THE SNUGLETTER

FROM THE SOUTHERN NEVADA USERS' GROUP

Volume 8-No.11 November,1990

Next Meeting

7:00pm, Monday, November 12, 1990

Nevada Power Meeting Room

6226 West Sahara, Las Vegas, Nevada

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Rudy Johnson

On Oct. 27 28 the PC users had a swap meet. While much of the equipment at this affair was of little use to TI 99/4A users, there are some items that are of use. For example, when I went there on Saturday morning I found a vendor who was selling 360K floppy disk drives for $25. The drives were new and even came with a warranty. He had at least two brands in the pile of 50 or so, of which one, the Panasonic 455, I remembered as being suited to the TI. I bought one to try it on my system to make certain it worked. I took it home and verified that it was OK, and finally made it back to the meet late Sunday morning. Unfortunately, all the drives were gone by then.

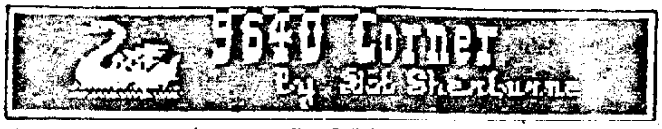
Now, you ask, what is the point of this. Well, a notice was posted on our BBS prior to the swap meet, and, as soon as I determined that this drive was no fluke (by Saturday noon). I posted a notice to that effect on the BBS. So if you had been taking advantage of the BBS you would have been aware of that event and the possible bargin. By the way, there were also several monitors, both monochrome and color models, that were sold early on Saturday before I got there with a few still around when I visited. (By the way, there was even a TI 99/4A in a box on one table - no I didn't ask the price of that.)

MICROpendium confirmed the news that has been around for a month or so regarding DIJIT Systems' decision to drop their 80-column AVPC card due to lack of sales in the shrinking market. This is unfortunate for the remaining TI users, but understandable for a business. At least Asgard is continuing with its plans to market the Mechatronics 80-column device. And rumors are flying of plans by Gary Bowser of O.P.A. to produce another 80-column device based on the 9958 video processor, a brother to the 9938 used in the AVPC and the Geneve. It seems that there will still be some choice for those wishing to upgrade in that direction. I can still say that I have never regreted the upgrade to 80 columns when I bought my Geneve. The increased power of the unit to handle high-resolution graphics is one of the major benefits of this type of upgrade. Now if only I had more time to work with this system.....

Cindy should have the details of the next meeting in her report. One thing that I want to emphasize - WE WILL HAVE A RAFFLE AT THE NEXT MEETING! We have usually been running short of time at the past meetings due to schedule arrangements. We will have the raffle after the first presentation from now on, with the rest of the presenters having to fight for the time they need. As the Chicago TI Faire is scheduled for Nov. 3rd it will have happened by the time of the next meeting. If any news is put up on the info services we may have reports of any new programs or hardware releases or announcements. Come and find out the latest. Speaking of that I want to remind you of the upcoming FEST WEST 91, The Happiest FEST on Earth, to be held in Anaheim on February 16 17, 1991, at the Ramada Main Gate, (800) 447-4048. Room rates are $55 per night plus taxes until January 15. Get those reservations in early as that is a three day weekend for federal type employees. Further information is availble on the UGOC BBS at (714) 751-4332.

I have rambled on long enough so that George can fill the front page again. I'll see you at the meeting!

- Rudy -



(co-authored by Chiphead Eddy)

I am beginning to wonder if the thrill of having a working zero wait state, two megabyte system will be worth the exasperation and expense... For the second time I have had to send my 9640 and MEMEX cards back to Bud Mills Services for examination. (Experimentation?) The original modifications which needed to be made on my existing cards have been finished for over two months, and all have had to be redone since then due to a change in Bud's game plan. As far as I can tell, Bud is almost as upset over the mysterious problems as I am, but that is hardly compensation for the twenty or thirty long-distance calls, thousand dollar insured freight charges, and maximal frustration I feel each time the cards arrive and fail to work. Patience is wearing thin and I may soon opt to go back to the dependable 512K card and use the $250.00 refund as part of a 80386 Christmas present to my wife. I'll gag down the miscellaneous expenses.

The following is a file uploaded by Wayne Stith during his DELPHI conference on October 14th.

GEN-TRI

Several years ago I released TRIAD, a program for the 4A which provided a terminal emulator, an editor and a disk manager in one memory-resident package. Although the program would function on the 9640, it did not take advantage of the capabilities of the machine. Almost immediately I began to tinker with the program, but soon decided that a complete rewrite would be necessary.

In the next few weeks JPSOFTWARE will be releasing the new version designed specifically for the 9640. The new name will be GEN-TRI. It contains the same basic components as its predecessor. But since GEN-TRI occupies over 200K of memory for the program alone (compared to TRIAD's 19K), it contains considerably more than TRIAD.

The terminal emulator contains several new protocols, one of which has never appeared in the Geneve community: CISB+, 1KXMODEM, and YMODEM batch, as well as the usual XMODEM and ASCII routines. In addition, the binary protocols allow the user to include or omit the Charlton header on DIS/FIX 128 files, thus providing a greater degree of compatibility with other computers. You may transfer files to or from a floppy disk, a hard disk, a ram disk or a large buffer set aside in the program specifically for file transfers. A hook has also been provided that will allow the use of external protocols. Such a protocol may be loaded automatically when the program is booted, or simply called when needed.

In addition to the customary features of TI terminal emulators such as buffer dumps, elapsed time counters, autodialers and macros, GEN-TRI has an extensive script language which provides an easy way to automate the most routine functions of telecommunications. You may write a simple logon script, a menu of services to be displayed, or a full-fledged program which will dial up a service, retrieve messages and transfer files. The call to a script may be set up as a macro for quick access, and you may design a script which will run other scripts.

