Vol.7 No.2 February 1989

NEW HORIZONS

NEWS LETTER

NORTHWEST OHIO COMPUTER CLUB FOR THE TEXAS INSTRUMENTS 99/4A

AND THE MYARC GENEVE 9640 PERSONAL AND HOME COMPUTER

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THIS MONTHS MEETING FEB.11,1989 SATURDAY AT UNITY CHURCH 12:30 PM. behind Wendy's off Secor Road on Executive Dr.

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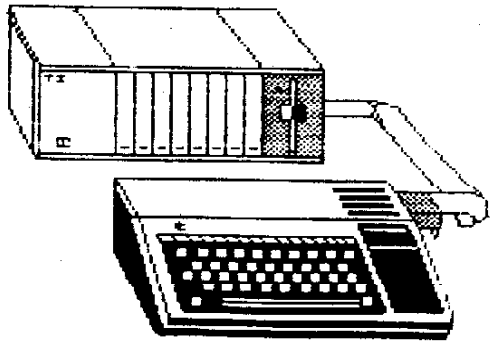


Note address

NEW HORIZONS COMPUTER CLUB
%First Church Unity
3535 Executive Parkway
Toledo, OH 43606
Attn. Earl W. Hoffsis

From

Dallas TI Home Computer GP
c/o Louis Guion
PO Box 29863
Dallas, TX 75299

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Mark Maisonneuve

Well,another month has passed us by.Did or do you know that we are more than half way through the computer season ? It seems as if we just started the meetings and summer is knocking on the door.

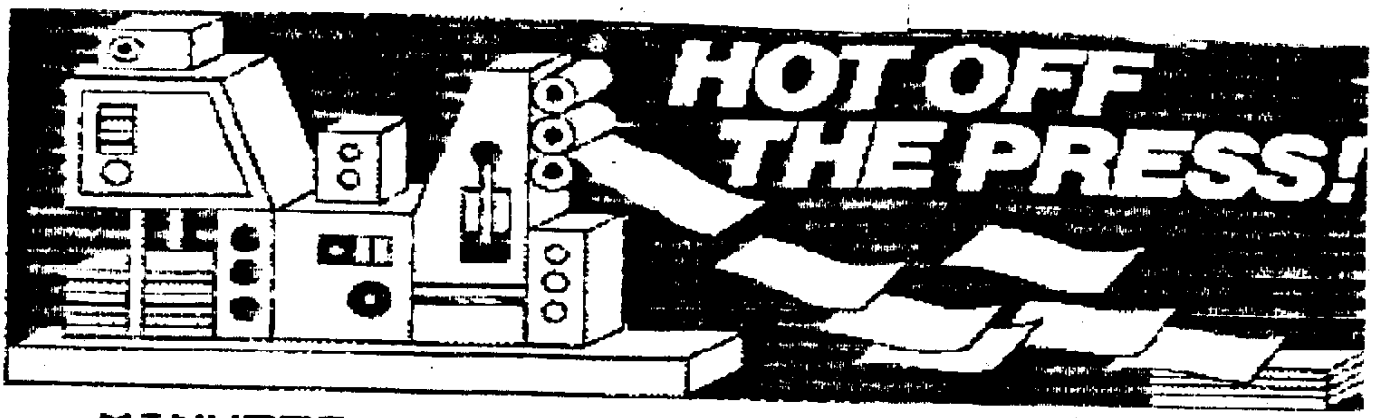
January has been a very interesting month for me. I was able to go to other TI club meetings and found them very interesting. Unfortunitly there membership is not as large as ours,but I found that with there small gathering it made for a nice personal and informative time. The big benefit of our numbers is that we are able to cover more ground as far as information. Please don't get me wrong these other groups do not lack information,they just don't have the large input that comes form a large membership as we do.

I would like to thank the Oh-Mi-Ti group and the Lower Michigan 99ers for their friendship they showed me at their meetings. These groups may be small in number but big in devotion and knowledge . THANK YUU ! If there is something that our group ay help you with please let us know.

This months demos will be Steven Kerkaskis' 1989 income tax program,given by Dave Dybala , an update on Ti-Base ,given by Paul Sneider , also a demo on the P-Gram , by MYSELF.

The club disk(s) this month will have the programs: 1)Disk Labler 99 v2.0 , this will let you put a lable on the disk with notes such as (util,exb,basic,game,etc.) 2)NO-TIME ,this is a disk copy that will copy a disk in 21 sec. 3)Harbor , this is a game that you are a sub commander and you shot down planes and sink ships. 4)Speedy/fix , this will read the speed of your disk drives and display them on the screen.

