

MAD HUG

MINNESOTA AND DAKOTA
HOME USER GROUP

GRAND FORKS, ND

MEETINGS
AT THE G.F.
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

DEC. 1987

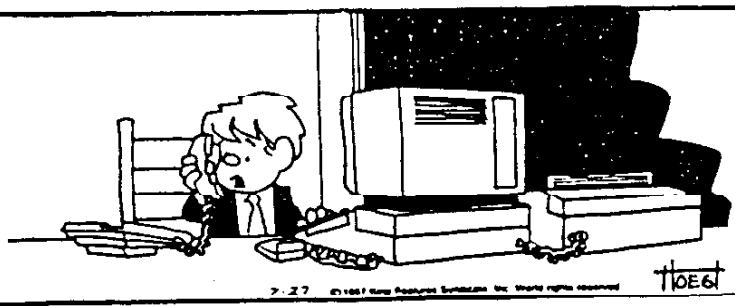
MONTHLY MEETINGS

Minnesota And Dakota Home Users Group meets every second Tuesday in the upstairs meeting rooms and every fourth Tuesday in the Electronic Room of the Grand Forks Public Library. Yearly dues are \$12.00. Members can use the group's hardware and software by presenting the library reference librarian with your membership card and asking for the keys to the MADHUG files. Anyone interested in the TI-99/4A is welcome to attend.

TIGERCUB

The five disks from Tigercub Software have arrived. The president says there is little business for the December Meeting so most of the time will be spent with the two Tigercub Nuts and Bolts demo disks. The remaining disks are text files which contain Tips #42 through #45 in text format as well as many articles and lessons on Extended Basic programming, etc. The demo disks will be returned to Jim P. unviolated as agreed. The 3 Tips disks will become a part of our library in return for his subscription to our newsletter. The demo disks are the darndest things I've seen in a long time. They are well worth seeing. Interestingly enough, one demo disk kept crashing until our intrepid President Alston fixed the glitch by substituting a ASCII number for a question mark. Only one small file was copied, then destroyed under the treasurer's watchful eye, and the disk will be returned repaired and uncopied.

"IF YOU WANT ME
TO HELP YOU WITH
YOUR SERIAL INTERFACE
KIT, KEVIN, YOU'LL
HAVE TO BRING IT
OVER. I DON'T MAKE
HOUSE CALLS."



MINUTES, NOVEMBER 10, 1987

Meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President Rick Alston. Attendance: 14 members. Minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in the Newsletter.

President reported on his review of Funnelweb Ver. 4.0 just received from Tony and Will McGovern. He also had unpacked some programs, using Archiver II, from Danial Kruschel. The instructions from Tony McGovern were quite helpful concerning COLIST.

At the request of Dennis Scheldahl, who was absent, a letter from our new member, Duane Wangen, New Town, ND, was read. He introduced himself quite well to the Group. Welcome, Duane! A letter from John R. Mortz concerning earning money with your computer was filed. A letter from Tiger Cub, Jim Peterson, resulted in the decision to put him on the mailing list for our Newsletter. Moved by Rich Jurgens, seconded by the Secretary, and carried that the Group purchase a catalog and User Groups lists from Tiger Cub.

President suggested that the Group consider some type of association with other User Groups, so that we may share our separate and different resources to our mutual advantage. He requested that such an alliance be discussed at the next meeting.

Dan Boyce won the raffle. His prize was a Futaba keyboard.

At 7:45 pm meeting adjourned to the Electronics Room. There the President demonstrated several features of Funnelweb Ver. 4.0; several copies were made and distributed. Even though it was past closing time for the Library, we were permitted to leave before the doors were locked for the night. However, the meeting simply adjourned to Perkins--maybe we could sequester a console, P-box, etc., there. HWE

SIG MEETING, NOVEMBER 24, 1987

Microsoft Multiplan business templates, entries, development of

formulae, transfers from one file to another, etc., were demonstrated for daily journals and accounts payable ledgers during the first hour. Rick Alston demonstrated features of Funnelweb Ver. 4.0 during the second hour. Nine members were in attendance; some arrived long before the meeting began--and afterwards adjourned to Perkins for further sharing of information. HWE

Product Review

The CorComp 9900 PEB Disk Controller Card.

By: Bill Overton

The business of running a Bulletin board Service (BBS) requires a lot of time and effort, but one other thing it does, is require more and more disk space based on the evolution of the BBS expansion. One of the easiest ways to to expand disk storage capacity it to purchase a Double Density controller. This in effect doubles your existing disk setup over the old TI Single Density card. So that's what I did. Now due to my recent aquisition, my review of the CorComp 9900 Disk Controller.