The disk manager is primarily a floppy disk manager. I don't want anyone to get the idea that this is a replacement for the Myarc DM. You cannot format a hard drive, set up an emulate file, make a hard disk backup, or do directory-related work; however, you can perform the customary file operations on your hard drive. The catalog functions are routine and intuitive. Filenames are displayed in two columns with the expected information.. The disk manager has a couple of nice extras, though, such as the capability to copy groups of files (all DIS/FIX 128 files, for example), and a unique file recovery routine which gives the user the option of specifying the file to recover, or allowing GEN-TRI to try to find lost files on its own. Disk level features are the usual: format, sweep, rename, copy. The diskcopy routine will copy a SSSD disk in one pass under most circumstances.

TRIAD originally had a fixed mode editor which was adequate for making short notes or reviewing the terminal emulator text buffer. GEN-TRI's third portion is a more fully developed word processor. The buffer is large enough to support nine documents in memory simultaneously. Text may be blocked in one document for inclusion in another. Formatting and tab specifications travel with the document and can be different for each of the nine. I have tried to make the WP as close to MYWORD as possible, hence the existence of fixed mode (either overstrike or insert) and the standard word wrap overstrike modes. However, I have replaced the TI split line insert mode with true word wrap, that is, when you type, the text moves to the right and the paragraph reformats as you go.

GEN-TRI will load DIS/VAR 80, DIS/FIX 80 and DIS/FIX 128 documents as well as those in its native format. Documents may be printed to the screen, to the printer, or to disk in either DIS/VAR 80 or DIS/FIX 128 formats.

An external dictionary will be provided that will check either a single word or an entire document with a single keypress.

A special solution to the CNTL-U problem has been devised which allows you to create printer macros and store them within the text without having to see them on screen unless you want to.

You may create a script file for the terminal emulator and compile it while in the word processor. This will save the TE program the trouble of compiling on the fly and allows you to correct mistakes easily.

GEN-TRI's word processor also includes some minor features of interest: loading an alternate CHARAI file, printing a document from disk or from the buffer, and forcing a block of text to either upper or lower case. Several new keypresses have been added, such as bottom home (bottom left corner), delete word, back word tab and screen dump.

GEN-TRI allows you to shell out to the Editor/Assembler cartridge to run other programs or even assemble code, and then return to GEN-TRI. (EOF)

... continued on page 3

Fix Your Bird's HFDC Heat Stroke

--- How I Conquered The Myarc Time Warp ---
by Bob Sherburne

Last night, as usual, I ran my bird hard and put it away wet. This morning, as usual for a weekend, I tried to wake it bright and early but it wasn't having any of it! Not a peep nor a croak would it utter! What's this I thought? CPU arrest, MRD function failure, MEMEX mumps? The bird just blinked its LED eyes at me and lay there. After removing its guts one organ at a time, I discovered where the disease was located. (Don't worry, the bird didn't mind.) 'Oh no, It's in the HFDC!' I tried removing cables and shaking the card, but that was no help. I shrieked internally and scrambled around the computer room flipping open disk boxes to find my floppy backups. 'I'm back in the stone-age but the turkey still has a megabyte of ramdisk space so I can get by' I thought to myself. Things didn't look quite so bleak since the bird was simply sick and not dead. What could be wrong with its controller? 'Maybe it's HFDC heatstroke... Hhmmm, I've read DELPHI messages about this disease, easily treatable if I remember right. Just look for the burned spot on the card and change the two regulators that reside there.' (No, the LED didn't singe it...) My mind leaped ahead. 'Radio Shack probably doesn't have the parts. They never have what I need.' Another leap and I'm in Radio Shack verbally attacking the Stepford man behind the counter; 'Why don't you carry parts for real computers?' Depressed again at the prospect of sending the card to Myarc in Hades, I decide to call John Martin for a cheer-up session. "Why don't you try changing the regulators sitting in the burned spot? That's what went wrong with my card and Radio Shack carries them." John asks and states. I decided on the spot, to put on some clothes and run downtown. (Yes, I do compute in the nude. First things first.)

My shopping list included; one 7805 +5 volt regulator, one 7812 12 volt regulator, and two heat sinks sized to fit. I already had a tube of heat sink compound so I didn't need to buy any. For a change, Radio Shack did have the regulators, but the only heat sink they had was the size of a large tarantula, a bit big for the clamshell. Total cost was $2.52 and they gave me a free D-cell battery to mate with one of the dead ones in my box. I suppose now is the time to tell you that this enormous cost may be cut in half if only one regulator needs to be replaced. You can check them by removing the clamshell and cables, powering up the system, applying a multimeter ground probe to the chassis and the positive probe to the legs of the regulators. The 5v regulator should show 5v on one leg and the 12v should have 12v on one leg. According to John, however, it's possible to short out the legs and thereby cause a thermonuclear reaction in the card. I chose the safe route since heatstroke is preferable to radiation poisoning.

