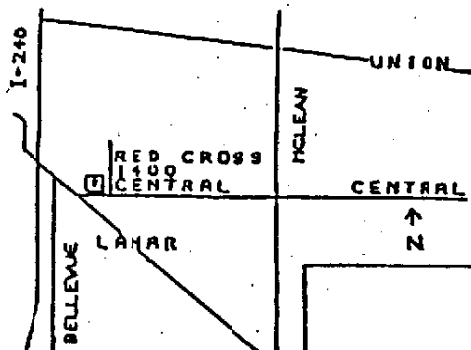


**NOTICES**

**MEETING**  
7:00 P.M.  
Thursday, February 18th  
Red Cross Building  
1400 Central Av.

**WORKSHOP**  
9am till Noon  
Saturday February 27



*g*

UG 2/86  
DALLAS TI USER GROUP  
P.O. BOX 29863  
DALLAS, TX 75229

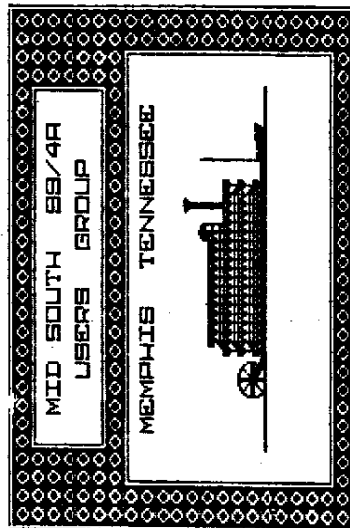


**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  \$15.00 FAMILY  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  \$10.00 JUNIOR (under 15)  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  \$10.00 ASSOCIATE (N/L only)  
PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ INTERESTS \_\_\_\_\_

EQUIPMENT, ETC. \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and mail with check payable to: Mid-South 99 Users Group,  
P.O. Box 38522, Germantown, Tn, 38183-0522.



P.O. BOX 38522, GERMANTOWN, TN 38183-0522

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**FEBRUARY 1988**

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## T I D B I T S

### PRESIDENTS BIT

Hello and thank you for your continued support. I'd like to extend a hearty welcome to our new members and also to those who attended the meeting and Saturday workshop. At our most recent officers meeting, the following was discussed concerning the MSUG support and operation of the bulletin board system. As officers, we still feel that a club supported BBS can provide information and enthusiasm for all the members of MSUG, regardless of whether you have a modem or not. The BBS provides a local information link to those who can afford long distance / network charges to those willing to compile news, write articles, and provide demonstrations. Such dialogue keeps us all abreast to the latest hardware and software as well as provide a sounding board to those willing to experiment and improve our persistent micro.

Recent problems have plagued the BBS to the point that board activity has fallen drastically. A committee has been formed to analyze software and hardware incompatibility and present researched suggestions as to what will be needed to regain the local and national popularity of the board. They will also recommend what should be done to maintain the BBS with 100% MSUG equipment. Recently, borrowed equipment has failed, resulting in some hard feelings within the group. The officers felt that the club is not responsible for non MSUG equipment, after all, this is a volunteer effort. However, we also felt that some compensation was also justified because of long-term wear and tear on the equipment, and because the 100% 'policy' was not enforced. We are determined to have only MSUG equipment running the BBS, or the BBS will not run at all.

Our librarian has decided to condense the Library disks by archiving four disks onto one ds/dd disk to be 'broken out' when request are made. This format may seem cumbersome, but he's the keeper of the (copy) keys. He has also agreed to help us figure it out in the event he must give up the chair. Library catalogs will also be available to club members at the next meeting.

The most exciting news lately is the arrival of Micheal Dorman's BBS (Midnight Hour) to the area. He tells us that the board is serving the II 994/a, 9640, and IBM compatibles with a 20 meg hard drive! We realize that our BBS will not be able to compete with that much D/L storage space, but we feel certain that our BBS will compliment his board with a strong message base and plenty of the hottest fairware programs. (After all, with that much storage, his board will be very busy!)

Continue reading as there are plenty of great articles in this issue!

## IN THE NEWS

I would like to welcome several more new members, Walker Morris of Memphis and Liz Walker of Little Rock, Arkansas. Thanks also for all of the renewals.

The January meeting went fairly well despite a very low turnout of only 25 members. Michael did a great job demonstrating the Geneva. The graphics capabilities are absolutely outstanding! The resistor change in the console worked also. The improvement was not as dramatic as anticipated but it did give a noticeable improvement in picture quality.

If you have received some disks from our library which will not work it may be because we have had a few that are missing the 'hub ring' which is around the center of the disk. If it is missing this ring the disk may slip in the drive and thus will not work. If you have received one of these disks with the hub ring missing just return it for another one. We just now discovered that some of the hubs were missing on our last shipment.

The Memphis Area Computer Council (MACC) of which our group is a member and of which I am secretary is now planning another computer fair for Fall of this year. Recently MACC had a two page write up in the Memphis Area Business Journal and is becoming more recognized among the computer community. Ideas for this coming fair are possibly renting a building and inviting vendors, possibly including the HamFest with our fair or going with another User Group fair at State Tech. Currently local members of MACC are the following groups: Commodore, Memphis PC (IBM), Amiga, Atari, TI99/4A, Memphis Micro, Adam, Color Computer and Osborne.

Our BBS is now fairly well operational, give it a call. Note that you MUST answer Y (yes) to the question of Do you need linefeeds? This goes for any BBS that you call with your TI99/4A.