To start off with, I can not refer to any differences between the CorComp vs the Myarc Controller cards. My selection of the CorComp over myarc was based on what advertisement I was reading when I decided to buy. (My satisfaction with the CorComp Triple Tech Card did influence me a bit)

The first thing you will notice about the card is the lack of the old "clamshell case". I guess CorComp does not believe in them. In the accompanying book, which I will say is "pretty good" for the individuals who find instructional material usually hard to understand, CorComp states that there is no case to allow access to the dip switches which control the head step speed. Since

you have to remove the PEB top to get to them anyway, an access hole in a case would still be a more acceptable solution.

Now to get down to business. Installing the new card is identical to the TI controller card. The card comes factory set for a head step speed of 10 ms. This is supposed to be the standard. The manual states that if you have read/write errors, you should set the dip setting for a slower speed. I found that my errors would not clear up until I set for a faster step speed. But once set correctly for your drives, seems to work perfectly.

CorComp also states that single density drives have been know to work as double density, but don't recommend it. All I can say is, "experiment" MPI model 52 drives are what I use and work perfectly.

The controller will support any combination of SS/SD, DS/SD, SS/DD, or DS/DD for up to four drives. The Disk manager that comes with the card will appear very familiar to those who use FunLwriter, but I can't testify to the compatability between the two. But, I am sure, the CorComp disk manager can be loaded onto your favorite version of FunLwriter.

My final judgement: I am not disappointed that I bought this card. The fact that with four DS/DD drives you will have well over one megabyte of storage capability isn't bad, either!

The price of this card as listed in the TENEX Summer '87 catalog is \$149.95.

I'M BACK IN THE CPU AGAIN

Last time you heard about my woes was when my keyboard died and was not only replaced but enhanced, improved, and generally spiffed up to the max. So then I started having trouble with my second disk drive. It kindly erased a bunch (is four a bunch?) of my TI Writer data disks. Rich Jurgens came to the rescue by cleaning, lubing, and adjusting the goodness right out of it and into the P-Box. This good little glitch then ran all through the system. Rich and I spent four hours swapping cards, cables, drives, and every thing else we could think of, but it escaped our best efforts to track it down and exterminate it.

You're thinking that I had a bad connector somewhere and all of our wiggling and jiggling cured the problem. **WRONG!** Actually, this was a kindly Christmas glitch. I needed to be taught two things. One was how slick our little Christmas-gift toy can work and how much I rely on it to get my monthly word processing done. The second lesson was the more important. The aid and assistance from those who helped me try to figure this thing out was heart-warming. Even though I'm getting an Apple for Christmas, it'll always be second string because of the human support that the TI gets through every member of MADHUG.

So

A Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good glitch.

DOS

TREASURY NOTES

As of November 30, 1987, with all bills paid and all deposits in, the treasury stands thusly:

On deposit (Nov.1)	\$112.01	Expenditures	
Cash on hand	1.00	Newsletter printing (Nov.)	\$16.00
Deposits	34.00	Tigercub	4.50
Total	\$147.01	Total	\$20.50

Treasury Balance \$126.51

DUES

Two members are past due and a whopping 7 members are due in December. We're either going to be "rolling in dough" or "poor as church mice."

FUNNELWRITER Ver 4.0

By Rick Alston
President MADHUG

If you have not gotten a copy of the newest version (4.0) of FNLWEB's FUNNELWRITER, your missing out!!! I didnt think it could be improved on, but boy was I wrong! Tony and Will have outdone themselves again.

Here are a few of the things it now does.

1. Allows you to catalog a disk just about anywhere you may be in the program by pressing FCTN 7.

2. The new text Editor has a neat bottom reference line (numbered) to help you keep track of where you are, not to mention the nice little Beep when you are 5 spaces from the end of A line of text. But best of all, you can catalog a disk in the usual way using the Show Directory, but... you can also view DV 80 files on the screen or print them without losing the document you are working on!! Now isnt that neat! I have found that to be a very useful utility.

3. The new CONFIG file really simplifies the task of personalizing FNLWEB to your system. It is completely menu driven, and sets up your Load file and the UTIL or (RELOAD) file at the same time. A few times through it and you will see what I mean.

4. The new Disk Patch allows you to catalog a disk and provides you with a menu, which I have found to be very helpful.

I now need a bigger RamDisk, or a Double Density Controller Card, it seems my RamDisk is full and so is 720 sectors of one disk, which I call the "System" disk. This disk contains lots of programs I use regularly, the Ramdisk contains most of the FNLWEB files. My T.I. sure acts like the machine I use at work, thanks to Tony and Will McGovern, as well as many other fine programmers. Those of you needing help configuring the new FUNNELWRITER to your system call or come over, I dont mind helping, it's a neat program.