After waiting several hours for my soldering iron to finish lunch, I went to work. Unscrew the hold-down screws. Apply iron to the back of the card where the three legs of each regulator stick through and pry up the legs one at a time with a screw driver or needle-nose pliers until they are out of the holes. Now you have six small holes full of solder, two big empty holes where the screws once were, and four regulators on your table. Next you must clean out the holes, which is the hardest part. First I used solder wick to pick up most of the excess on front and back of the card. Next I used a needle (preferably the kind with the ball on the dull end to avoid finger scarring) and pushed it through the holes while heating the other side with the iron. Since this didn't work too well I finally resorted to a solder sucker to finish the clean up. (Did I say I was perfect?) Keep messing with the holes until you can push all three legs of the new regulator through them far enough to rescrew the screws. (Don't break off the legs as they are hard to put back on.) Once all six holes are cleaned and the regulator legs are pushed through, apply one gallon of heatsink compound to the bottom of each regulator and one gallon to the burned spot on the card. Bend the regulators down and tighten screws. Next, use a chain saw to cut off the six legs sticking through the back of card and resolder them. Use a bench-vise to close the clamshell and you are finished!

Total time for this project, including the trip to Radio Shack should be about one hour, which is MUCH better than the "TWO WEEKS" it would take to get through to MYARC to receive your RMA, and the other "TWO WEEKS" it would take for the repairs. There are three things to remember. Mark the tops of your hard drive cables before removing them from the card, make sure that the new regulators go back in the same holes as the regulator of matching voltage, and make sure you turn your hard drive power back on. (They don't work well unless they spin.) This procedure worked great for me and I hope it does for you too.

--- Bob

9640 Corner ... continued from page 2

According to the conference transcript, the program does have a few limitations: The program will only run correctly from MDOS 114 or 114f. It will run from EXEC but you will lose the EA calls portion of the program. Sorry to say it will only run from GPL mode.

The program is about 600 sectors in length and uses about 200K of machine memory for program space and buffers. The terminal program has its own short editor program but it is possible to bounce back and forth between program segments. The 24K text buffer in the TE allows about 90 sectors before a disk dump of text. You can also "shell out" to an EA program and return to CEN TRI. The 100K program buffer allows up to 10 files to be placed in it and 5 at a time can be transmitted via YMODEM batch. The YMODEM routines have been said to attain 99% efficiency during file transfers. Any number of files can be downloaded using this protocol and the program will add the filenames for you. A spell checker, written by Peter Hoddie, will be included with the program and can typically look up a word with a single disk access. So far the size of the spell checker is undecided and there may be a small floppy version and a larger hard drive version. Once MDOS has been finalized, the necessary changes will be made to the program to make it 100% compatible with the H-version of MDOS. It will run from 97h but only with floppys, Horizons, etc. Beery Miller seems to think a fix is possible. The terminal program will work at 9600 baud and can handle the screen displays at this speed. The price has not yet been set and "well under one hundred dollars" was as close to a commitment as Peter Hoddie or Wayne Stith would come.

Peter describes the program as "way cool".

- Bob -

I think things are finally settling down as far as the hard drives go. I haven't had any problems with them for a couple of months now. As a matter of fact, except for several power failures (thank you Nevada Power), the bbs has run continuously since the last meeting. October was a very busy month for me (mostly non-computer activities), so the changes and additions I had planned to do to the bbs program got put on the back burner.

It seems like there has been a slowing in the amount of new software being released for the TI and Geneve computers. This month's new uploads have been mostly conferences with various TI personalities and authors. These conferences are standard fare on each of the major computer networks. They provide a forum for questions and answers, news releases about new software, and a place to gain input from consumers about program bugs and suggested improvements. Conferences are held in "real time". That is, all participants are on-line at the same time. A conference can run several hours, so most of us just wait a day or so for a transcript to be uploaded to the regular library sections. Because the conferences are in real time and there is more than one participant at a time, the transcripts tend to be somewhat jumbled. It's sort of like "chat mode" with 10 or 12 people at once. There always seems to be some interesting information buried in the transcripts of the conferences. It is well worth the effort to read them even if they don't seem to make sense at first.

Here are the latest uploads in reverse chronological order:

NEW in the TI section this month:

ASGARDNEWS..... ASGARD NEWS: LISTING OF NEW PRODUCTS ETC.

MAKSIMIKCO..... DELPHI CONFERENCE WITH MIKE MAKSIMIK WHO WILL BE RELEASING MIDI FOR THE TI.

!BOBBITCH..... COMPUSERVE CONFERENCE WITH CHRIS BOBBIT OF ASGARD SOFTWARE. CHRIS TALKS ABOUT HIS TRIP TO THE RECENT TI FAIRE IN WIESBADEN (SP) GERMANY. SOUNDS LIKE THERE IS A LOT GOING ON IN THE TI WORLD IN EUROPE!!

BEERY-LOUP..... DELPHI MESSAGE FROM BEERY MILLER CONCERNING THE STATUS OF LOU PHILLIPS AND MYARC.

CLINTCON..... DELPHI CONFERENCE WITH CLINT PULLEY, CREATOR OF C-99, QDE, QDL, QDA, ETC.

BRADCON..... DELPHI CONFERENCE WITH BRAD SNYDER, CREATOR OF ANIMATOR.

NEW in the GENEVE section this month:

!STEVEXEC..... A VERY SHORT AUTOEXEC FILE FOR STEVE BUCHANNAN. INCLUDES BATCH FILE FOR GPL MODE AND JOHN JOHNSON'S "GETKEY" ROUTINE. NOT DESIGNED TO BE FANCY, JUST SOMETHING TO GET BY WITH TILL YOU CAN WRITE YOUR OWN AUTOEXEC.

BUD/OPACON..... BUD MILLS AND GARY BOWSER OF OPA IN CONFERENCE ON DELPHI.

!DM12..... UPDATE TO CLINT PULLEY'S DISK MANAGER PROGRAM. INCLUDES BUG FIXES AND ABILIT TO CREATE, REMOVE, AND RENAME DIRECTORIES.

