

THE



SNUGLETTER

FROM THE SOUTHERN NEVADA USERS' GROUP

Volume 8- No.4

April, 1990

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST



April 24
1926

Next Meeting
7:00pm Monday, April 9, 1990
Nevada Power Meeting Room
6226 West Sahara Avenue

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Rudy Johnson

With the arrival of spring I have a harder time spending as much time with the computer as I would like. However, with the imminent bloom of the olive trees (to whose pollen I have become intensely allergic since moving to Las Vegas) I will probably need to spend more time indoors - maybe even with the computer! With the number of people I know here who share a similar sensitivity I suspect others will need to do the same. It, at least, sounds like a good excuse for those of who need one. I don't have many other good ones as I had when I lived in other areas where winter gives people a better reason for staying indoors.

Our next meeting will feature none other than yours truly with the many-times-delayed demo of my index of TI-related articles. The other officers wouldn't let me off the hook this time. They insisted that I put on a show this meeting. Seems other people actually are interested in this long simmering project. Well, if you are, you had better make it to this meeting because it's going to happen! We also had planned to have Bob Bieber do a demo of AV-Index, one of the programs which we acquired in Tucson. But Bob called me and said that several of the program segments are missing from the disk. He thinks that he has seen the missing programs in another package and will try to locate them, but at this point the demo is questionable. There may be a substitution but the topic is currently unknown.

I have recently received an update to Version 4.4 of LGMA's 99/9640 FORTRAN package. This update brings both the 99 and 9640 packages back to the same level. When the 9640 Version 4 package was released there was no comparable upgrade for the 99 version. This new release includes a few more changes that make it a little more compatible with FORTRAN 77 on the big systems. Since I already had the initial V4 upgrade I received directions on changes needed to the manual which already is 200 pages long. There are so many changes that I decided to use TPA (MBOS) to print out new pages to be inserted into the manual in about half of the update situations. (How if only I had enough time to really learn how to apply this FORTRAN to the Geneve....) The upgrade will allow programs to be run on both the 99 and the 9640 machines if special features of the Geneve are not incorporated into the code. This package is another fine effort to increase the utility of our machines. With the use of a tutorial text one can learn to program in FORTRAN with this package. This is quite a bargain for a package that, I believe, sells for less than \$70 dollars.

I hope that I see all of you at the April meeting. As

LIBRARIAN'S COLUMN

by George Campbell, Librarian

I GUESS THAT SOMEWHERE THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE THAT HAVE A GOOD HANDLE ON T.I. GRAPHICS, BUT HE IS NOT SITTING IN THIS CHAIR.

ABOUT A YEAR AGO MY EXPERIENCE WAS LIMITED TO THAT STICK MAN IN THE BEGINNERS MANUAL. THEN ALONG CAME THE LIBRARY WITH A SMALL SECTION IN THE BACK OF THE BOX TITLED "GRAPHICS". ONE YEAR, 13 RIBBONS, AND 20 POUNDS OF PAPER LATER, I AM BUSHED!

WE HAVE A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS IN THE FILES THAT DISPLAY, AND/OR PRINT GRAPHICS. T.I. ARTIST, MAX/RLS, TIPS, PLUS!, G, PISACO, JIFFYCARD, PAGEPRO, TO NAME A FEW. EACH HAS A DIFFERENT FORMAT, GRAPHICS SIZE, QUALITY, ETC. SOME OF THEM HAVE CONVERSION PROGRAMS TO CHANGE GRAPHICS INTO OR OUT OF THEIR FORMAT. TO SAY NOTHING OF THE "FONTS" FILES FOR THESE VARIOUS PROGRAMS. THERE ARE SEVERAL HUNDRED OF THESE CHARA FILES AVAILABLE. FOR THE UNINITIATED A "FONT" IS A UTILITY TO PRINT A STYLE OF CHARACTERS/NUMBERS ON YOUR PRINTER. ITS HARD TO BELIEVE THERE ARE THAT MANY WAYS TO PRINT THE LETTER "A", AND, OF COURSE, EACH GRAPHICS/PWT HAS THEIR FAVORITE PROGRAM. MINE IS (PRESENTLY) PAGEPRO99 FROM ASGARD SOFTWARE. I WON IT AT THE MEETING RAFFLE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AND ITS WELL WORTH THE \$25 ASGARD CHARGES FOR IT. IT HAS A CONVERSION PROGRAM TO CONVERT T.I. ARTIST INSTANCES TO PAGEPRO FORMAT AND I IS PLENTIFUL NOWADAYS.

