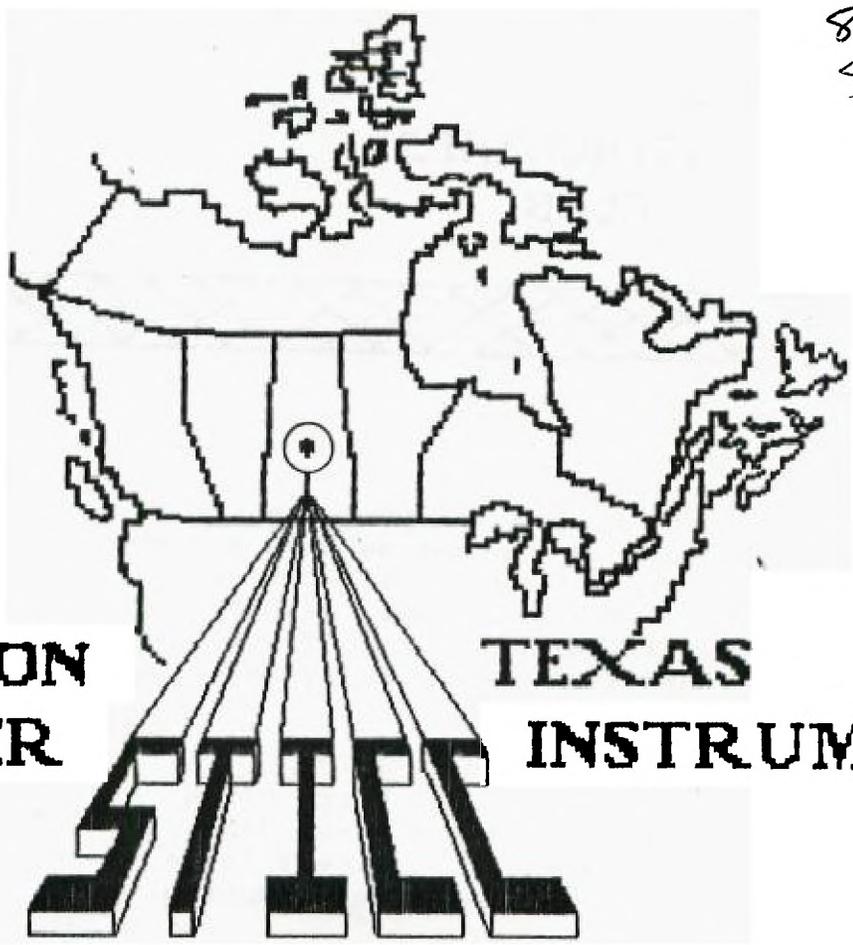


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**SASKATOON
COMPUTER
CLUB**

**TEXAS
INSTRUMENTS**

FEBRUARY - MARCH, 1988

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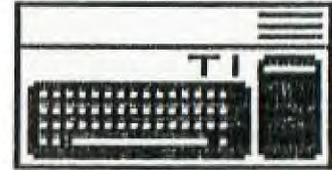
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SASKATOON
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
COMPUTER CLUB



We discuss and review new products for the TI99/4A while providing technical support for any problems that a member may have. We also support a software library and have regular contacts with other groups in Canada and the United States. Our membership fees are very reasonable: \$10.00/single or \$12.00/family. If you would like to become a member, or require more information, contact any member of the executive.

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STICC DISCLAIMER:

We are a small, nonprofit club here in Saskatoon. We never have, or ever will, consider our newsletter a professional medium in its field. Therefore, with this consideration, the views presented in the articles, by various authors, may not be the views of the newsletter committee, the STICC executive, or its members. On this basis, this club cannot be held responsible for errors, omissions, views, or copy infringements, as presented in the articles.

MEETINGS:

General meetings are normally held at 7 PM on the first monday of each month at Kelsey Institute, Idylwyld Drive at 33rd Street, in room 132. There is free plug-in parking behind Kelsey in the student parking stalls; if entering from this parking lot, use door #10, otherwise the front door closest to Idylwyld and 33rd can be used.