FORTHCLOCK..... A VERY SIMPLE SAMPLE FORTH PROGRAM THAT DISPLAYS THE TIME ON THE SCREEN UNTIL A KEY IS PRESSED. MOST OF THE FILE IS FORTH ITSELF (39 SECTORS). THIS PROGRAM RUNS FROM MDOS WITH THE FILENAME "CLOCK". ARCHIVED.

New in the Computer Graphics section this month:

IRSSHOW..... A UTILITY THAT ALLOWS YOU TO VIEW TRS-80 HI-RES (HR), COMPRESSED HI-RES (CHR), AND MODEL III GRAPHIC IMAGES (RESOLUTION TO 640 X 240 AND 512 X 192). THERE IS ALSO A FEATURE TO ALLOW TI ARTIST IMPORTS.

TIPS1/7..... VERSION 1.7 OF RON WOLCOTT'S TI PRINT SHOP. THIS VERSION HAS "SEMI-HOT KEYS AT SELECT OPTION" POINTS. THERE IS MORE ASSEMBLY SUPPORT AS WELL.

I am including a couple of messages that I downloaded from the TI FORUM on COMPUSERVE this week. I include them because they have subjects of interest to most of us, and to show where much of the information passed along in our newsletter comes from. If you don't subscribe to one of the computer networks, your information is at the mercy (heh heh) of those of us who do.

#: 10895 S2/99/4A General
23-Oct-90 11:54:21
Sb: #GT 3/1, CONEYGAMES
Fm: Barry Traver 70436,373
To: ALL

Vol. 3, No. 1 of the Genial TRAVeleR has been mailed out to (almost) all current subscribers. Since errors are always possible, if you have paid for a subscription to Volume 3 of the Genial TRAVeler and have not yet received your copy of GT 3/1 plus CONEYGAMES bonus disk, please let me know at once! (The easiest way would probably be to leave me a private message right here on TI FORUM.) Thank you!

... continued on page 5

BBS Report ...continued

#: 11019 S16/9640/GENEVE PICS
01-Nov-90 05:49:33
Sb: #MYARC RUMORS
Fm: Barry Traver 70436,373
To: ALL

The following comes from Eric Bray, Philadelphia TI UG member and local Myarc dealer; I take no personal responsibility for the contents, because I did not get any of this first-hand. According to Eric, we may see the price of hhe Myarc HFDC ("Hard/Floppy Disk Controller") dropping sometime soon to somewhere in the $200 to $225 price range retail. (Just as Myarc reduced the price of the Geneve after having gotten back development costs, the same is reportedly true for the HFDC.) Lou Phillips now has in his hands from Paul Charlton MDOS 1.15 for the 9640. It will be released shortly (presuming that no new bugs are found), and ABASIC 3.0 should follow soon after (as soon as it is confirmed that MDOS 1.15 is okay). A new version of MDM5 (or should that be MDMV?) is expected in a couple of months (a different programmer will be working on the program.).

As a side note, Eric commented that he was _sure_ that the new HFDC from Chris Pratt of ESD would _not_ work on the Geneve. That comment plus the indirect announcement of an anticipated Myarc HFDC price drop may lead to some interesting speculation. For example, do these rumors reflect Myarc's taking steps to cut Chris Pratt and ESD off before they offer serious competition to Myarc? Why is Eric so certain that ESD's HFDC cannot work with the Geneve? Since it has been so difficult (or impossible?) to get a Myarc HFDC in recent months, does this "news" mean that Myarc has solved whatever problems may have been there re product and service in the past several months?

At any rate, it may be a good thing that TI'ers now have a choice of two different HFDC's to choose from (even if it means they have to make some tough decisions on company, product, service, price, etc.). Long live competition?
*** There is a reply: 11021

#: 11021 S16/9640/GENEVE PICS
01-Nov-90 16:02:20
Sb: #11019-MYARC RUMORS
Fm: Matt Beebe (EMB) 73357,2417
To: Barry Traver 70436,373 (I)

That sounds great, but when am I getting my Pascal Run time module? (grin) -Matt Beebe (always the cynic!)

Although that is GREAT news for the TI community.. hopefully MYARC will decide to circulate a MANUAL for ABASIC, and a DETAILED synopsis of MDOS workings.... right about now I would settle for lack of some features in ple of support from Myarc on MDOS and ABASIC (although ABASIC isn't all that important, it would be nice to have.)
-Matt

This was just a short sample of the kinds of messages that are left on Compuserve. I may, from time to time publish messages from Compuserve, GEnie, Delphi, and our own BBS in this column as a means of generating interest in telecommunications in general, and our BBS in particular.

Secretary's Report

Minutes for October 6,1990.....

President Rudy Johnson opened the meeting at 7:15 P.M. Eleven (11) members were present.

George Tilly began the demonstrations with R.A. Green's RAG 4.3, a stand alone version of TI-WRITER. At the configuration screen you have the choice of screen colors, tab settings, printer, word wrap and line numbers on/off. The editor has several new commands, but are easy to remember. A printer was not available for the formatter. George also showed his "ROS" by Gary Bowser. The other features of the program besides the Menu are the screens which show the status of the Horizon Card, drive info. and other information.

Gordon Leonard demoed "CRIBBAGE". Gordon gave a thorough explanation on how to play the game right down to bringing along a deck of cards to show how to count the cards. The program has good graphics and is fast considering it is in I/Basic.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

At the November meeting Lance Wilson will demonstrate "TRIAD", a Terminal emulator, text editor and disk manager program. John Martin will utilize the modem to show where and how to download TRS-80 graphics and show a new program "TRS SHOW", a TRS-80 graphics viewer.

In the RAFFLE this month we have MISSING LINK, CHAINLINK and TRIAD.