IN THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS SEVERAL PROGRAMS TO CONVERT GRAPHICS FROM/TO IBM AND MACINTOSH FORMAT - T.I. FORMAT HAVE APPEARED AND WE HAVE A FLOOD OF T.I. GRAPHICS CONVERTED FROM THESE SOURCES. JOHN MARTIN TOLD ME LAST WEEK HE RECEIVED 43 DISKS OF TIPS (T.I. PRINT SHOP) GRAPHICS. A LITTLE SESSION WITH MY TRUSTY CALCULATOR (PLUS FINGERS AND TOES) SAYS THERE ARE 35000 GRAPHICS ON THOSE DISKS! EGGS!

ITS ENOUGH TO MAKE EVEN BIEBER TURN PALE, MARTIN START CUSSING, AND JOHNSON MISS A FEW MORE MEETINGS. THERE GOES THE WHOLE HARD DISK CAPACITY. I AM MAKING MARTIN THE ASSOCIATE LIBRARIAN IN CHARGE OF TIPS GRAPHICS!

AS FOR THE DISK OF THE MONTH - WELL I DONT KNOW YET. NOW ABOUT EACH ONE PHONING IN A PREFERENCE AND I WILL MAKE UP A CUSTOMIZED VERSION. JUST GIVE ME ENOUGH TIME BEFORE THE MEETING. HOWS THAT FOR A ORIGINAL IDEA!

GEO CAMPBELL, LIBRARIAN

with many groups we have had some attrition in our membership so we all need to get to the meetings to give direction to SNUG to guide our efforts

- Rudy -

9640 Corner

By Bob Sherburne

After using MrBasic for several months now, I believe I have run across (or created) just about every bug in it at one time or another, and there are LOTS of them. Here is a partial list off the top of my head:

If the second line of a multi-statement program line ends at the last character position at the right edge of the screen, that line (second line) will not list to printer. This also causes the line to misbehave in the program on occasion.

If a double colon "::" is accidentally left at the end of a program line, the syntax error is not caught and on occasion MAB will return to MDOS when that line is executed!

If the double colon is left out between statements, the syntax error is not caught and the following statements on that line will not execute.

Inserting or changing lines in one part of the program can cause lines to change in another part.

One-line programs won't work past the first line when multi-statements are used with MAB, and Extended Basic one liners crash the machine.

If data is inserted into a DATA statement so that the line is now too long, no syntax error will be issued and CHR\$(0)'s (dotted small o's) will be placed where your string or numeric data extended beyond the end of the line.

When double quotes are placed around a word in a string to be displayed or printed in a program line, MAB replaces the double quotes with single quotes after the line is entered. Since the word is printed with the quote marks, it really doesn't matter until you need to edit the line at which time you receive a syntax error for the single quotes.

Graphics mode changes within a running program momentarily display parts of old screens during the change. This problem can be corrected by displaying the NUL string (DISPLAY AT(1,1):"") across lines of print instead of using CLS.

In Graphics(3,3):

CALL RECTANGLE with a line type of four (solid fill) leaves a screen color line below the bottom of the defined rectangle which was drawn in DCOLOR.