Michael Dorman has installed a BBS of his own in West Memphis using an IBM system and hard drive. The board is primarily for the TI99/4A, Geneva 9640 and IBM computers. The number for his BBS is (501) 735-9980. NOTE that from the Memphis and surrounding areas West Memphis, Arkansas is NOT a long distance call. Just dial 735-9980 and the call will go through.

## NATIONAL NEWS

No more word on TI getting back in to the home computer market as mentioned last month. The only word about it has come from just the one source which I quoted last month. In fact, I should have emphasized the point that it was a rumor more strongly. It is just a rumor which has NOT been confirmed.

According to Jack Rilsy quoted in MICROpendium the Myarc floppy/hard disk controller will be available sometime this year. For Geneva 9640 owners many new programs are scheduled for release such as GEME (Graphics Enhanced Multi-Tasking Environment), a CAD program, a flight simulator as well as a MIDI interface and USCO Pascal allowing access to Fortran 77 and LISP.

According to a note in the Long Island S9er Newsletter (Deer Park, NY) someone will soon have a tester program for the MBX Expansion System (voice recognition system) which will test out the operation of the system. Also coming, according to the newsletter, drivers to allow software to be written for the MBX system. Currently there is no way for us to access the MBX system except for the few cartridges that were made for it.

A national E-Mail registry, The White Pages, is available to modem users. It lists thousands of subscribers, both individuals and companies. The directory operates through an automated search system. When the user makes a search for someone, he receives information on which commercial or public telecommunication system he can be found by E-Mail. Registration is free. Each search is the cost of the call to the service and 20 cents per search (no charge if not found). To register, set your terminal for 7 bits, even parity, 1 stop bit, 300, 1200 or 2400bd and call 1-800-622-0505. You might want to register so that someone can see what service that you can be located on.

William Chavanne has announced that the 1988 version of his program TI-Tax for the 1987 tax year should be available as of last month. He says TI-Tax will be capable of doing "almost all, if not all, calculations for many taxpayers and printing IRS approved forms. A most significant addition is the ability to overprint the standard IRS pre-printed form 1040, freeing users from having to copy to that form by hand in order to comply with the IRS rules that prohibit the computer generation of forms that require a signature. Chavanne says prices will be the same as last year (from \$9.95 to \$19.95 per disk), with additional distributors (such as Disk Only Software), and a new fairware rebate plan. He says TI-Tax owners may register their legitimately payed-for copy with him. Then, when they give away copies containing their registration number, they will be eligible to receive 30 percent of the amount paid by persons who, in turn, pay Chavanne and register their copies. Chavanne notes he has acquired a Geneve 9640, so TI-Tax is available for users wanting to take advantage of that machine's speed and 80-column capability. For a flyer on TI-Tax, write Chavanne at 4549 English Ave., Forth Meade, MD 20755.

John H. Carver Jr. has announced his intention of acting as a "clearing house" for Forth programmers. He asks that anyone "even remotely interested in Forth" write him at RR#1, Box 125-2, Bringham IN 46913 or leave messages for him on Genie, Compuserve, The Source or Delphi. He also asks that readers post this message on their local BBS. Carver said he would like to point out the existence of the TI-Forth International Information Center, 4122 Glenway St. Wauwatosa, WI 53222, which has public domain Forth applications and tutorials. The Forth Interest Group, P.O. Box 8231, San Jose, CA 95155, offers membership for \$30 per year.

A system for Worldwide Echo Conferencing for the TI is now operational, according to Rich Hill, sysop of Rich's Oregon Opus, located near Portland, Oregon. The conference was founded by Hill and Rory Binkerd, sysop of Dakota InfoNet Opus, located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. According to Hill, both had been operating

independent TI based bulletin board systems and both switched to IBM based systems within weeks of each other, as their user list and file bases had outgrown the storage capabilities of the TI at the time. Both systems are almost identical, using Opus 1.03a Computer-Based Conversation System software. They formed the International Texas Instruments and 9640 Echo Conference using the established International Fito Net Association's parameters as a guide. Systems in California and North Carolina have joined the network and Hill says the Boston Computer Society has indicated that its system will be linked to the network and the ground work is being laid to connect it to Australia and parts of Europe. There is no charge for the use of the service, but the sysops will accept donations, Hill says. Boards currently in service are:

Oregon Opus (503) 692-7204, Rich Hill Sysop.

Dakota Infonet Opus (605) 336-3578, Rory Binkerd Sysop.

North Carolina Central Opus (919) 852-8460. Amnon Nissan Sysop.

Compulink Opus (805) 494-3350, Eric Daymo Sysop.

Each of these boards operates 24 hours a day and is closed from 1 to 2 a.m. in its respective time zone for mail processing.

Remember deadline for all newsletter articles are always the next to last day of the month for the following months newsletter... Gary Cox

## PROGRAM BIT

6:30pm - Doors Open

7:15pm - 7:30pm Meeting begins, general discussion.

7:30pm - 8:10pm Demonstration of Horizon Ram Disk with version 7.3 of John Johnson's Horizon Operating System. Demonstration by Gary Cox

8:10pm - 8:40 Demonstration of Legends Adventure Game. This is a very sophisticated and unusual adventure game. Demonstration by James Bennington.

8:40pm - 9:15 To Be Announced.

9:15pm - 9:45 Main system free for anyone's use.

9:45pm - 10:00pm Clean up.

10:15pm - 12:00am Social meeting at Shoneys located at 3046 Poplar.

