, Pascal Run Time, and a
Pascal Compiler, (I could be wrong on this, but for now it will do.) Yes, we
the owners could do that for ourselves, without any help from MYARC. You ask,
how much would it cost? At this time I'm not prepared to say but only guess
(I'm a bad guesser) I may not even be in the ball park! It has been said there
are about 2000 owners out there. If this survey reaches 1500 owners and
perhaps only 1000 owners respond, and everyone was to pay (ballpark) $25.00
then $25,000 would be raised to purchase Pascal. Whats that you say? "This is
unfair if only some of us pay and not all of us! I shouldn't have to pay for
anything that I've already paid for! I'm mad at MYARC, so I'm not going to
help." If your still holding on to an attitude against MYARC and will not
help, we may be waiting two more weeks for things to happen. Thats MYARC
weeks!

        Well, you can complain all day but that is not going to help you, yes I
said "you", because you are a 9640 owner. Seeing that MYARC apparently is not
doing anything but stalling, then we can help ourselves.

        I'm willing to start something going if its just this survey. I hope you
will upload this to another BBS or pass it on to all the 9640 owners that you
can think of in your area or club etc...

        I will upload to GEnie, your name (only) and an adverage amount of all the
users that respond. This way everyone will clearly see how many reponses I've
recieved, and how much a user might have to pay for Pascal, of course that
would be an adverage for all users.

        Its up to you to pass this infomation back to the users.

            Name -- $10 $20 $30 $40 $50 $60
         Address --   Other $_____
City, State, Zip.--