

THE



SNUGLETter

FROM THE SOUTHERN NEVADA USERS' GROUP

Volume 9 No. 8

August, 1991

Next Meeting 7:00pm Monday, August 12, 1991 Nevada Power Meeting Room 6226 West Sahara, Las Vegas, Nevada



President's Message

by Rudy Johnson

I must say that I'm rather lost as I try to sound as if I have something to do with this group. Since I missed the last meeting and the last officers' meeting, I don't have a good idea as to the specifics of what has been decided, only the general ideas that have been discussed. So, rather than say anything more, I will allow someone else (I hope) to pass along what has been going on with SNUG. Now, I can pass along a few things that I do know something about since I read about them in other publications.

The first item is probably the most noteworthy as it promises to give a new lease on life to the 99/4A. I have seen the news on Delphi but it has now been published in MICROpendium. This item is the 99000 in-console accelerator for the 4A that Don O'Neil has designed. This device uses a TI 99105 cpu that has speed capabilities of 12 Mhz, which increases the speed by a factor of 5. The device will allow the memory to be increased up to 4 megabytes with a Horizon RAMdisk with the RAMBO option. With a planned Flex Cable interface card for the P-Box a number of additional items can be added including up to 8 megabytes of memory, a 68881 co-processor (math type I think) four DSRs and a

processor slot that can be used for a video upgrade, probably a 9978 video card. As you might have gathered, this device allows quite a bit of expansion to the capabilities of the 4A. Also emulation capabilities are being worked on to allow Z80 programs to run on the device, which opens up the CP/M world of programs. Also Colecovision, Sega, and Sega Genesis games will run on the TI equipped with a 9938/58 video device. Other emulations may be possible if someone wishes to develop them, MDOS, MSDOS, and Apple II. Certainly sounds interesting. Also Bud Mills and OPA will be handling marketing of the accelerator.

Barry Traver's column in the COMPUTER MONTHLY has coverage of the Lima Computer Fair. One demonstration that sounded interesting was MIDI Master interface developed by Mike Maksinik. This device allows the TI to control an electronic keyboard. The sound capabilities with this setup are substantially greater than that provided by the sound chip built in to the TI. It would be interesting to hear a demonstration of this setup.

So that George can get this included in this month's newsletter I will have to cut this off a little shorter than usual. I guess George may just have to leave a bunch of white space unless he can reformat the text.

I hope to see you all at the meeting on the 12th

Rudy



This is the first year in a while that my family and I haven't been able to take a vacation and get out of the heat of the Southern Nevada Desert during the local monsoon season. As a result, the BBS has been pretty much on-line all summer.

For some reason, the minute I cross the Nevada State line, this bbs seems to know about it and ceases to operate. This has been documented every summer for the last 6 years or so. This year, I went to a wedding in Western Wyoming. It was only a 3 day trip, including one day of doing nothing but resting so I could make the drive back home. When I got back, I checked the board. As near as I could tell, it went down just as I left Nevada and entered Arizona. This is very typical of what has happened each time I leave the state and the BBS has to run without me. Never mind that it sometimes goes for months at a time without failing. Just let me leave the state for 5 minutes and it's a dead goose.

Apart from that one incident (on the 20-22nd of July) and having to nurse a sick modem along, things have gone pretty smoothly. I haven't made any changes to the board except for a new logon message (finally), and normal file maintenance, backups, etc.

All in all, things have been very quiet in the message bases, especially the Geneve base. I would like to see more activity in this area, but I realize that there are other things you would rather be doing than sitting at your computer with all that sunshine and warm (hot) weather calling to you. Maybe this fall when things start to cool off, your computer will become your best friend once again.

Starting with the July issue of the SNUGLETter, we will be archiving all of the files that originate with our newsletter into one file and putting the file in our Newsletter section of the BBS. We will also upload this file to Delphi in a new library they are setting just for newsletters. We hope this will encourage other user's groups to do the same thing with their newsletters. If enough groups start uploading their newsletters, we will be able to cut down our postage and printing bills and still maintain (or actually improve) our exchange list. Time will tell on this one, but someone has to start the ball rolling. It might as well be us!

I guess I could ramble on like this for a few more paragraphs, but I really don't have anything else to say, so let's get on to the good stuff!

This has been a relatively good month for uploads in the TI section. At least compared to what we have had for the past few months, it's been good.

New in the TI section this month!

CFEDIT Size: 59 sectors Upload date: 08/04/91
COMMAND FILE EDITOR FOR TI-BASE

EVENT-CAL Size: 17 sectors Upload date: 08/03/91
EVENTS CALENDAR FOR TI-BASE VERSION 3.02 OR
HIGHER. TYPE "DO MENU" AT DOT PROMPT TO START.

SIMPLICITY Size: 216 sectors Upload date: 08/03/91
MANAGING YOUR MONEY 99/4A STYLE.