As you might notice above we are now meeting after our main meetings at Shoneys. We have been doing this now for about the past 6 meetings and have decided to try to do it now after each meeting. Everyone is invited to come along with us and sit around and talk and eat...

The library and newsletter table will be open at the meeting as always.

## LIBRARY BIT

HEY, WHAT'S ON THOSE DISKS?? In this month's LIBRARY BIT I am going to let you know what programs are on disk #'s 86 - 97 of the current library catalog. This is not a descriptive list merely a listing of the programs and you can decide for yourself if you would like to have it or not. But, at least you will have some information on which to base your decision. I will also update the library list to include the file names and that way all future printings will have them available. So, without further adieu, here they are.

86 HILLIER (DS/SD) - AARDVARK, AMERICA, BEELINE, CIVILWAR, COPTEREQ, CPM, DATAIRANS, DEVASTATOR, DIR, DRGNPAZE, GOLF, HIVOLT, LASTROBOT, LIFE-LINE, LOAD, MAILWRTR, MAINLINE, MERGE/READ, MERGEDITOR, PAYRULE, PINBALL, POWRES, ROCKETDUEL, RUNWAY, TACONAN, TEETH, TOWERARING, TYPEINVADE, YAKTZEZ.

87 GAMES (DS/SD) - BARBRAPHER, BATTLESTAR, BOA ALLEY, BOUNCE, CACTI\_KILL, CHECKERS-2, CHICKEN, CIRCUS, CLIMBER, DERBY, DIAMONDS, ENTERPRIZ3, FORCE\_1, FURNITURE, GIANTS, GOLD\_RUSH, LOAD, MOSAIC, N\_VADER, ROBOTCHASE, SANFRATOUR, SIMULATOR, SPRITEAID, STARFIGHT, TERMITE, UPSCOPE, X\_FORCE.

88 GAMES (SS/SD) - ELIZA, GOLF, JUNJLEJIM, KRAZYKOALA, METEOR, DTHELLO, QUEST, SPACEJUNK, SPCEPATROL, TREASURE, ZANQUEST.

89 SYNCOM (DS/SD) - 3-D\_MAZE, ADDFILE1, ADDFILE2, ADDINVINIT, ADDR/INV, ARROWZAP, ATC, BATTLE, BINGO, BOXING, COSMICGUNS, CRABS, DUCK, GOLDBAG, GRISLEY, GUNNER, HELP, LAWNMOWER, LOAD, MICRO\_JAWS, PHOENIX, PROG\_GUIDE, SBATTLE, SKEET, STAR-TREK, TUNNEL.

90 GAMES17 (SS/SD) - 1513, BIORHYTHM, COLORBURST, DUNGEON, DUNGEONINS, LOAD, MAKE\_MARK, MELTDOWN, SPACEGUARD, SP\_COMMAND, STAR\_FIGHT.

91 GAMES18 (SS/SD) - CANNIBALS, COPTEREQ, DECISION, GAZELLE, GOLDMINER, LOAD, MATCHES, PAC-EAT, PARACHUTE1, PARACHUTE2, SPRITES, SURGEON, TALBUT.

92 GAMES12 (SS/SD) - AIRDEFENSE, ALIEN-III, BIBOMER, CAMELOT, DIR, DWORSHAK, LANDER, LOAD, SKIER, SKIER\_SPCK, SKIER\_ZAP, SPRITE\_DEM, SWORD.

93 UTILITY29 (SS/SD) - B/P/HYFERS, CLRVEFIT, FILTERS, GARBAGE, GRAPHICSCG, HIGHMATH, LOAD, PHASELL, PLOTTING, RADIO/CODE, ROOTLOCUS, SMITHCRT, XYZ-PLOT.

94 UTILITY37 (DS/SD) - ADDRESS, AMORTIZAT, AUTOLOGON, BARBRAPHER, BIORHYTHM, CALENDER, CASH, CAT, CHARA1, CHOROPLETH, DEPRESSION, FINDEX, FO-LETTER, GETSET, HEATLOSS, HSECRETARY, JOYDRAW, LINKLIST, LOAD, M/NDISASMB, M/MRELOC, MORTGAGE, MSS/GRAPH, MUNCHER, PHONEBOOK1, PHONEBOOK2, SAVINGS, SKIRT, SLACKS, TELI-DATA, TKWRITER, TUTEST, WRITER1.

95 UTILITY36 (SS/SD) - B/P/H, BARGRAPH, BOOLEAN, FOURIER, FUCTION, JACKET, LIGHT, LOAK, MARK, ODES, PICO, PICOPR, RECORDS, SINEQ, TAXDEDUCT, TUNESTR.

96 UTILITY35 (DS/SD) - ADV>DSKLD, ADV>DSKOB, AUTOSPRITE, BANKING, BANNER, BARTENDER, CAT, CODEDATA, CPM, DBLLIST, FILES, HOUSECOST, LABELMAKER, LOAD, LOANCALC, LOANCALC/B, MASTERCASS, PERT, PLANCAL, PORT-ANLYS, RECALLDATA, SNAP-CALC, SOURCETIME, TAX1040, TERMINALPG, TIMER/S, BFILER, XBCLOCK.

97 MISC (SS/SD) - ASTROSTAR, BANKROBER, BIRD, BLUEBOOG, CON4, ELEPHANT, FROGGER, GOLF, HCOMET, HEXCONV, KLINGON, QUASI, SCHMOO, TYPING.