CALL ECORLOR seems to have fixed some of the problems with hiding sprites or moving them beyond line 192... Have to check this and let you know. I used to have to call COLOR(11,1) after CALL DELSPRITE to fully hide the sprites.

CALL CIRCLE line type 0 doesn't erase the previously-drawn circle at the same location.

CALL FILL doesn't work on small areas. It puts in a short line of the DCOLOR which cuts through other graphics.



This is going to be one of the shortest BBS reports on record. The reason for this is that I have been out of town and haven't had time to write anything (let alone DO anything) about the BBS. As a matter of fact, the only reason that I'm even bothering to write anything this month is to show off the new BBS REPORT graphic that I made for this column.

As long as I'm writing this report, I may as well mention that everything is working fine for a change. I did have a problem with the Computer Graphics section earlier this month, but got it fixed with a little nail-biting and some sector editing on the hard drive (not recommended for the faint of heart).

I recently received some 45 disks of TIPS graphics files from Barry Traver. These disks are supposed to represent the ENTIRE TIPS library to date. I have scanned the disks with a utility program that runs from MDOS on the GENEVE. Each disk has approximately 100 instances on it. There are a number of good ones, and a lot that I probably won't use. I will be uploading all of these files to the board as my schedule permits. So far, I have put up about 4 of the disks and expect to be doing about 2 every other day until the whole collection has been uploaded. I have been toying with the idea of making a separate TIPS section since there are so many TIPS files available to us now. I would appreciate any feedback on this. As it stands now, there is very little in the Computer Graphics section besides the TIPS files. That's about all there is for now.

See ya' at the meeting.

-John-

Mouse speed in CALL SEEMOUSE(prot,col,speed) doesn't work, but on occasion, I have rerun a program where the mouse worked fine the first time, however, on the second running of the program it set itself to the slowest speed.

Lock-ups became such a problem that I started resaving programs with incremented filenames after EVERY small change or addition before I tried running the program again. This seems to be more of a problem when using the drawing commands than at any other time.

Now for some of the nice points:

You need no drive parameter when loading, saving, running, or cataloging from the default drive in MDOS. RUN FILENAME, OLD FILENAME, SAVE FILENAME and CALL FILES all work on the default drive without the designation. One exception is KILL "n:FILENAME" I haven't tried LIST yet but it should also work.

See you next month... Bob

Secretary's Report



Minutes for March 12, 1990.....

The meeting began at 7:10 P.M. There were fifteen(15) members and three(3) guests present.

John Martin opened the meeting with a demonstration of "TPA", "The Printers Apprentice" for the Geneve. TPA is a full pledged desk top publishing program. It uses TI artist fonts and pictures, has an editor to alter and create fonts and an editor to size and edit pictures. With the use of the scheduler you can place your pictures and text. The program also fills and adjusts the text. The articles on pages two and three of the March Newsletter were prepared using TPA by Mike McCann. John gives the program an "A".

Bob Sanchez demoed a couple of programs he wrote in advanced basic. The first was "BARRICADE" a block game, with great graphics and sound effects. The other program was called "DOODLE", the name says it all. Bob is a very clever programmer as he has showed before.



Rudy Johnson introduced the guests Richard Price, David Gabriel and Norm Stock. Rudy explained the advantages of belonging to the User Group. Let us not have forgotten the benefits of having another member to call when it seems your computer has died forever or how do I get this program to run? Share problems and solutions in programming and hardware. Access to the disk library and the club newsletters and keep abreast with all the new products for the TI/Geneve world. It is nice to know there is support just a phone call away.

Rudy listed the programs that the club purchased at the FEST-WEST, among these were IV-Index, Identilife, Chaitlink, Triad and Missing Link. These programs will be demonstrated during the coming months then placed in the "RAFFLE".

The group voted to let George Campbell buy the P Box and a console for \$175.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

At the April meeting Bob Bieber will demo IV-Index and Rudy will once again plan to show us his Index program.