SCATRGORYS Size: 46 sectors Upload date: 08/03/91
COMPUTER VERSION OF THE BOARD GAME
SCATTERGORIES. FUN PARTY GAME.COMES WITH
UTILITY TO PRINT OUT DOCUMENTATION AND
SCORECARDS.

SPEED Size: 122 sectors Upload date: 08/02/91
DEARCS TO 160 SECT. SEVERAL FILES THAT MMAY
SPEED UP UR DISK DRIVE EX. GEO.
CAMPBELL

LUNAR LNR Size: 12 sectors Upload date: 08/01/91
EXTENDED BASIC VERSION OF THE LUNAR LANDER
GAME ON THIS BBS.
UPLOADED BY REQUEST.

SPELLFIX Size: 11 sectors Upload date: 07/16/91
DEARC TO 17 SECTORS. IF YOU HAVE THE ASGARD
PROGRAM "SPEL-IT" ... OR JUST WANT TO PLAY

New in the GENEVE section this month

VIR-GEN Size: 168 sectors Upload date: 07/30/91
VIRTUOSO GENEVE. A SET OF PROGRAMMERS TOOLS
WRITTEN BY WAYNE STITH (GEN-TRD).INCLUDES A
MEMORY EDITOR, ASSEMBLER, SINGLE-STEP
UTILITY, AND MANY MORE.REMEMBER MG'S
EXPLORER FOR THE TI? THIS IS SIMILAR FOR
GENEVE.

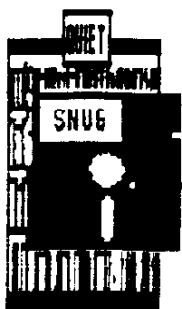
I haven't had a chance to try all of these new programs yet, but will try to have at least a couple of them at the meeting for demonstration.

Our quote of the day...

A bargain is anything a customer thinks a store is losing money

The SNUG BBS is on-line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week except during usergroup meetings (second monday evening each month), routine file maintenance, and BBS failure. We support 300,1200, and 2400 baud. New users are welcome and given full unlimited access at first logon.

Our call John



Librarian's Report

by George Campbell

WELL HAVEN'T WE GOT A LOT TO THINK ABOUT? TRY TO PEER INTO THE FUTURE AND GUESS WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR T.I.GENEVE. AND OUR GROUP

TO KNOW WHAT LIES AHEAD, - REMEMBER HISTORY. WE CAN RECALL OCTOBER 1984 WHEN TEXAS INSTRUMENTS ABRUPTLY TERMINATED ALL PRODUCTION OF PERSONAL COMPUTERS. SUDDENLY WE ARE ORPHANS, AND MOST OF US FELT " THAT'S THE END FOR OUR TI99/4A S "

BUT BY THEN THE TI HAD FIRM FOUNDATIONS. TEXAS INSTRUMENTS HAD SOLD SOME TWO MILLION+ COMPUTERS BY THEN. MORE THAN ALL OTHER BRANDS COMBINED. AND THEY HELPED NURTURE A LARGE NETWORK OF T.I. CLUBS IN THIS COUNTRY, AND AROUND THE WORLD.

THIS NETWORK TOOK ON A LIFE OF ITS OWN. TI OWNERS WERE THE EARLIEST AND THE LARGE MAJORITY OF HOME COMPUTER OWNERS. AND THEY HAD A HARD APPRENTICESHIP, WITHOUT MUCH HELP FROM TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, MASTERING THE TI. ALSO BY THEN - THERE WAS NO OTHER HOME COMPUTER ON THE MARKET THAT CAME NEAR TO MATCHING THE TI IN VERSATILITY.

SO SUPPORT FOR THE TI GREW. WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE MANY EXCELLENT PROGRAMERS, AND SEVERAL MANUFACTORIES CREATED NEW HARDWARE FOR THE TI. RETAIL SOFTWARE COMPANIES THEN APPEARED TO ADD TO THE FOUNDATIONS. MYARC EVEN CREATED AND SOLD A NEW UPDATED CONSOLE FOR OUR SYSTEMS. AND THE TI SUPPORTED BBS SYSTEMS PROVIDED THE GLUE.

SO AS RECENTLY AS LAST FALL (11/90) WE HAD GOOD SUPPORT FOR TI, AND GENEVE. AND THAT'S THE HISTORY. A CRISIS HAS UNFOLDED OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS. IN THE TI COMMUNITY. AND MORE IMPORTANTLY- OUR OWN S.N.U.G. SOME DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ALREADY. MORE WILL BE MADE AT THE NEXT TWO OR THREE MEETINGS OF S.N.U.G. WE CAN SURVIVE AS A GROUP, OR QUIETLY EXPIRE, DEPENDING ON THE SUPPORT THIS GROUP GETS.

WE ALREADY HAVE COMMITMENTS FROM SEVERAL MEMBERS. THE BBS WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE AS LONG AS THERE ARE FUNDS FOR MAINTAINED. THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED. LIBRARY MAINTAINED, AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL FUNCTION, AS IN THE PAST. SO THE FRAMEWORK IS INTACT.