I noticed that some of the programs are duplicated, but not so many that it would make the rest of the disk undesirable. The only real disk that I found questionable at all was the one with the "LAWN MOWER" program on it. I can't imagine where that one came from, but that program keeps turning up where you least expect it. Guess that's all for now - See ya'll at the meeting.....db (David Ferguson)

P.S. Version 7.3 of John Johnsons Horizon Operating System is now in the library.

## GENEVE NOTES

By Beery Miller

A new hardware item has just recently been introduced that provides compatibility with the 4A and with the Geneve 9640 that can save many headaches. It is the Rave 99 Speech Adapter Board. This little device about 7 inches by 3 inches fits into the PEB and has a port so that you can connect the bare speech synthesizer card into. I have my speech card sitting in slot 8 as my disk controller is sitting in slot 7. The speech synthesizer card also includes a LED so that you can see when it is activated for all those people that like pretty lights. The benefit of this device over the CorComp Triple Tech Card is that the triple tech card is not compatible with the Geneve 9640. The Triple Tech Card lacked all of the address lines that the Geneve required to maintain compatibility with the entire system. The card for the 4A user has the benefit of no longer having any loose connections to the speech synthesizer and fire hose cable that frequently caused many lockups. The Rave 99 Speech Adapter Card can be purchased thru Rave 99, 112 Rambling Road, Vernon, CT 06066 (203) 872-9272. The price is \$49.95 plus \$2.50 s/h.

Having been on Genie quite frequently lately, I have been keeping well informed of the progress of the Myarc Hard Disk Drive Controller Card. As I have learned, the software has been mostly

written so far and is in the stages of being debugged. As some may know, there will be two versions of the software. One for the 4A and the other for the Geneve 9640 using all of it's capabilities. The developer of the 4A version was having problems at the last count of attempting to format his hard drive and when he did, was still unable to read any data back from the drive. The person writing the 9640 version was having better success. He had already formatted the drive and could read and write text files, but was still having problems transferring program image files by any acceptable means. Finally the person that was doing the documentation had a bad hard drive that he had purchased from someone on CIS and was having it repaired. Myarc says that the Seagate ST506/ST412 type drives that are found on IBM PC/XI will be compatible with their controller card. In addition, Myarc notes that the hard drive will NOT be able to run from the power supply of the PEB unless you modify it as it does not provide enough amps to start the drive. They recommend a separate power supply for your hard drive along the lines of a 135 power supply that can be found in Computer Shopper for around \$50.00. It has also been rumored that 20 of the hard drive controller cards have already been shipped to software developers for beta testing however I have no confirmation.

Myarc is supposedly close in releasing the information necessary to modify your Myarc memory cards to be compatible with the Geneve 9640. From the information I have learned so far, Myarc is going to be charging around \$50.00 instead of the \$15.00 they previously stated to modify the card. This is due to the time for the technician to cut three traces from three chips and some other small modifications. It seems that the 9995 chip requires these modifications whereas the 9900 wiring had to be different. Lou Phillips said that the memory backup will not be available with the card and that once the card is modified, it will no longer be compatible with the 4A system. For some like me, that means once I make that modification, I hang my 4A system up for good as I do not have memory expansion for it.

I should while I am at it, mention that a few more programs have hit the networks for the 9640. The first and most important one for me is NOT-MYTERM. In a matter of 24 hrs, it went from version 1.0 to version 1.1. This program will definitely receive my freeware payment as the author notes that if you want to see enhancements released, the author wants his compensation for his work. Presently the program supports XMODEM, along with 40/80 column mode selection, full/half duplex, a time/day/date keypress selection, and a help menu built in. The program also accepts the current mode of RS232 output which means before entering the terminal emulator, you can specify your modem port at command prompt by typing MODE RS232/1.BA=1200 or whatever baud rate you prefer.

Another program that has hit the networks is a catalog program that now includes the time and date stamping features that can be seen as in MY-Word. This is not a disk manager, just simply a tool so that you can see when a file was last modified, updated, etc.

Probably the last program that I can think of is one for the New Horizon Ram disk owners. The Horizon ram disk test program has now been converted to run under MDOS for the Geneve.

At last report, Advanced Basic was nearing completion and was in the beta testing stage. I wish this program would hurry up and get out. Even if not all the features were included yet, I would like to have some type of advanced basic that has fewer problems than their other basic(2.11) possesses. As far as the Pascal system, it is 'coming along' and might be expected by the end of the first quarter. I can't wait for that program as once it does hit the market, programs available for the Geneve will suddenly flourish.

The last thing I would like to mention is something I just got in the mail today that made me very happy. About a week ago, I wrote Lou Phillips and told him of my problems I was experiencing with the Geneve 9640 as I could not have any luck in running Myarc Basic 2.11. Well, the problem appeared to be that it was with my keyboard not recognizing some of the GPL commands. To make a long story short, Lou sent me a new version of the GPL interpreter V.99 that corrected the problem. By fixing that problem, I believe every other problem that I have had has now been corrected. I am very pleased.

I would also like to mention some details that I learned from my letter as I had some other questions that I thought I would toss at Lou. I have found out the prices that Myarc is selling some hardware manuals for such as the 9938 (\$20), 9995(\$10), 9901(\$10), MM58274(\$10, clock chip) plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling for a total of \$55.00. Lou also goes on to mention that a program developer's package which will be available soon in the neighborhood of \$100 that will include the manuals I just mentioned. At least Myarc is going to support the third party software developer more than what TI did!!!!!!