The following comes to us via the Toronto UG newsletter:

I DOWNLOADED THE FOLLOWING FROM COMPUSERVE -ED.:

EXPO-88
February 26, 27, 28 1988
-by Barb Wiederhold

LET'S TAKE A TRIP TO LAS VEGAS...
Friday, February 26, 1988...DESTINATION: Southern Nevada User's Group, aka
(also known as: SNUG), FIRST ANNUAL (I sure hope more will follow!)
TI-XPO-88..to confab with the Greats, of the Ti99/4A community. If you have
NEVER attended a Ti99/4A Fair before, this one should HAVE BEEN YOUR FIRST!!!

Location:Las Vegas, Nevada Setting: PALACE STATION HOTEL/CASINO..with the
outside reader board stating, THANK YOU FOR MAKING US #1.

The Southern Nevada User's Group are #1 for 1988. The first show of 88 for them
and the FIRST for the Nation.

MY FEAR #1:I hate to fly...anywhere!! I left Seattle, Washington with the
anticipation of first dreading the trip from home to Sea/Tac International
Airport, lugging the original carton from Texas Instruments, carrying my T.I.
Peripheral Expansion Box. Think the box is heavy? Wait til you put the P.E.
Box in it! The last minute decision TO LEAVE my SONY TRINITRON 1311 80 Column,
Analog Monitor, went out the window as I taped the carton (with a whole roll of
tape) and huffed and puffed it to the car for a safe journey, I HOPED, to Las
Vegas. I did remember to pack a change of clothes. PSA Airlines did say I
could check three items, and carry on 1 bag, which had to be the Geneve 9640
card, NEW KEYBOARD, and of course my HORIZON RAM DISK with my immediate BOOT
SYSTEM/SYS, GPL FILES, E/A, and the NEW DM by Myarc that actually initializes
Disks using the Myarc Disk Controller Card, of course!!

AJAX parking lot was the first leg of my journey. The very last parking space
in Lot #1 (not true folks) I was left in the aisle, all spots were taken as I
arrived three hours early at Sea/Tac... so as NOT TO MISS MY PLANE..was I
anxious to go to LAS VEGAS?? or WHAT!!! The AJAX Parking Lot personnel were
super. They carried my two heavy (I mean heavy) boxes and 1 suitcase to their
van and took me to the PSA check-in station, where the PSA porter (johnny-on-the
spot) tagged them for me and I watched them (sniff) head for I hoped NOT
never-never-land!!! Bye, I said, to my beautiful Monitor, PE Box, and change of
clothes. Now, remember, I would have only three hours to wait for my plane to
LEAVE SEATTLE at 2:55 p.m for Los Angeles International Airport, the first leg
of the journey. Have you ever read a WHOLE MAGAZINE, including the ads, in one
sitting? The MICROpendium, cover to cover, three(3) times?

One of the highlights of boarding an airplane is the checking in station, where
the sign reads (at the entrance), "NO JOKES FOLKS, PLEASE, we must CHECK OUT
EVERYTHING HERE BEFORE ENTERING." I handed my box of disks to their personnel,
even remembered to unlock it, so they could LOOK INSIDE. I handed them my
GENEVE 9640, and HORIZON RAM DISK, so they would not go through X-RAY. I was
asked, "What is this?" I replied, "A Computer." They said, "TURN IT ON." I said,
I can't turn it on! It is a CARD for my computer that has a programmed EPROM,
and the Horizon Ramdisk has all my software on it, and I do not want it erased."
Their policy at Sea/Tac was not to allow computers on the airplane as a
carry-on, but I managed to convince them it did not TURN ON..and that it was
quite safe. Whew!! Another hurdle out of the way, when traveling with computer
hardware/software on an airplane!! Take notes folks so you can join me at the
NEXT FAIRE!!!

Thanks to the peanuts and orange juice, my flight from Seattle to Los Angeles
was quite fulfilling??? A small snack, which I could not identify followed,
leaving me quite occupied (I hate to fly) til landing in Los Angeles. I changed
planes there two hrs. later, and joined quite a boisterous group enroute to Las
Vegas. The Pilot got a standing ovation on take-off. Glad I don't take that
flight often!!! California has a new law, NO SMOKING IN CALIFORNIA!!! So,
instead of designated rows, as is usual, the WHOLE PLANE WAS LIT UP!!! OH, WELL,
ON TO LAS VEGAS!