IN ORDER TO FUNCTION, WE REQUIRE A LARGER MEMBERSHIP THAN WE HAVE NOW. BY INCLUDING P.C. OWNERS IN OUR MEMBERSHIP, WE HAVE GOOD PROSPECTS OF ENLARGING OUR BASE. THERE ARE MANY PC OWNERS IN THE VALLEY THAT COULD BENEFIT FROM PARTICIPATING IN OUR STYLE OF CLUB OPERATION. MOST OF OUR GROUP ARE OPERATING BOTH SYSTEMS NOW. AND THE TI USERS WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE SUPPORT FOR THE NEAR FUTURE.

IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER SNUG CAN SUCCESSFULLY AND GRADUALLY SWITCH FROM ONE TO BOTH SYSTEMS. BUT IT SEEMS TO ME, THAT IS THE BEST COURSE. THE CHANGE REQUIRES A AMENDMENT TO THE SNUG CONSTITUTION, AND THE INTENT TO VOTE ON CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION AT THE REGULAR AUGUST MEETING IS COVERED IN THE THE SECRETARY'S MINUTES

ITS GOING TO TAKE OUR BEST EFFORT FROM ALL OF US, BUT MY EXPERIENCE OF THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS REMINDS ME THAT ITS WORTH THE TROUBLE.

I'LL BE AT THE AUGUST MEETING WITH THE SNUG LIBRARY, AND HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

GEO. CAMPBELL

SNUG LIBRARIAN

Secretary's Report



Minutes for July 8, 1991.



Vice President Gordon Leonard opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Nine (9) members were present. John Martin continued the discussion regarding the newsletter exchange. Rudy has been in touch with Delphi and it looks good that they might put up a newsletter area. Don Mitchell motioned that the last newsletter exchange will be in September. From October they would be posted on the Major BBS'S. The motion was seconded.

The next topic for discussion was opening the club to Personal Computers. This would be a big step but at this time about the only way to keep the club active. Most of the members already own a PC. Don Mitchell motioned that SNUG be opened up to include the PC. The motion was seconded.

The elections for the officers was a landslide. There were no nominations presented for new officers so the 1990/1991 officers will serve another year. This is another reason for expanding the group, not only to share computing but to maintain the support SNUG needs.

This is an official notice that there will be a vote at the August meeting to amend the SNUG bylaws to include the Personal Computer. The members not attending the July meeting were notified of the proposed amendment.

This is your club so attend the August meeting. we would like hear "YOUR INPUT"....

 Cindy


 SECRETARY
 SNUG USERS GROUP

Updates

by George Tilley

Several interesting developments after the previous articles were submitted----

Rudy Johnson feels a letter would be better than an article in the news letter to notify the appropriate user groups of our intent to post our newsletter on Compuserve, Delphi and Genie rather than to continue mailing hard copies. To accomplish this, mailouts to exchanging groups will be delayed until after the August meeting to allow the results of that meeting to be included, if appropriate. This newsletter will be small enough to allow the letter to be included without additional postage. The few bucks we save might make a down payment on some new hardware.

John Martin did a little browsing on Compuserve after he uploaded last month's newsletter and came up with some interesting things. He said there was more action on the board than the previous two or three months. He hadn't reviewed everything he downloaded but knows some of it will be worth sharing.. ---- stay tuned.

John also talked about some info he picked up that indicated J.Peter Hoddie will have to give up JP Software. Something about his contract with Apple that makes any programs he writes belong exclusively to Apple and therefore cannot be merchandised by anyone else, especially JPH. Don't put too much stock in my memory, but I think I got this straight. There was also something about Berry Miller taking over distribution of material JPH did before Apple--Losing Peter Hoddie from the TI-ranks will leave a big void. We will hear a lot from many sources about it.

The only time I met JPH was when we hosted FestWest. He stayed up most of one night writing a program he offered the next day. He seemed to produce code faster than a good business man can dictate. I was impressed. His sort routine is probably the best ever written for the TI. His database program is really outstanding. If he had come out with it before TI-Base was established, his program would dominate. ---Our loss--- Apple's gain.

<p>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.)</p>	<p>SNUG OFFICERS President: Rudy Johnson - 871-9583 Vice President: Gordon Leonard - 658-2380 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</p>
<p>SNUG Bulletin Board - (702)648-1247; 24hours 300/1200/2400</p>	<p>NEWSLETTER INFORMATION: Editor: George Tilley - 254-6003 Assoc. Ed.: Rudy Johnson - 871-9583 Newsletter submissions can be sent to P.O. Box 26301, Las Vegas, NV 89126. Articles using TI-Writer on disk are ideal. They may also be phoned with a modem, also a preferred method.</p>
<p>Currently SNUG supports Texas Instrument's 99/4 and 99/4A computers, and Myarc's Geneve 9640 computer.</p>	

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