Cindy Mitchell
SECRETARY
SNUG USERS GROUP

BBS Report ...continued

The SNUG BBS telephone number is (702) 648-12247. We are on-line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week except during user group meetings, BBS failures, and updates. We support 300, 1200, and 2400 baud, and provide full access to all users from ffirst sign on.

That's about it for this month. See ya at the meeting!
-John-

PS: I have several tickets to the Condex show. The show runs from Nov 12 to 16. Since these are weekdays, I doubt that I will be able to use them myself. If anyone is interested in attending, I will have them at the meeting.

SNUG TREASURER'S REPORT - 31 OCT 1990
(in lieu of 31 Oct 1990 bank statement)
Item added, changed or adjusted
Ralph F. Guise - Treasurer

FIXED ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

SNUGLETter (estimated cost per 100)	
# Publication Costs ($ 4/mo x 12)	48.00 #
# Postage ($22/mo x 12)	264.00 #
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
# TOTAL ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS (estimated)	- 702.00 #
Annual Dues Collection (estimated)	+ 300.00
# ANNUAL DEFICIT (Estimated)	- 402.00 #

# BANK STATEMENT BALANCE (as of 30 SEP 1990)	
(includes 7.44 Sep 90 service charge)	+ 503.00 #
OUTSTANDING (uncashed) SNUG checks	- 62.95
# ACTUAL CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE))))))	+ 440.05 #

COLLECTIONS - Oct 1990

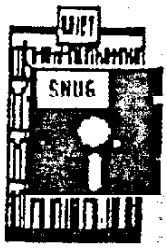
Membership - Regular (1 x $18)	18.00
Membership - Senior (1 x $12)	12.00
Membership - SNUGLETter only (1 x $10)	10.00
Disk of the Month	.00
Library programs	.00
Miscellaneous TI Equipment raffle	.00
Miscellaneous TI Equipment sale	.00
(sub-total)	# 40.00

EXPENDITURES - Oct 1990

None submitted/reported	.00
(sub-total)	.00 #

FUNDS MANAGEMENT (as of 31 OCT 1990)

Adjusted Checking Account Balance	+ 480.05
Petty-Cash (undeposited funds)	0.00
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE)))	+ 480.05



LIBRARIAN'S COLUMN

by GEORGE CAMPBELL

WELL I LOOKED INTO THE LIBRARY BOXES - AND ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HAS HAPPENED IN THERE SINCE THE LAST REPORT. AS I REPORTED LAST MONTH A TRIP TOOK UP MOST OF THE MONTH OF OCT.

SO PERHAPS SOME COMMENTS ON THE NEW HDFC AND SEAGATE 20 MEG HARD DRIVE WILL PROVIDE SOME INFORMATION TO THOSE WHO HAVEN'T MADE THIS COMPUTER VERSION OF STAR TREK YET, AND SOME AMUSEMENT TO THOSE WHO ALREADY HAVE.

I ORDERED THE CARD AND DRIVE FROM MYARC BACK IN MAY ($730) AND AFTER NEARLY 5 MONTHS OF WATCHING THE U.P.S. TRUCK GO SAILING BY THE FRONT DOOR, THE COMPLETE PACKAGE ARRIVED OCT 1ST , 5 DAYS BEFORE THE TRIP. WITH A LITTLE (WELL MAKE THAT A LOT) HELP FROM MY FRIENDS AT SNUG IT WAS UP AND RUNNING CORRECTLY BY DEPARTURE TIME. A GOOD PART OF THE TRIP WAS SPENT THINKING ABOUT HOW BEST TO USE THE NEW ADDITION.

AFTER RETURNING, AND WHEN NECESSARY REPAIR AND MAINTENANce TO HOUSE AND WHEELS HAD BEEN TAKEN CARE OF THE FUN BEGINS. MYARC PROVIDES A DISK MANAGER PROGRAM, AND 71 PAGE MANUAL TO OPERATE THE HDFC. NO OTHER DM WILL WORK WITH THE HDFC SO - HERE GOES. I HAVE SEEN WORSE MANUALS, AND A LOT OF BETTER ONES.

MYARC HAD INITIALIZED THE SEAGATE, AND THOUGHTFULLY PUT ABOUT 1200 SECTORS OF THEIR PROGRAMS ON THE DISK- MOSTLY FOR GENEVE SPECIFIC. AFTER A FEW HOURS OF BANGING AWAY, THE DISK HAD A LOT OF GARBAGE SO I INITIALIZED AGAIN AND STARTED OVER. MY BEST TIME IS 4'8" SO FAR, TO THOSE OF YOU WHO CAN COMPARE. THE INITIALIZATION PROCESS ALLOWS CHOICE OF STEP RATES, INTERLACE, ETC TO CUSTOMIZE THE HD TO BEST SPEED.

I HAVE REINITIALIZED 4 TIMES SO FAR, LEARNING A LITTLE BIT EACH TIME. ITS BEEN FRUSTRATING, BUT THE POTENTIAL OF HD KEEPS ME RETURNING. I HAVE DOWNLOADED A FILE FROM OUR BBS TO HD TWICE WITHOUT SUCCESS. IT PUTS A 165 BIT GHOST FILE ON HD, A JUMBLED HEADER - THAT I CANT EVEN ERASE. SURE THE SOLUTION WILL COME, BUT MEANWHILE— ITS NICE TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL MEMBERS OF SNUG THAT I CAN CALL FOR HELP, BUT—.