MY FEAR #2: BEFORE leaving Seattle, on Thursday night(late) I called Bob Bleber
(he said I could call anytime!), to confirm my trip. He REASSURED ME that IF
POSSIBLE, someone wearing a TIXPO88 GRAY HAT, would meet my 8:35 p.m. Friday
night arrival in Las Vegas schedule!!! My fear??? You ask? Would I be met? Or,
would I have to carry two heavy boxes, 1 heavy suitcase, and 1 carryon bag!!!

When I entered the terminal, at the Gate, stood a tall, Gentleman, wearing a Gray TI EXPO-88 HAT!!! Hugs were in order, TO A COMPLETE STRANGER?..that's right!!! Those hats can mean a lot at a gathering. Better order them for your next Faire!!! Folks like me can identify you, give hugs and sigh a sigh of relief at being met in a strange place by a friendly stranger!

There were two male adults, one teenager w/girlfrind and a MOTOR HOME, to carry my stuff through that beautiful airport and drive me DOWN THE LAS VEGAS STRIP where I saw every beautiful; lighted, FAMOUS Hotel/Casino that I have only seen in magazines and in the movies. I truly knew then I had arrived in Las Vegas!!

NO MORE FEARS FROM HERE ON IN!! After checking into the Palace Station Hotel/Casino, and dropping my boxes/suitcase in my assigned room, I re-entered the hallway to head up to the computer show site and passed NONE OTHER THAN J. PETER HODDIE!!! I knew I was in the RIGHT PLACE!! I greeted J.Peter Hoddie, who said it was ok to call him PETER!!! The fair was about to happen!!

I was guided to the site where SNUG had been setting up all day long. I was greeted by none other than Chuck Wynne President of the Puget Sound 99ers, and his son Tom (from Seattle). Always nice to see folks from home!! Jack Riley, Vice-President of Myarc, Inc. (from Birmingham, Alabama) was putting together the NEW HARD DRIVE CONTROLLER CARD, and installing his 20 Meg Winchester Hard Drive in the Ti99/4A Peripheral Expansion Box. I asked Jack if he brought lots of extra copies of the NEW HARD CONTROLLER CARD DISK MANAGER...sure did not want to see it get erased, in error!!! Memory like an Elephant? Have I? I knew Bob Boone was coming from the Ottawa User Group in Canada, and low and behold!!! He was there to greet me!! What a nice surprise to meet Bob Boone in person!!!! Tall, quiet and always a BIG SMILE on his face!! One of the great things about arriving the evening before the show is that I can see the NEW THINGS FIRST!!! J. Peter Hoddie ACTUALLY BROUGHT PC-TRANSFER, sold by Geniel Software, and created by Mike Dodd. I arranged for the purchase of those disks to bring back to Seattle. Officially now, we actually have PC-Transfer in Seattle!!! I was just delighted to meet BUD MILLS, NEW OWNER of Horizon Ram Disk fame!! He had a new copy of his PHOENIX-A by Ron Walters for 9640 (for those of you who are putting together a 1 MEG Horizon Ram Disk); this copy to be hand-delivered to Ken Mullock in Seattle, upon my return. Distributor of Myarc, Inc. products, Les Merryman of LM Systems was setting up, again nice to meet the face of the voice you talk with!!! John McDevitt, of Rave99 Co., not only joined the Las Vegas group to provide his RAVE99 keyboards, RAVE99 Speech Card (for inside the P.E. Box, which works well with the 9640), but for the first time, brought one of his NEW Programable RAM disks. J. Peter Hoddie demonstrated this new card for the TI99/4A P.E. Box on Saturday, quite impressive to say the least. (It is NOT GENEVE 9640 friendly yet, but that is being fixed, according to Mr. Hoddie.)

I might add here that Ryte Data, represented by Mr. Bruce Ryan, was scheduled to join this fair, but did not confirm and was not seen throughout the weekend.