I had planned to include one more article in this month's newsletter on programming in assembly on the Geneve, but as the newsletter deadline approaches (tomorrow), I have run out of time to really put it together like I wish. Hopefully by the next newsletter, I will have the article written along with my first fairware program for the Geneve if all turns out o.k... Beery Miller

## HORIZON REVIEW

Review by Gary Cox

A Ram Disk is just what the name implies. It is like a disk drive but instead of using floppy disks it uses RAM chips. A Ram Disk for the T199/4A goes into the PEB. One of the most popular, and my favorite RAM disk, is the Horizon Ram Disk.

Using the John Johnson menu operating system (available on disk from our library) many more features and abilities are available than with the operating system that comes with the Ram Disk. This

ability to change the operating system and update it with new versions has given the Horizon Ram Disk a great boost in a continuously updated operating systems. The operating system is what the Ram Disk must use for it's instructions on how to operate. The TI99/4A console uses a operating system just as the Horizon Ram Disk does. However, with the TI99/4A console you are unable to change or reload a new operating system into it unless you have a Gram Kracker. Since the Horizon Ram Disk contains battery backed RAM chips the operating system can be changed. Another example of an operating system is MS-DOS on IBM compatibles. To put it simply an operating system is what tells the computer how to do what it does.

With John Johnson's 7.3 menu system, as soon as the system is powered up a menu is immediately placed on the screen displaying the contents of programs that you placed onto the Ram Disk. The menu display is in a manner you design. If you wish selection #4 to be DM 1000 you edit the menu by pressing FCTN 5 and you type in as selection #4 DM 1000 and tell the computer to load MGR1 (first file of DM 1000) from the Ram Disk. So now when selection #4 is pressed MGR1 is loaded which loads MGR2 and DM 1000 is ready and running in a matter of less than 2 seconds. Note it is not necessary though for the menu to come up on power up. The auto menu can be turned off so that you get the TI color bar screen instead. Then to access the menu you type CALL MENU.

To get back to your menu after running a program you simply press FCTN QUIT and the menu is back up. I can then select Extended BASIC (if I have it in the module port) and it goes into Extended BASIC like normal. I can then do whatever I wish to do in XB. What is really handy is that I can just save a program that I am working on easily to my Ram Disk by simply typing SAVE DSKS.PROGRAM. I can move it to a floppie disk later. Incidentally my Ram Disk can be setup as any drive number I wish no matter what controller card I have. In fact, if I set the Ram Disk to an existing drive number such as 1 the Ram Disk will override drive 1.

Now if I am working on a program in XB and need to catalog a disk I need not save my program and load a disk manager. I can type CALL MENU and the Horizon Ram Disk menu pops up instantly. On the menu is a built in cataloger and file display selection. I can catalog a disk and display a DIS/VAR 80 file using the selection on the menu and when finished I can type FCTN 9 (back) and it will carry me back into XB where I was at the time I left with my XB program still in memory! However, if I load DM 1000 or another program from the menu my XB program will probably be erased because the space my XB program was in will probably be used by the new program. However, I could save the program that I was working on to the Ram Disk and it will be safe.

If you miss your TI color bar screen you can still obtain it without turning off the auto menu by pressing FCTN 9 (back) at the Horizon menu. The color bars then pop up and you can proceed to go into whatever cartridge you have in the module port. Note, you can access any cartridge in the module port from the Horizon Menu as the cartridge appears as selection C at the bottom of your menu.

The menu can hold 20 items. All 20 items cannot be displayed on the screen at once so by pressing the SPACE bar I can page through 3 sets of menus displaying the programs available. However, the menu is not limited to just programs on the Ram Disk. I can tell the menu instead of looking on the Ram Disk for a particular program look to drive 1 or 2 or any valid device name. I could even have it look to another Ram Disk as you can have more than one Horizon Ram Disk in your system by setting their addresses different...

If all that is not enough features, from XB I can call up many of the items on the menu by doing a CALL and the function. Like if I want DM 1000 and I am in XB instead of going back to the menu and selection DM 1000 I can type CALL MGR and it loads in in less than 2 seconds just like from the menu.

The speed at which the Ram Disk operates is astounding! Depending on the type and size of a program will determine how much time it takes to load. XB programs take longer than assembly language programs. For example, Archiver loads in in less than 1 second! An XB program may take a little longer depending on it's size and of course the pre-scan that XB must go through slows it down some but still it is much faster than a disk drive!

With the Ram Disk I can jump in and out of programs very quickly. For example, I can go from DM 1000 to MASS-TRANSFER in a matter of seconds and without having to fumble through disks to find them!

The Horizon Ram Disk can also be setup as multiple Ram Disks. I can setup the Ram Disk to respond as drive 3 and 4 giving any amount I want to either drive number as long as I have that much memory available on the Ram Disk. A CONFIG program comes with the Ram Disk which is used to setup the Ram Disk the way you wish it to be. Furthermore, on the Ram Disk menu is a built in selection to run any PROGRAM image file. So I can use the built in cataloging feature and with the arrow keys mark a file, go back to the menu and select Run Program and it will run the program I just marked with the arrow keys. PROGRAM image files include XB and E/A option #5 files such as Archiver. Furthermore, not only will the display file option display a D/V 80 file (TI-Writer) but several other file types including archived files. However, many times when you try to display a non D/V 80 file you see garbage because the characters are non displayable but sometimes you can see enough to tell what you have in the file...