WELL ANYWAY THATS HOW THE LIBRARIAN HAS BEEN SPENDING HIS COMPUTER TIME THIS MONTH. I STILL HAVE THIS PROJECT OF DOWNLOADING THE GRAPHICS SECTION OF OUR BBS AND PLACEING IT IN THE LIBRARY, BUT THAT WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BEST WITH THE HD. AT THE RATE THE GRAPHICS SECTION HAS BEEN GROWING THE LAST FEW MONTHS, AND MY PROGRESS WITH HD -- THERE WILL BE ABOUT 150,000 SECTORS THERE TO PROCESS. HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING

GEO. CAMPBELL
LIBRARIAN

Sour Grapes Taste Sweet

by George Tilley

This is the second month I've worked on the newsletter without TPA4MDOS. My GENEVE went sour and was sent back to Myarc. I actually thought I might get it back in time to do last month's newsletter... I'm a slow learner... It gradually dawned on me that I have no idea when (or if) I'll ever see that board again, so I'd better "brush up" on the 99/4A. Since then, I've had more hands-on time with Docs and Manuals than the keyboard. The first things I learned was how little I really knew, how narrow and focused my interests were and how arrogant I was to believe I really understood some of that material I hadn't looked at for years.

One of the things I tried was a different(for me) formatting proceedure. This one uses printer commands to produce this months frontpage (leaving space for the logos). It is short, easy to modify, works fine and runs on a STAR NX-1000, Epson compatable printer.

```
ESC@ESCXSESCf SESC
ESCfSO;SVolume 8-No.11 ESCfSO;S*November,1990
ESCMESC4
ESCh S  ESCa S
Next Meeting
7:00pm, Monday, November 12,1990
Nevada Power Meeting Room
6226 West Sahara,Las Vegas, Nevada
ESC@ESCXS6ESCf1S
    ... text for 1st column ---
ESCR    ESC1A
    ... text for 2nd column ---
R  ESC@
```

The text is preformatted, of course and the FF takes you to the middle of the next page because the printer is reset after the double-high/double-wide, centered printing is finished. Reset also fixes TOP for printing the 2nd column.

The control characters are the ones I made to reflect printer commands. Makes it easier to edit on the screen. I've changed the CHARA file and downloaded them to the printer. To use the downloaded program, each control character is proceeded by a "use RAM" command and followed by a "use ROM" command. A little simple XB program reads the chars and inserts the necessary commands.

It is short,simple, easy to use and if I added the logos in D/V80 format could be used every month.

Before I got involved with the printer manual I decided to do an Index for my GENIAL TRAVeLER files. Now you probably have several programs that do the job, but I didn't know I had any. I reread the Genesis of all TI catalog programs (TI:Disk Memory System p.37) and listed John Martins Disklabel program, then wrote a short,simple little program that printed to file the normal file info followed by the disk name. When I cataloged the disks I had almost 600 files. TI-SORT was available, so I used it to sort the files by disk name and file name. TI-SORT has a limit of 350 files, so the job was divided and done in 4-5 steps.

Everything worked fine. I had a good usable index that allowed me to locate duplicated files, select the latest version and find the docs that were often piecemeal as each change occured.

By using the index I found that Irwin Hott and already done an index. Good stuff, but he didn't add the disk name to his file. Then there was J.Peter Hoddie's SORT/EXP file--- sorts any type of record file (except PROG), of any record size, on 8 different user defined fields, is very fast, and the 4A version handles up to 1000 records or 24K of data. There is a Geneve version that handles 1500 records or 56K of data (whichever comes first). I used his program to repeat an alpha,ascending sort on two fields doing the entire file in one step. It came out indentical to the first index. JPH's experiment was faster and easier to use but no more effective. Both sort programs rate A+ with me.

Barry Traver has an outstanding catalog program. 3/COL/CAT! is 19 sectors long and well worth the additional bytes. A bare bones cat program takes very few lines but Barry has added error traps and lots of features that make it very versatile. He designed the printout in 3 columns to fit the front of the disk sleeve. It is in XB format so the printer specs and printouts can easily be altered.

The GENTRAV series is loaded with files to modify XB and let you imbed assembly language code(routines) in your XB programs. A printout of the reference charts for XXB/1-5 CALL LINKS is just over five pages. The subject is presented as a finished package and also as separate a/l routines. There are numerous cross references to Jim Peterson's NUTS 'N BOLTS which includes more than 500 routines. I'll be playing with this toy for years.

Someplace in the docs I read, someone answered the question "How can you tell if assembly code is embedded in a program?" The answer: If you have a 40 sector file that lists out ten lines, it is highly probale that assembly code has been embedded. -- I love that answer.

Mentioning Jim Peterson reminds me -- we have some disks from him including his catalog. I'll upload that one on the BBS for anyone that is interested. He has dropped the price of the three NUTS 'N BOLTS disks to $5.00 each. What a bargain.. He included a promo that will get into our newsletter soon, several good articles and more of the Tigercub series.

Finally, I must admit that I really miss TPA4MDOS, eighty columns and the big keyboard but I'm having a ball exploring things I didn't quiet connect with the first time around and branching out a little. I resisted getting back with the 4A. I would have gone for one of Myarc's rental units until mine was repaired , but they were all out. The price was 15% of the new price minus docs and something else. I think that was about $65.00 but, come to think of it, I don't know if that is for a day,week, month or the duration. Since they didn't have any available, It was a mute point. Myarc's modus operandi is still a mystery to me but no longer is it an irritant. Thank you, Myarc for motivating me to get involved again for a thoroughly absorbing, enjoyable six weeks. Much of what I'm doing can be used with the Geneve but I'm really not missing it all that much -- except for TPA4MDOS.