There could be a few suprises at the next meeting so I wouldn't miss it.



MINUTES

by Marilyn Schafstall

The meeting of the New Horizon Computer Club was called to order at 12:50 p.m., on January 14, 1989, by the President, Mark Maisonneuve.

The Secretary's report of the last meeting was read and corrected. The Treasurer's report was given by Earl Hoffsis, and accepted. The balance on Dec. 31, 1988 was $931.50. Earl sent letters to those who had paid their dues by the end of the year, and quite a few memberships have been received this year. We also have one new member, Richard Tarr.

Bill Tiep left a copy of the Microcomputer with the Science/Technology Department of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library for them to consider acceptance of our offer of a subscription. Bill will have a response for us next month.

There is no new club disc today. In the next couple of months we will have demonstrations of TI Base 2.0 by Paul Snider and Texas Taxes by Dave Dybahl.

Roger Feinauer has had trouble receiving the Bulletin Board - Don Turner will check with Bud Mills about the equipment and software, and see if they can come up with a solution.

Earl Hoffsis moved that regarding drawing, all family members in attendance are eligible to receive the prize. Roger Feinauer seconded the motion:motion passed.

Don Turner moved that the first 20 club discs be made part of the library. Earl Hoffsis seconded; motion passed.

The drawing was held: Matt Verock won the soccer game which had been donated by Earl Hoffsis: and Jon Verock won the disc labels which had been donated by Bill Tiep.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Schafstall

Kit 'N' Carlyle

Hello to one and all. There will be a lot of club disks to make up for the of one last last months . So this in itself should be enough reason to come to this months meeting. But, there is a lot more and a lot of suprises, you will have to come to see.

About five months ago I sent a letter to micropedium as I was looking for a program called 1000 Words . You should see all of the responses I received in the mail, and a lot of new software I didn't even know was out there , from a game that would blow away Zaxxon to a really great disk cataloger. One person even sent me a copy of Dig Dug that will finally work on my Geneve. What this tells me is that we need to beefup our software exchange with other clubs. To all of you thanks and happy Ti-ing.

One note on the program 1000 Words at this time it won't work on a Geneve. For those who never heard of this program well, what this program let's you do is take two Ti-Artist pictures set them side by side, then the software saves them in a format that allows Ti-Writer to print them out in your documents. As you can see this is the reason I have been looking so hard for this piece of software. I plan to get in contact with the author to see if a fix is possible.

This leads me to the next area of concern, how many of us use sofware over and over again and never send in the small amount they ask for. Believe me writing programs isn't easy. We can't afford to loose any of the authors of some of the latest programs. So, if you find you have been using someones effort please send them some money .

Lastly, I wont have my Geneve article this month as there are so many nice articles from the members, and there really isn't anything new that I can speak of for Mdos. I was really having so much fun on the TI side of my Geneve (eat your heart out Myarc), after all the 99/4A started everything in the first place.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

by Jo Symington

Marilyn Schafstall is our Secretary this year and has been a member since 1983. Marilyn and her husband Fred, live in Sylvania, Ohio. Both are retired, but keeps busy doing Volunteer work and enjoy various hobbies.

Fred was a consultant for Oracle Packaging (he still returns part time to Oracle), his hobbies are gardening to Model Trains. Marilyn volunteers her time doing bookkeeping for Unity Church - where she and Fred have been members for years. Her favorite pastime is her computer.

Their children are Chuck, Susan and Joann. Chuck lives in Sylvania, Susan in the Andorondecks Mts. and Joann in Boston. They have five grandchildren.

Marilyn enjoys the meetings. She thinks that it is "great" for information and the members are very supportive. Everyone shares their experiences and that is what makes our club great.

When imputting a program in Extended Basic you can exceed the normal input line length of four lines. Enter the statement until the cursor stops the input then press ENTER. Next press Function REDO, the imput statement will be on the screen and the statement can be lengthened. If your input exceeds the allotted length you can repeat the ENTER and Function REDO step to increase the length further.

I had difficulty in copying a program named PRINTART located in another column in this newsletter and through the help of TI member Paul Sneider received the above valuable assistance. Thanks Paul!

Earl Hoffsis

The following program PRINTART is an exerpt of an article written by Jim Swedlow and published in the New Jersey TI Users Group newsletter of January 1989.