Mr. Franz Wagenbach, of T.A.P.E., Ltd., brought his 80 column Mechatronics Interface, as well as other products, such as: X-Basic, Intern Book, Mouse (which he states is compatible with PC-Clones), and his Gram Karte. Always a joy to see Franz from the West Coast to Chicago, where I saw him last November at their Faire in Triton College. Great Lakes Software people are really moving in new directions. Last November, in Chicago they introduced CERTIFICATE, a great program for creating your own diplomas, award certificates, etc., and had VERSION 2. Oh no, I FORGOT TO BRING SOME BACK!!!

I shall not overlook TEXAMENTS representation. They also flew here quite a ways from the East Coast. I was also able to see a finished version of DataBiotics GRAND RAM card, soon to be shipped to those who placed orders with them, is my understanding.

J. Peter Hoddie's booth carried software by Geniel Software, and Asgard, i.e., PC-Transfer, Legends, etc.

Digit Systems, another KNOWN GREAT in the 994/A community had their RGB Interface, a 2 meg ram card, battery back-up, plus booth. Sure hope we can get em to come to Seattle, Washington September 23 and 24 for our 3rd Annual St.of Washington 99/4A Convention.

User Group participation from SNUG (thanks for being such great hosts), Southwest99ers all the way from Tucson, Arizona, Terri Masters and Tom Freeman again representing that large 99er group (LA99ers) from Los Angeles. They sure work long and hard during these get-to-gethers to bring the latest information to the attendees, sell software, hardware and show the enthusiasm that is always present among true-blue 99ers. It was really great to meet folks from the Rocky Mountain 99ers in Colorado. I asked, but John Denver just was unable to attend!!!!(a joke folks)!!

Guest Speakers (advertised) were none other than our one and only..... Cheryl Whitelaw. Did I do it again Cheryl? Give your true name away? Right folks!!!! C. REGENA, Basic-software writer of Compute Magazine fame, publisher of several books for the 994/A and my favorite, PROGRAMMERS GUIDE TO THE 99/4A for which I have a personal signed/autographed copy from her at Seattle 86 Convention visit. NOT FOR SALE FOLKS. We managed to SAVE C. REGENA in the 994/A community by giving her an October, 1986 MICROpendium, at our Seattle Friday Night Dinner. The folks at MICROpendium were looking for a writer. Compute Magazine, as of October issue, 1986 decided to drop C.Regena Column. She started writing for the MICROpendium and WE HAVE HER BACK IN OUR FAMILY and she ATTENDS OUR FAIRS, from Seattle to Boston to Las Vegas.

Jack Riley, Myarc, Inc. gave quite an impressive demonstration of the MYARC HARD DISK CONTROLLER CARD, due for shipment soon. The demonstration left many digging deep into their future money matters wish-list to add this card to their P.E. Box. The software is impressive, Jack stated that it is finished with "some polishing to do." Many in the audience suggested several things they would like to see the Disk Manager perform and Jack agreed that these were sure considerations. The Myarc Hard Controller Card Disk Manager is certainly user-friendly (as stated in our 94/A vocabulary of a lot of software) and has quite a few ERROR-CHECKING METHODS. This is a MUST when working with so much storage capacity. We do not want to make too many mistakes transferring our prized software to our Hard Disk Drives. The Manager is currently trying to out-guess us all. I hope I am right in quoting that in the "not too distant future," this Hard Drive Controller Card will support three(3) 260 meg. hard drives. Lots o storage there folks....you will be on the edge of your chair with that capability!!! This Myarc Hard Disk Drive Controller Card, can be purchased from your local dealer (hint, hint...)