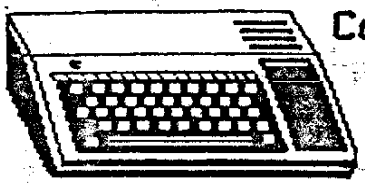
-- GeoT --

TI KEY/CHARACTER CODES

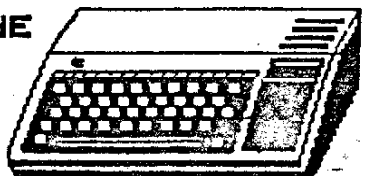
KEY	ASC	HEX	NAME
	0	>00	EOL marker
FCTN 7	1	>01	AID
FCTN 4	2	>02	CLEAR
FCTN 1	3	>03	DELete
FCTN 2	4	>04	INSert
FCTN =	5	>05	QUIT
FCTN 8	6	>06	REDO
FCTN 3	7	>07	ERASE
FCTN S	8	>08	Left Arrow
FCTN D	9	>09	Right Arrow
FCTN X	10	>0A	Down Arrow
FCTN E	11	>0B	Up Arrow
FCTN 6	12	>0C	PROC'D
ENTER	13	>0D	ENTER
FCTN 5	14	>0E	BEGIN
FCTN 9	15	>0F	BACK
	16	>10	
	17	>11	
	18	>12	
	19	>13	
	20	>14	
	21	>15	
	22	>16	
	23	>17	
	24	>18	
	25	>19	
	26	>1A	
	27	>1B	ESC
	28	>1C	
	29	>1D	
	30	>1E	Cursor
	31	>1F	Edge
Space	32	>20	Space
!	33	>21	
"	34	>22	
#	35	>23	
$	36	>24	
%	37	>25	
&	38	>26	
'	39	>27	
(	40	>28	
)	41	>29	
*	42	>2A	
+	43	>2B	
,	44	>2C	
-	45	>2D	
.	46	>2E	
/	47	>2F	
0	48	>30	
1	49	>31	
2	50	>32	
3	51	>33	
4	52	>34	
5	53	>35	
6	54	>36	
7	55	>37	
8	56	>38	
9	57	>39	
:	58	>3A	
;	59	>3B	
<	60	>3C	
=	61	>3D	
>	62	>3E	
?	63	>3F	
@	64	>40	
A	65	>41	
B	66	>42	
C	67	>43	
D	68	>44	
E	69	>45	
F	70	>46	
G	71	>47	
H	72	>48	
I	73	>49	
J	74	>4A	
K	75	>4B	
L	76	>4C	
M	77	>4D	
N	78	>4E	
O	79	>4F	
P	80	>50	
Q	81	>51	
R	82	>52	
S	83	>53	
T	84	>54	
U	85	>55	
V	86	>56	
W	87	>57	
X	88	>58	
Y	89	>59	
Z	90	>5A	
[	91	>5B	
\	92	>5C	
]	93	>5D	
^	94	>5E	
_	95	>5F	
`	96	>60	
a	97	>61	
b	98	>62	
c	99	>63	
d	100	>64	
e	101	>65	
f	102	>66	
g	103	>67	
h	104	>68	
i	105	>69	
j	106	>6A	
k	107	>6B	
l	108	>6C	
m	109	>6D	
n	110	>6E	
o	111	>6F	
p	112	>70	
q	113	>71	
r	114	>72	
s	115	>73	
t	116	>74	
u	117	>75	
v	118	>76	
w	119	>77	
x	120	>78	
y	121	>79	
z	122	>7A	
{	123	>7B	
|	124	>7C	
}	125	>7D	
~	126	>7E	
FCTN V	127	>7F	del
CTRL ,	128	>80	null
CTRL A	129	>81	ELSE
CTRL B	130	>82	::
CTRL C	131	>83	!
CTRL D	132	>84	IF
CTRL E	133	>85	GO
CTRL F	134	>86	GOTO
CTRL G	135	>87	GOSUB
CTRL H	136	>88	RETURN
CTRL I	137	>89	DEF
CTRL J	138	>8A	DIM
CTRL K	139	>8B	END
CTRL L	140	>8C	FOR
CTRL M	141	>8D	LET
CTRL N	142	>8E	BREAK
CTRL O	143	>8F	UNBREAK
CTRL P	144	>90	TRACE
CTRL Q	145	>91	UNTRACE
CTRL R	146	>92	INPUT
CTRL S	147	>93	DATA
CTRL T	148	>94	RESTORE
CTRL U	149	>95	RANDOMIZE
CTRL V	150	>96	NEXT
CTRL W	151	>97	READ
CTRL X	152	>98	STOP
CTRL Y	153	>99	DELETE
CTRL Z	154	>9A	REM
CTRL .	155	>9B	ON
CTRL ;	156	>9C	PRINT
CTRL =	157	>9D	CALL
CTRL 8	158	>9E	OPTION
CTRL 9	159	>9F	OPEN
	160	>A0	CLOSE
	161	>A1	SUB
	162	>A2	DISPLAY
	163	>A3	IMAGE
	164	>A4	ACCEPT
	165	>A5	ERROR
	166	>A6	WARNING
	167	>A7	SUBEXIT
	168	>A8	SUBEND
	169	>A9	RUN
	170	>AA	LINPUT
	171	>AB	
	172	>AC	
	173	>AD	
	174	>AE	
	175	>AF	
CTRL 0	176	>B0	THEN
CTRL 1	177	>B1	TO
CTRL 2	178	>B2	STEP
CTRL 3	179	>B3	,
CTRL 4	180	>B4	;
CTRL 5	181	>B5	)
CTRL 6	182	>B6	(
CTRL 7	183	>B7	"
FCTN ,	184	>B8	&
FCTN .	185	>B9	
FCTN 7	186	>BA	OR
CTRL /	187	>BB	AND
	188	>BC	XOR
FCTN ;	189	>BD	NOT
FCTN 8	190	>BE	=
FCTN 9	191	>BF	<
FCTN J	192	>C0	>
FCTN K	193	>C1	+
FCTN L	194	>C2	-
FCTN M	195	>C3	*
FCTN N	196	>C4	/
FCTN O	197	>C5	^
FCTN Y	198	>C6	
	199	>C7	flag quoted
	200	>C8	flag unquoted
	201	>C9	flag line on
	202	>CA	EOF
	203	>CB	ABS
	204	>CC	ATN
	205	>CD	COS
	206	>CE	EXP
	207	>CF	INT
	208	>D0	LOG
	209	>D1	SGN
	210	>D2	SIN
	211	>D3	SQR
	212	>D4	TAN
	213	>D5	LEN
	214	>D6	CHR$
	215	>D7	RND
	216	>D8	SEG$
	217	>D9	POS
	218	>DA	VAL
	219	>DB	STR$
	220	>DC	ASC
	221	>DD	PI
	222	>DE	REC
	223	>DF	MAX
	224	>E0	MIN
	225	>E1	RPT$
	226	>E2	
	227	>E3	
	228	>E4	
	229	>E5	
	230	>E6	
	231	>E7	
	232	>E8	NUMERIC
	233	>E9	DIGIT
	234	>EA	UALPHA
	235	>EB	SIZE
	236	>EC	ALL
	237	>ED	USING
	238	>EE	BEEP
	239	>EF	ERASE
	240	>F0	AT
	241	>F1	BASE
	242	>F2	
	243	>F3	VARIABLE
	244	>F4	RELATIVE
	245	>F5	INTERNAL
	246	>F6	SEQUENTIAL
	247	>F7	OUTPUT
	248	>F8	UPDATE
	249	>F9	APPEND
	250	>FA	FIXED
	251	>FB	PERMANENT
	252	>FC	TAB
	253	>FD	#
	254	>FE	VALIDATE
	255	>FF	EOF marker