FILE*PRINT

Many files are stored in DISPLAY Variable 80 format: TI Writer files, Editor Assembler source files, text files, documentation files, etc. This program reads a disk for DV80 files and displays a menu on your screen.

You can then print up to 99 copies of any file with a single keystroke. Further, if your printer is GEMINI/EPSON compatable, you can activate double strike, and/or emphasized print.

If you get strange error messages when you first run this program, change the ON ERROR statements in lines 170 and 270 (twice) to ON ERROR STOP and change the !@p- in line 150 to !. After you have finished debugging, restore these commands.

```
100 ! PRINTART
110 ! VERSION XB.1.0
120 ! 26 MAY 85
130 ! By Jim Swedlow
140 !
150 N,@=1 :: DIM N$(24),S$(1),E$(1),D$(1),T$(1):: GOTO 160 :: CALL CLEAR :: CALL
 KEY :: A,B,D,E,H,T,A$,P$ :: !@P-
160 S$(0)="OFF" :: S$(@)="ON" :: P$=CHR$(27):: E$(0)=P$&"F" :: E$(@)=P$&"E" :: D
$(0)=P$&"H" :: D$(@)=P$&"G" :: T$(@)=CHR$(12):: P$="PIO"
170 DISPLAY AT(@,12)ERASE ALL BEEP:"PRINTART": : : :"   Reading Disk Directory"
:: ON ERROR 330 :: H=0 :: OPEN #@:"DSK1.",INPUT ,RELATIVE,INTERNAL :: INPUT #@:A
$,A,B,B
180 INPUT #@:A$,A,B,B :: IF A$<>"" THEN IF ABS(A)<>2 OR B<>80 THEN 180 ELSE H=H+
@ :: IF H<25 THEN N$(H)=A$ :: GOTO 180
190 CLOSE #@ :: ON ERROR STOP :: IF H>24 THEN DISPLAY AT(3,10):"WARNING": :"Only
 the first 24 files were": :"read, there are more." :: GOSUB 310
200 DISPLAY AT(5,@):: GOSUB 300 :: B=14 :: FOR A=@ TO H :: B=15-B :: DISPLAY AT(
INT((A+@)/2)+6,B):CHR$(64+A);" ";N$(A):: NEXT A
210 DISPLAY AT(20,@):"Press < > to change:": :"<1) Emphasized  <2> # Copies<3> T
OF at End  <4> Dbl Strk<5> Printer     <6> Stop"
220 GOSUB 300
230 CALL KEY(3,B,A):: IF A<@ THEN 230 ELSE IF B>64 AND B<65+H THEN 270 ELSE IF B
=54 THEN CALL CLEAR :: STOP
240 IF B=49 THEN E=@-E :: GOTO 220 ELSE IF B=52 THEN D=@-D :: GOTO 220 ELSE IF B
=51 THEN T=@-T :: GOTO 220
250 IF B=50 THEN ACCEPT AT(3,26)SIZE(-2)VALIDATE(DIGIT)BEEP:N :: N=MAX(N,@):: T=
T-(N>@):: T=MIN(T,@):: GOTO 220
260 IF B=53 THEN ACCEPT AT(5,9)SIZE(-20):P$ :: IF P$="" THEN 260 ELSE 210 ELSE 2
30
270 DISPLAY AT(20,@):"Printing ";N$(B-64): : : : : :: ON ERROR 340 :: OPEN #2:P$
 :: PRINT #2:E$(E);D$(D):: ON ERROR 330 :: OPEN #@:"DSK1."&N$(B-64):: FOR A=@ TO
 N :: RESTORE #@
280 IF EOF(@)=0 THEN LINPUT #@:A$ :: PRINT #2:A$ :: GOTO 280
290 PRINT #2:T$(T):: NEXT A :: PRINT #2:E$(0);D$(0):: CLOSE #2 :: CLOSE #@ :: GO
TO 210
300 DISPLAY AT(3,@):"Emphasized ";S$(E);TAB(17):" Copies";N:"TOF at end ";S$(T);
TAB(17);"Dbl Strk ";S$(D):"Printer ";P$ :: RETURN
310 DISPLAY AT(20,@)BEEP:"  Press any key to continue"
320 CALL KEY(3,A,B):: IF B<@ THEN 320 ELSE RETURN
330 DISPLAY AT(3,@)BEEP: : :"  Disk and/or file were not": :"     found in  dri
ve 1": :"   Insert PRINTART disk in": :"          drive 1" :: ON ERROR 350 :: C
LOSE #@ :: ON ERROR 350 :: CLOSE #2 :: GOSUB 310 :: GOTO 170
340 ON ERROR 350 :: CLOSE #2 :: DISPLAY AT(20,@)BEEP:"Printer name is invalid" :
: B=53 :: GOTO 260
350 RETURN NEXT
```