 Cindy Mitchell 
SECRETARY
SNUG USER GROUP

SNUG TREASURER'S REPORT - 31 MARCH 1990
(in lieu of 30 March 1990 bank statement)
Item added, changed or adjusted #
Robert J. Bieber - Acting Treasurer

FIXED ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

SNUGLETter (estimated cost per 100)	
Publication Costs (\$10/mo x 12)	120.00
Postage (\$25/mo x 12)	300.00
P. O. Box Rental (\$28 annually)	28.00
Bank Account Service Charge (\$8/mo x 12)	96.00
SNUG B/Board Phone Line (\$11/mo x 12)	132.00
Long Distance Phone Calls (estimated)	44.00
Miscellaneous Expenditures (estimated)	90.00
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TOTAL ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS (estimated)	810.00
# Annual Dues Collection (estimated)	+ 300.00 #
# ANNUAL DEFICIT (Estimated)	- 510.00 #

# BANK STATEMENT BALANCE (as of 28 FEB 1990)	
(includes \$7.75 Feb 90 service charge)	+ 619.10 #
# OUTSTANDING (uncashed) SNUG checks	- 345.70 #
# ACTUAL CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE >>>>	+ 273.40 #

COLLECTIONS - March 1990

Membership - Regular (1 x \$18)	18.00
Disk of the Month	1.00
Library programs	2.00
Miscellaneous TI Equipment sale	274.00
Miscellaneous TI Equipment raffle	.80
<hr/>	
(sub-total)	+ 295.80

EXPENDITURES - March 1990

Barry Boone Trust for Archiver, etc.	- 40.00
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# FUNDS MANAGEMENT (as of 31 March 1990)	
# Adjusted CHECKING Account Balance	+ 320.40 #
# Petty-Cash (undeposited funds)	.00 #
<hr/>	
(sub-total)	+ 528.40

FUNDS AVAILABLE (as of 30 March 1990) >>> + 528.40

JOYFUL 5° DEMO
ART
 CLAREI379
 COURIER179 LEINER2
 CURS9US2a.7
 FBLOCK 0000:159-
SHELBY
SHADOW
 TECH

OLDEN153
 OLDEN6 loweroe
 SCF2935, cm
 CHAR
 SCF2935 SCF2935
 SFWY SCF2935
 FBLOCK PLAIN
PAREAST
PLAYBI PLANE
OLONG ZENRA THIN

UNIRORI
 Inairchi, 0194?
 OFFBEAT-16
AMOLLOV 29
FILE
TREASURE
STENCIL

ED STENCIL2
 ABC
BSBOLD
LED
LEGER
ARTO
 Uses lost font 100640

Fonts from the SNUG Library

ALICE&smppg7650
 BSKLD&smppg5130 CREAM&sm 1879
BUBBLES&smppg81as
 CATFOON&smppg2871 MOXRE147
LED 9127
 MARS&sm 170
 O-6&sm 148
 PARRI-AV&sm 1280
 POGREPT&smppg6147
 SCHEMATIC&smppg247
 SPOKANE(smppg)0418
 TILE#smppg6108
 TUCSON&smppg3197
WESTERN(smppg 152)

ARASHI~sm/jgg 1835
 CMPLR~smjgg1935
 CALLISTO~sm9351
 CATBURY~sm9357
 ELEGANT&smjgg 1935
 ELECTRNC&sm 126ggy
 EON2-7&sm 404PNC
 FRABELL&smE310pgg
GANGSTERSM1935
 GENOA&smppgy7310
 IVY-LEAG&sm
 L-ISLAND*0173pvg
 LOSANGELES&smppg
 MUSELSLY*uggp7618
SATURN3072 epggy

FONTS GALORE

SCREENFONTS can be ordered from Tigeroh Software, 156 Collingwood Ave., Columbus, OH 43213 for \$5 +\$1.50 P&H - \$1 more for S&S.