COURTESY OF: Jim Swedlow Author of "SIDE*PRINT" & "XB*TOOLS"

Fest West 91



COME HELP US CELEBRATE THE
TI-99/4A'S 10TH YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

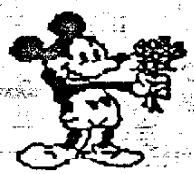


UGOC in association with the
Pomona Valley UG is hosting

FEST WEST 91

THE HAPPIEST FEST ON EARTH

Across the street from Disneyland PLUS many more attractions in the area for the wife/husband and kids to enjoy while you meet inter-nationally renowned TI entrepreneurs, enthusiasts, and innovators.



PLAN YOUR THREE DAY WEEKEND NOW!

FEST DATES ARE FEB 16 & 17, 1991

The Fest will be held at the
Ramada Main Gate, Anaheim
Toll Free 1-800-447-4048
Special rate to fest goers ($55.00 per night)
Only 50 rooms available at this rate.
Make Reservations early.

Travel Arrangements may be made by contacting Ruth Dickey, Travel concepts. (714) 778-5459

Stay tuned for futurs announcements on this BBS, the UGOC BBS (714) 751-4332 or write to:

Fest West 91 Committee
C/O Bill Nelson
11692 Puryear Lane
Garden Grove, CA 92640

FEST WEST 91

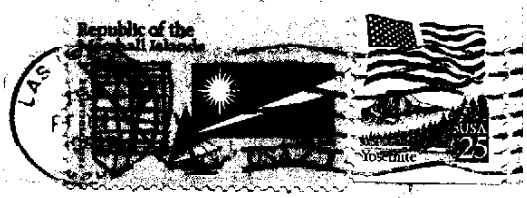
SOUTHERN NEVADA USERS' GROUP
The SNUGLETter is published monthly by the Southern Nevada Users' Group (SNUG). SNUG is a non-profit organization of individuals with an interest in all aspects of Texas Instruments' 99xx & 99xxx based computers including hardware and software by third party vendors. The GROUP meets 7:00 PM on the second Monday of the month - currently in the Nevada Power Company, Wengert Community Meeting Room, 6226 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. (For-profit organizations wishing to use any articles from the SNUGLETter will need to make prior arrangements with the Executive of the Southern Nevada Users' Group.)

SNUG Bulletin Board - (702)648-1247; 24hours 300/1200/2400

SNUG OFFICERS 1989-1990:
President: Rudy Johnson - 871-9583
Vice President: Gordon Leonard - 658-0923
Secretary: Cindy Mitchell - 871-0309
Treasurer: Ralph Guise - 458-2926
Librarian: George Campbell - 564-1586
Associate Librarian: Lance Wilson - 648-6452
Membership: vacant
BBS Sysop: John Martin -- 647-1062
Ass't BBS Sysop: Bob Sherburne -- 399-4042

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION:
Editor: George Tilley - 254-6005
Assoc. Ed.: Rudy Johnson - 871-9583
Newsletter submissions can be uploaded to the SNUG-BBS, Newsletter section or mailed to SNUG, P.O.Box 26301,Las Vegas NV 89126, preferably on disk.

Currently SNUG supports Texas Instrument's 99/4 and 99/4A computers, and Myarc's Geneve 9640 computer.



SNUGLETter
Southern Nevada Users' Group (SNUG)
P.O. Box 26301
Las Vegas, NV 89126-0301

TO:

Dallas TI Home Computer Group
P.O Box 29863
Dallas, TX 75229