The Horizon Ram Disk's memory is backed by 3 rechargeable batteries on the card itself which recharge when your system is operating. However, I know of no one who has lost any data because of dead batteries. The power drain is so small they could probably last several months or longer with out a recharge. Also what is nice is if I am on a BBS and need a place to dump text quickly, the Ram Disk is ideal with it's high access speed.

As for any problems with the Ram Disk I have not really found any. Mac Swope did have some trouble with his DS/DD Ram Disk as Funnelweb would wipe out the operating system but now with version 7.3 of the operating system that error has been corrected. The only problem I have had is several times my Operating System has been scrambled by what I call a "Freak Out" by the computer. A "Freak Out" as I call it is when the computer screen will flash on and off with different colors and garbage while making noises etc... This might happen if you do not have the flex cable plugged in good and this might scramble the Ram Disk in which case you will have to reload the contents. The only time I have ever lost data on the Ram Disk is during a "Freak Out".

Several other Ram Disks are out on the market. Many are not battery backed thus when your turn off your system you loose the data. The Horizon is the only one I have ever used or seen. I am completely happy with it and I think it is one of the most revolutionary devices since the Gram Kracker! The Horizon Ram Disk combined with the John Johnson Menu system receives a grade of an A+! A constructed card DS/SD 192K with warranty, manual and software (original op system be sure to get a copy of 7.3 in our library!) sells for \$195 including shipping from Horizon Computer LTD, P.O. Box 554, Walbridge, OH 43465. Larger size Horizon Ram Disks are available from Bud Mills Services of 166 Dartmouth Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43614. The Horizon Ram Disk will be demonstrated at this months meeting... Gary Cox

## XBUSINESS GRAPHS

Review by Gary Cox

Extended Business Graphs is a program sold by Great Lakes Software of 804 E. Grand River Ave, Howell, MI 48843. Although this program has been around for a while this is my first exposure to the program.

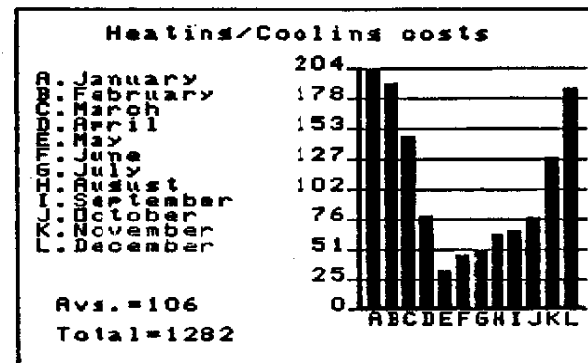
Extended Business Graphs (EBG) does what the name implies, it produces graphs and charts. In particular it produces a "bar graph", "Pie Chart" and an "X/Y Graph" of data entered into the computer. EBG is useful in applying graphical representation to statistics or values. Instead of looking just at data and determining a trend you can look at a graphical representation to better understand the trend of the data.

After the program loads up the following menu is displayed:

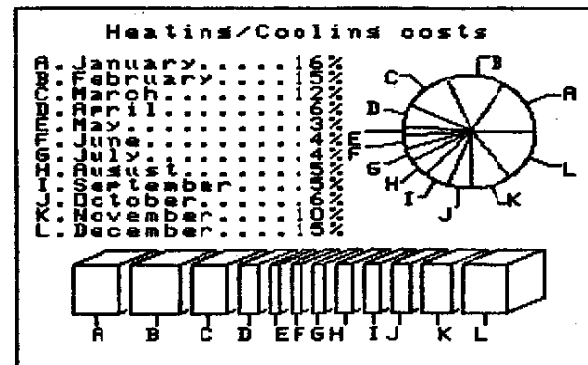
- 1) TO ENTER GRAPH DATA
- 2) TO READ GRAPH DATA
- 3) FOR BAR GRAPHS
- 4) FOR PIE GRAPHS
- 5) FOR X/Y GRAPHS
- 6) TO PRINT GRAPHS
- 7) TO DELETE FILES
- 8) TO SAVE/LOAD SCREENS
- 9) TO END

Selecting option 1 obviously allows you to enter data into the computer regarding the graph you want it to create from your data. At this point a title is entered to name your graph such as "Heating/Cooling costs". Next ITEMS are entered. ITEMS can be any description up to 10 characters describing each piece of data. Up to 12 ITEMS can be entered. After entering the ITEMS, VALUES must be entered corresponding directly to the ITEM descriptions entered. For instance, in my example here the ITEM descriptions I want is months of the year, starting with January. The VALUE corresponding to January is the utility bill for that month which lets say is \$203.78. After entering data for the next 11 ITEMS (months) the data is then saved to disk (I pick the file name) and I am returned to the menu.