Jim Peterson's "deware" comes on a disk with assembly object codes for 127 screen character sets and additional programs which include:

DEWIT - most of the sets were created manipulating hex codes with basic routines then "cleaned up with this program. Allows infinite changes/personalization of the code sets. Single instruction for saving and assembling.

ALLIAD & ALONE - allows the fonts to be embedded in your program with instant access via OHL LINK(). There are many pages of documentation to these programs that I first heard of as part of the SERIAL TRAVELER series. Again, these programs can be used by following the docs - if you want to know why? and whatifs, I recommend Harry Traver's disks. REMIXXX - There are demo programs for most of the fonts. Font to a dozen fonts are loaded and paged through by "hit any key routine". If you don't remember what you saw many are pretty similar, stop when you get tired. It will rotate through the loaded fonts until you BREAK.

KODPENDIUM reviews this disk on p38 of the February issue. My disk had a few more programs than they cover. For example the review lists 10 special sets. I got at least that many plus KODPENDIUM. Special chars identified by their name include: SIDWAYS, SCRIPT, WIDE, TALL, BRIGHT, BIGLOW, THIN, LINE, FURCHER.

Of course, these character sets can also be downloaded into a printer and used with other programs with the right manipulation and conversion. No conversion programs are included (what do you want for five bucks) - George T.

JP and McCann software

The fonts above are Font Pack 1 and 2 in TI Artist format. There are 12 fonts per set. Most cover the ASCII range of 32 to 126. If they suit your purpose, they are more practical in many ways than trying to work with fonts that have been worked over as they passed from hand to hand over the years. Cost is \$10 per set. I've misplaced the address but I'll have it at the next meeting for those interested.

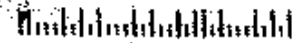
McCann Software has font-sets. I haven't seen them yet. I understand Rudy Johnson (President Johnson) has them. If they measure up to the IPALMOS program, I'll jump on the bandwagon. I've never known anyone to support their sales like Mike McCann.

<p>SOUTHERN NEVADA USERS' GROUP</p> <p>The SNUGLETTER is published monthly by the Southern Nevada Users' Group with an interest in all aspects of Texas Instruments' 99xx & 99xxx based computers including hardware and software by third party vendors. The GROUP meets 6:30 PM on the second Monday of the month in the Nevada Power Company, Nengart Community Meeting Room, 8226 West Sahara Avenue. Visitors and guests are welcome to attend the meetings. Information on membership is available at the meeting. Articles may be copied from the SNUGLETTER provided credit is given to both the author and the original source and that the article not be used for profit. (When profit arrangements wishing to use any articles from the SNUGLETTER will need to make prior arrangements with the Executive Committee of the Southern Nevada Users' Group.)</p>	<p>SNUG OFFICERS 1989-1990:</p> <p>President: Rudy Johnson - 871-9583 Vice President: Gordon Vanden Secretary: Cindy Mitchell - 871-0309 Treasurer: Karan Rodgers - 795-0367 Librarian: George Campbell - 364-1586 Associate Librarian: Lance Wilson - 648-6452 Membership: vacant Youth Liaison: vacant BBS Sysop: John Martin - 647-1062</p>
<p>SNUG Bulletin Board - (702)648-1247; 24 hours, 300/1200/2400</p>	<p>NEWSLETTER INFORMATION:</p> <p>Editor: George Tilley - 254-6005 Assoc. Ed.: Rudy Johnson - 871-9593 Newsletter submissions can be sent to P.O. Box 26301, Las Vegas, NV 89126. Articles in TI-Writer are preferred. They may be transmitted with a modem to the SNUG BBS, Newsletter File Section.</p>
<p>Currently SNUG supports Texas Instrument's 99/4 and 99/4A computers, and Myarc's Casave 9640 computer.</p>	

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**UNLV
 1990
 CHAMPS**

FINAL FOUR FINAL SCORE
 UNLV 106 DENE 73