Loren Quern recently attended the T.I. Fair in Chicago and returned with some new (for me) software that he allowed me to try out. WOW, JoyPaint is super, (the closest thing to printshop for the T.I. I have seen) and so is Certificate 99, with these programs and a few others you can absolutely do any kind of graphics you desire. Add Color ribbons and let your imagination go. How many of you know how to kill your computer? Besides shooting it or zapping it with static, Have you ever thought of experimenting it to death? Well It's a slow death that kills it a little at a time. I have one that has no Basic. It went away shortly after the speedup and Extended Basic inside the console experiment, which was preceded by the clear up the screen experiment. The modified Keyboard quit during the reconfiguration of the console case for the modified keyboard. Which was preceded by the cooler power supply experiment. All of these experiments (plus a lot more) have led to a slow agonizing death of a computer, which has undergone surgery so many times the screw holes are loose. Fortunately for me (not the computer) I have another which has benefited from advancements (in non fatal computer modifications) by being constructed from parts of many (Donors) other computers. It doesnt know or even care that it has it's fathers mother board, and its sisters power supply, and its uncles keyboard, and last and truly least its nephews 1983 beige plastic case. Dr. Frankenstein would have been proud?

All of you have a very Happy Christmas
and a prosperous New Year. MADHUG

THE PRINTERS APPRENTICE
A Command Review
By Rick Alston

I have found The Printers Apprentice to be a most fascinating program. It is available by sending \$22.50 to McCann software P.O. Box 34160 Omaha NE 68134. It is relatively complex but is also much more versatile than other programs of its type on the T.I. market to date. This shouldn't scare you away from this outstanding program, since it alone allows you to do things that aren't possible with other similar "Printshop" type programs, T.I. or non T.I. Your imagination is your only limitation. I found the documentation to be rather difficult to follow, with no consolidated command listing. This means you have to leaf through the pages of the manual to locate the appropriate information through a series of "Descendents", which for me was confusing. What follows is not complete enough to replace the manual but is a consolidated list of commands with a brief explanation of those functions not plainly described in the manual. These should hopefully get you into the program a little more simply allowing you to experience the vast power and versatility of The Printers Apprentice.

NOTE: The following programs are a must to fully utilize The Printers Apprentice:

T.I. Artist with companion disks.
CSGD complete set of disks.
TPA font disk, TPA Toolbox.

>>>> PICTURE EDITOR: <<<<<
Page 11 - 14 of manual.
Prefixes are F=Fctn / C=Ctrl

F-S Cursor left
F-D cursor right
F-E cursor up
F-X cursor down
K-Erase cursor left
I-Erase cursor up
L-Erase cursor right
, -Erase cursor down
S-Draw cursor left
D-Draw cursor right
E-Draw cursor up
X-Draw cursor down
M-Reflect picture horizontal axis
N-Reflect picture vertical axis
F-1 Reduce horiz width of paint brush
F-2 Increase horiz width of paint brush
F-3 Reduce vert height of paint brush
F-8 Increase vert height of paint brush
F-4 Clear screen, erase all drawings

NOTE: Use of the red marker is outlined on page 13

F-5 Toggles red marker on and off (shaped like white cursor)
F-7 Draws / Erases a line between cursor and red marker
F-8 Increase vert ht of paint brush
F-9 Exit to Picture Editor exit menu
F-0 Toggles between draw and erase mode
F-C Draws/Erases a circle centered at marker position outer edge at cursor
C-9 Toggles row column counter
C-= Klipper allows a 24 X 24 pixel area to be saved into a font file assigned to a corresponding letter. pg 14.
C-8 Load/Save pg 12
C-P Print/Picture option pg 12

>>>> CHARACTER EDITOR: <<<<<
Page 6 - 10 of manual.