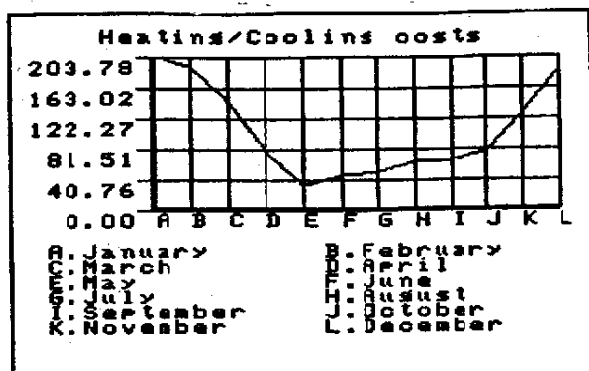
At this point I can select to print or display on the screen a BAR GRAPH, PIE GRAPH or X/Y GRAPH. The program is very quick in calculating the graphs as it usually takes less than thirty seconds to calculate it. By selecting a BAR GRAPH I get the following result:



The next graph is a Pie Chart:



Then finally is a X/Y Graph:



The graphs can be printed in two different sizes. Small and Large. Small is about the size of two drivers licenses side by side. Large print is about double that size and is printed sideways on the paper taking up 70 percent of the page. Print density can also be selected from normal to double. Print density refers to how dark the printout looks. If your ribbon is light you would probably select double density print to make the printout darker. Note that an Epson compatible printer (Such as Gemini 10x, SG-10, NX-10, NX-1000...) is required to print out the pictures.

Finally SAVE/LOAD screens allows the user to save a graph picture to disk. After saving the picture it may either be called up using this program or another graphics program such as GRAPHX, TI-Artist (use Draw N Plot format), Draw N Plot or JoyPaint Pal. The ability to call up a saved graph using another graphics program is a very handy feature in that another graphics program can be used to modify the graph or even enlarge it.

EBG I found to do a fairly good job of graphically representing data. To be picky I did find a few items I did not like but they are minor. The first is while entering data if I enter a wrong piece of data and hit ENTER I can not return to change it I must re-enter all of the data. Also once the data is entered I can not look at it again or modify it. It would be nice to be able to go back and modify data entered or just print out all the raw data as the printouts above do not contain the exact figures entered. However, the reason I would be using the program is to get a graphic representation of the data entered so I would really not need to printout the raw data which I entered. In grading this program I really do not have anything to compare it too so it is hard to give it a comparative grade. However, I think I can give EBG an grade on an A-. The program requires a Extended BASIC, 32K and a disk drive... Gary Cox

## PROGRAMMERS NEEDED

ASGARD SOFTWARE  
HAS A COMMITMENT TO PRODUCING  
QUALITY SOFTWARE FOR THE 99/4A INTO  
THE 1990's

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP....

Asgard Software is one of the fastest growing, dynamic software companies in the 99/4A community. Our record speaks for itself. Founded in 1984 with 2 products, Asgard Software now fields over 30 items for the 99/4A in four diverse areas. We sell literally thousands of pieces of software a year, and advertise nationally. Our products are handled by numerous distributors and dozens of dealers. We have maintained a level of professionalism that has only increased. Our software regularly receives rave reviews from dozens of periodicals serving the 99/4A community.

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Finally, we aren't afraid of something a little different, or even a lot. We got where we are by exploring new areas in software - producing products with no analog elsewhere in the TI world or even the rest of the computer industry.

To maintain our commitment to the 99/4A world, we are actively soliciting authors. We are looking particularly for those who have written or are interested in writing programs in the following areas:

- o Strategy games
- o Specialized and general databases
- o Business and home productivity software
- o Utilities - particularly those of general interest
- o Graphics programs



o Computer artwork.

A finished product isn't necessary, or even the idea for one. We have hundreds of ideas for programs available for the cautious to the ambitious.

If you are seriously interested, contact:

Asgard Software  
Attn: Chris Bobbitt  
P.O. Box 10306  
Rockville, MD 20850  
(301)559-2429

## SUPPLIERS

Listed below is a list of the major suppliers of T199/4A compatible hardware and software. This is by no means a complete list.

TENEX  
P.O. BOX 5578  
South Bend, IN 466660  
800-348-2778  
(219) 259-7051

TEXCOMP  
P.O. BOX 33084  
Granada Hills, CA 91344  
(818) 366-8631

Texaments  
53 Center St.  
Patchogue, NY 11772  
(516) 475-3480 (voice)  
(516) 475-3463 (data)

Quality 99 Software  
1884 Columbia RD #1021  
Washington, DC 20009

Disk Only Software  
P.O. Box 244  
Lorton, Virginia 22079  
(301) 369-1339

Millers Graphics (MG)  
1475 W. Cypress Ave.  
San Dimas, CA 91773  
(714) 599-1431

TRITON  
P.O. BOX 8123  
San Francisco, CA 94128  
800-227-6900

Horizon Computer LTD  
P.O. Box 554  
Walbridge, Ohio 43465

Great Lakes Software  
804 E. Grand River Ave.  
Howell, MI 48843  
(517) 546-0556

Not-Polyoptics  
P.O. Box 4443  
Woodbridge, VA 22191  
(703) 491-5543

Asgard Software  
P.O. Box 10306  
Rockville, MD 20850  
(301) 345-2432

Rave 99 Co.  
112 Rambling Road  
Vernon, CT 06066  
(203) 872-9272

Ryte Data Millennium Computers  
210 Mountain Street  
Haliburton, Ontario, K0M 1S0  
Canada  
(705) 457-2774

DIJIT Systems  
4345 Hortensia ST.  
San Diego, CA 92103  
(619) 295-3301

Order 99  
3512 Sun Lake Dr.  
St. Charles, MO 63301

Trinity Systems  
1022 Grandview  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Pilgrims Pride  
5 Williams La  
Methoro, PA 19040  
(215) 441-4262

Joy Electronics Inc  
P.O. Box 202526  
Dallas, Texas 75220  
800-527-7438  
800-442-3892 (IN TX)

Genial Computerware  
P.O. Box 183  
Grafton, MA 01519  
(215) 483-1379

DataBioTics Inc.  
P.O. Box 1194  
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