Un-announced Speaker!!! None other than myself, Barb Wiederhold of the Queen Anne Computer Shoppe in Seattle, Washington. Just had to tell ya that at my table, representing Dave Miller, of Miller Communications in Seattle, I BROUGHT HIS NEW V.X.S.(VideoFlex Xpansion System) developed by Phil Jordan. An article was written in the February Issue of MICROpendium announcing the development of this NEW 220 WATT power, holding three floppy, ds/dd, or quad density, or 3-2.5" drives, as well or 1 large 260 meg. plus, or two half-height slim/line 10,20,30+ meg. drives internally, as well as the Geneve 9640, or existing TI expansion cards, 32k, 512k, Ram Disks, RS232, and of course the three types of Disk Controller Cards. There is plenty of room left for the VideoFlex card and Frame Grabber. An A.T. well manufactured box (according to many who saw it). The response was favorable, many voiced an interest in up-grading to this box, and orders were placed. I was not able to talk about our VideoFlex card in Las Vegas. Tom Wynne, in attendance at this fair, would have demonstrated his programming talents, using this card in conjunction with the Geneve 9640 and its powerful 9938 chip, but as luck sometimes runs, the beta testing last Thursday night did not check out as was hoped by Dave Miller here in Seattle. The card will be seen soon. Beta testing here is near complete and most of the functions are operational. Tom Wynne is the programmer for the software and would have liked to have demonstrated it. We will soon announce the showing of this new item to the TI99/4A-Geneve 9640 community.

This TI-XPO-88 report would not be complete without somewhat of a personal experience that I had. On arriving at the fair, I was greeted by a gentleman who said, "you met me before, Barb!" "Remember two years ago?" "I had dinner with you in Los Angeles at the TI FEST WEST?" "We shared the same table with Paulo Bagnaresi, from San Donata Milanese (Italy)?" "Oh yes, I remember, I said, Paulo Bagnaresi. Oh, can you imagine to whom I was speaking? None other than OUR one & only CREATOR OF WOODSTOCK, Mr. Ray Kazmer. Yes folks, it sure is hard to be humble in the company of so much Ti99/4A program talent. And hope we not forget, J. Peter Hoddie, assembly expert at (groan) such a young age. His contributions should never go un-noticed. He traveled all the way from the BOSTON COMPUTER SOCIETY User Group. And I thought my trip was a distance!!

I met Steve Mehr and Ken Gilliland, two more Bulletin Board users, known to many. Do not let me forget to mention folks from the St. of Washington, Marysville, Washington and Tacoma, Washington were in attendance in Las Vegas.

Now, you know I missed a lot of people there that I cannot mention here as I just did not write down all their names. I remember when Bob Bieber was interviewing the Vendors on Sunday noon. He was asking me about my impressions of this fair, as I was frantically boxing things up for my early departure to insure NOT MISSING MY PLANE to come back home. He got quite a few interviews and remarks using his small lined tablet and pen-in-hand. I was so busily packing that my concentration was nil.. funny tho, I do remember Bob saying to me, "Barb, just speak into this tablet!" Thanks Bob, sure hope I gave a good review!!

Well folks, this was my trip to Las Vegas, and I dedicate the report to Cynthia Becker, Warren Agee, Chris Bobbitt, and Paul Charlton who kept the Compuserve "Home Fires Burning," while we JUST HAD TO GO TO LAS VEGAS FOR THE WEEKEND!! Thanks guys!!

Save your money, pack your bags and meet me in San Francisco on April 8,9 and 10 where I will be the guest of San Francisco U.G., and plan on traveling to Seattle, Washington for our 3rd Annual State of Washington TI99/4A-and Geneve 9640 Convention, to be held on the Seattle Center grounds with room reservations blocked off at the Executive Inn(Across from the Space Needle). Need more information? Call Barb Wiederhold, Queen Anne Computer Shoppe (206)522-6558, or my 24-hr 300/1200 Baud BBS, (206)361-0895, and if you write to me at 6102 Roosevelt Way N.E., Seattle, Washington 98115, I will send you more information on the NEW V.X.S. (Box) I sell for \$329.95, Convention information and I would like to add that I am a Dealer for all the Myarc,Inc. products, HDCC,RS232,512K Memory Card with Myarc X-Basic II, the Geneve 9640, of course, with Mouse and all future software/hardware being developed by Owner, Mr. Lou Phillips of Baskingridge, New Jersey.

EPILOG: I did not put any money in the slot machines folks..coward at gamblin my nickels, dimes, quarters..etc. Would rather gamble on the TI99/4A-9640 community where IT IS A SURE BET!!!

You may reproduce this report as long as the source is given: Barbara J. Wiederhold, Owner/Operator of the QUEEN ANNE COMPUTER SHOPPE, Seattle, Washington BBS:206/361-0895 February 27,28 1988