"E" selects EDIT and provides:
Fctn-S Cursor left
Fctn-D cursor right
Fctn-E cursor up
Fctn-X cursor down
K-Erase cursor left
I-Erase cursor up
L-Erase cursor right
, -Erase cursor down
S-Draw cursor left
D-Draw cursor right
E-Draw cursor up
X-Draw cursor down
F-1 Delete column at cursor
F-2 Insert column at cursor
F-3 Delete row at cursor
F-4 Clear screen
F-5 Switch editing windows for DUSH editing
F-6 Reflect character through vertical axis
F-7 Reflect character through horizontal axis
F-8 Insert row at cursor and duplicate
F-9 Escape to character editor menu
C-R Redraw small window to screen

NOTE: Printer/file name and variables have to be set before using the next option. (see print options pg 9)

C-P Print the current character
C-1 Delete pixel in current row
C-2 Insert pixel space in current row
NOTE: Select S or O before going to the next two options. (S=single strike 1-479 dots per line), (O=overunder strike 1-959 dots per line).
C-9 Character save and load control
C-= Font height control

D-Directory catalogs selected drive
X=Escape
Space character requires creation and blanking in all font files. Font upgrade, page 11

>>>> FORMATTER: <<<<
Page 15 - 20 of manual.

X-Main TPA menu
F-4 Stops printing
F-6 Gets next page of directory
F-9 Escape to main formatter menu
T-Allows renaming DSK?.Textfile
B-Buffer file
E-Extrnfile for use with Scheduler
F-Allows renaming DSK?.Fontfile
G-Go executes formatter
H-Allows user to hyphenate during printing. See pg 18
J-Allows loading/creating text via the JOTTER.

>>>> JOTTER COMMANDS: <<<<

F-1 Delete character
F-2 Insert character
C-R Reformat
F-3 Delete line
F-4 Roll down
F-6 Roll up
F-8 Insert blank line
F-9 Jotter main menu
F-S,D,X,E move cursor
Use "CR" at end of text, (pg 19)
P-Printer command (Star PIO.CR.LF)

>>>> NOTICE!!! <<<<

Configure the next section before creating any EXTRNFILES.

V-Variables allows redefinition of parameters
Note: Commands for this should be as follows for star printers.

Prntr type-G eaini E pson
Density-S or D
Font Sdsh-Oush-S or U (whichever style font your using)
Linefeed size-Q
Space Width Ascii32-4
Intercharacter width-2
Font/Ascii-F or A
Wrap/Fixed-W best or F
Ragged/Microadjust-R or M best

NOTE: When entering the following information keep in mind that any graphics to be printed left, right or center will require special handling of the text. ie: 1st determine how many pixels wide the graphics will be including any margins, and whatever is left of the page is available for text. For example, centered graphics will require separate text files, one for the left side, one for the right side, one below, and possibly one above the graphics. Any other "Broken" text will require separate text files which must be converted to an "EXTRNFILE" for use in the Scheduler. Any file name you choose will work just remember them and their order to be

printed.

S-Single density
D-Double density
Q-Quad density

NOTE: The numbers shown are how many pixels it takes to print across a page.

Left margin-(S 0-479)or(D-Hs 0-959)
Right margin-Same (B 0-1919)
Next breakpoint-Q see pg 17

>>>> SCHEDULER: <<<<
Page 21 - 24 in manual.

E-Toggles Printer/Extrnfile
G-Go Initiates command shown on screen
M-Modify data: Select letter

NOTE: The maximum number of files that can be "Scheduled" for printing in one document is (75). These files consist of files created using "GRAPHIC ART" (artwork) converted to an EXTRNFILE with the Picture Editor, and "JOTTER" or T.I. Writer (textfiles) which are converted to "EXTRNFILES" using the Formatter. The "SCHEDULER" ties it all together by allowing you to place the various files in the order and location you want them printed on the page.

E-Edit

Row-enter how far down page printing should begin for each file. (microlinefeeds "pixels")

Col-enter how far from left margin printing is to begin for each file. (pixels)

#Reps-enter how many times the file will be printed (works well for borders)

U-Up scrolls back through file names in the reverse order they will be printed, (can be edited)

D-Down scrolls forward through file names in the order they are to be printed, (can be edited also)

I-Insert a blank file name

A-Active jumps to the selected Disk Directory Window F-E/X enabled, (helps to recall file names)

P-Print prints contents of "SCHEDULER" including headers.(confirms contents). Use PIO.CR.LF for Star printers.

S-Size reads the row and column information stored in an EXTRNFILE header into the Row/Col (this helps during layout)

B-Blockmove allows a "Block" of contiguous files to be moved horizontally or vertically as a unit.

Z-Zap deletes current data item

E-Exit to main Scheduler menu

C-Clears data

D-Disk directory (select drive) F-E/X scrolls file names
R-Reads the EXTRNFILE currently shown on screen including Row/Col/#Reps. (useful for confirmation/editing)

W-WriteS over the EXTRNFILE shown on screen after editing of Row/Col/#Reps. (be careful).

X-Exits to Main menu.

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