MAJOR MAGAZINES that support the II:

Micropendium  
P.O. Box 1343  
Round Rock, TX 78680  
(512) 255-1512  
\$20.00 (year)

Genial Computerware Diskazine  
835 Greenvally Dr.  
Philadelphia, PA 19128  
(215) 483-1379

Youngtree  
P.O. Box 197  
Leavittsburgh, OH 44430

Tigercub Software  
56 Collingswood Ave.  
Columbus, Ohio 43213

L.L. Conner Enterprises  
1521 Ferry Street  
Lafayette, IN 47904  
(317) 742-8146

C.J.'s Wholesale  
14200 East Colonial Dr.  
Orlando, FL 32826

Corcomp Inc.  
2211-G Winston Road  
Anaheim, CA 92806

Mjarc Inc.  
P.O. Box 140  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
(201) 766-1700

The Computer Shopper  
P.O. Box 1419  
Titusville, FL 32781-9988  
800-327-9962  
\$18 (year)

Chicago II User's Group  
P.O. Box 578341  
Chicago, IL 60657  
\$21 year

## TIPS

What will a 512K card do? Not what most people think as it will not allow additional program space. About it's only use is to replace your 32K card (still giving you only 48K of addressable memory like before) and it can be used as a print spooler and Ram Disk. A print spooler is like a printer buffer, it holds the data freeing up the computer while the printer prints the data. However, the Ram Disk on a 512K (or similar card) is just basic. It does not provide any of the fancy features like found in the Horizon Ram Disk with John Johnson's operating system. It simply acts like a disk drive. Also most of those type ram disks are not battery backed because they use DRAM chips which use a lot of power. Thus batteries can not support that large of a power draw. An AC plug in can be obtained for those Ram Disks but many people have reported occasional data loss with power glitches in the AC line. Then of course without the AC power you loose all the data when you turn off your system. The 512K card does provide more space than than the Horizon Ram Disk but the Horizon Ram Disk provides many more features such as the automatic menu and XB calls... Also now you can even get a Horizon Ram Disk with memory capability up to 1 Meg... Note though that with a Myarc 512K card and Myarc XB you do gain some additional features as well as more program space because of the Myarc XB. Incidentally you can use a 512K card and a Horizon Ram Disk in the same system. If fact, you can have several Horizon Ram Disks in your system (just 1 512K though unless you have the new Rave 99 card....)

What does these programs which convert files on IBM Formatted disks over to the I199/4A formatted disks do? It does not provide any program compatability between the I199/4A and IBM PC's. The converter program simply transfers the data from the IBM to the TI so it can be read by your I199/4A. What you do with that data is dependent upon what program you have to access it. For example, you may wish to convert some text you wrote with WordStar over to a I199/4A disk so you can use TI-Writer to read it. On the other hand, you can convert a program on an IBM disk over to an I199/4A disk but you can NOT run it. You can look at the program code but it is useless as far as running it is concerned. It is impossible to make the I199/4A IBM compatible without a 8088 microprocessor and supporting circuitry in which case you would have an IBM compatible by the time you got through adding all of that. You can make the I199/4A read IBM formatted disks and programs can be written on the I199/4A which look similar and act like MS-DOS (example M-DOS on the Geneve 9640) but as far as running IBM compatible software you must have a IBM compatible computer (8088 microprocessor). On the other hand, it might be possible for someone to write a program on the I199/4A which can be capable of manipulating data converted over to a TI disk from an IBM disk but I know of no such program currently available.

Also remember Texas Instruments still repairs all TI brand equipment. For details on repairs call TI at 1-800-TI-CARES... Gary Cox

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Visitors and potential members may receive 3 free issues of TIDbits while they decide if they wish to join (no obligation). A Dollar sign (\$) indicate that your dues are due. On the top of your label is a code. An Y means you are a member, N means 3 free list, UG means user group and S means a business. Beside the Y is a date, one year from that date your dues are due. The library is open only to FULL (\$15) members. Library list is \$1. Mail order disk library access is \$2 per disk max of 5 disks per month order by disk number only. At meetings library access is FREE if you exchange your disk for ours or \$1 per disk for our disks. Send all mail order library requests to librarian's address! Send dues and correspondence to group address.

## CALENDAR

MEETINGS: February 18, March 17, April 15 (3rd Thursday!)  
WORKSHOPS: February 27, March 26, April 23 (4th Saturday!)  
c99 CLASS: Every Thursday except meeting night, location TBA.

## OFFICERS

Mac Swope	PRESIDENT	901-363-3880
Richard Hiller	VICE-PRESIDENT	901-794-9945
Gary Cox	SECRETARY	901-358-0667
Bob Jones	TREASURER	901-363-9213
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Richard Hiller	CO-Librarian	901-794-9945
Henry Badon	Editor - Newsletter	901-345-1673
Al Doss	Information and Assistance	901-743-6781
Mac Swope	Chairman - Equipment	901-363-3880

## 24HR TI BULLETIN BOARD

TI-NET (Mid-South User Group)	300/1200 bd	901-386-1760
MIDNIGHT BBS (Michael Dorean)	300/1200 bd	501-735-9980

## GROUP MAILING ADDRESS

Mid-South 99 Users Group  
P.O. Box 38522  
Serrantown, Tn. 38183-0522

## LIBRARY ADDRESS

David Ferguson  
3377 Creighton Ave.  
Memphis, TN 38118