TEXAS TAXES

Introduction

These programs will help to save you time and mistakes when preparing your income tax return. They include Forms 1040 and 1040A, Schedules A, B, C, D, E, F, and SE, and Forms 2106 and 2441. Each form works like a spreadsheet, so when a data item is entered, all lines which depend on that data are immediately updated. Also, relevant data is copied from one form to another. You can save your data on disk and recall it later to make corrections. If you have a printer, you can print out the completed forms (except for Forms 1040 and 1040A) and mail them directly, so you don't have to copy the information onto the government forms. A working copy of any of the forms can be printed at any time.

General Instructions

There are three programs in the package: 1040, CONSISTENT, and PRINT. They are described individually in later sections of the manual.

Not all of the information on the forms is requested by the programs (names, dates, descriptions, etc.), so be sure to fill these in on the government forms. If you use the PRINT program to print out the forms, the information you must fill in is generally marked >_____ for names and descriptions, __/__/__ for dates, etc. In the following descriptions of the programs, there are very few references to line numbers on the tax forms, since these numbers are bound to change in future years.

Most of the data that you enter will be either a yes-or-no answer or a numeric value. The yes-or-no questions will look for an answer starting with capital Y for yes or capital N for no, so the ALPHA LOCK button on your keyboard should be depressed. Unless otherwise noted in the manual, if you just press ENTER, it will be interpreted as a no response.

A menu will be presented when you boot the disk. Press 1, C, or P for the appropriate progam. Leave the disk in the drive, since the tax tables and other data are on disk. There is enough room on the disk to store your data files. The other files on the disk are protected so that you won't accidentally overwrite them.

There is room left over on the disk for your data file(s). Since the programs read other data from the disk as well as your data, it is best to have everything on one disk. Don't put tape over the write-protect notch! It is a good idea to make a backup copy of the disk and keep it in a safe place. If you do accidentally destroy part of the disk and need a new copy, send $4 to me at the address listed below, and I'll send you a new disk.

Reordering Instructions

To obtain an updated version of the program each year, send a check or money order for $10 plus $2 (to cover the cost of postage and a new disk) to:

Steven Karasek
855 Diversey Dr.
St. Louis, MO. 63126
(314) 961-2052

The new version should be ready about the middle of January each year.

TIBASE VER 2.0

by PAUL SNEIDER
New Horizons

The new edition of TIBASE is Version 2.0 which came out in December 1988. Not only does this version correct a few faults of the previous edition, it also includes additional "directives" that greatly enhances its usefulness.

Basically, a data base is a large collection of information usually concerned with one area or topic. The New Horizons club is in the process of creating a program that will store VCR tape information for your home collection. When you go to the library looking for a specific book, you would go to the card index. These are examples of data bases.

TIBASE is a unique program that can make (CREATE) a database, add to (APPEND) an existing batabase, change (EDIT) existing records, or manipulate the existing information. See the October issue of our newsletter for a previous description of TIBASE.

SO, what is new and improved on this Version 2.0? I think the first most important addition is the CONVERT directive. With all databases a lot of info has to be entered. One way is to type all the info, which can take many hours or many days. If there is an existing file with the required info but it was written using TIWRITER or some other program, the CONVERT directive can take that file and change it into one that TIBASE can use.

The second most important improvement to TIBASE is the SORT directive. The former version could SORT only one field at a time. VERSION 2.0 can SORT by eight levels. An example would be of a file that had names and addresses, and was sorted by last name. If this file had 100 names of "Jones" then a second level of SORT could use the first name field, the zip code field, or the street field to put all the "Jones" in ascending order. This file could have this "nested sort" with up to eight different fields.

Another good feature of TIBASE is its math functions. If a database has numerical information that needs to be changed, updated, or used for inclusion in other data or formulas, it can be accomplished with TIBASE directives.

Some other additions to TIBASE that make it easier to use are:

MEMORY- displays the current memory status.

TRACE- shows the COMMAND LINE that is currently in operation so as to debug you COMMAND file

LIST- will list the contents of a file to a printer.

SNAP- (snapshot) will send to the printer whatever is currently on the screen.

PRINTER- specifies the printer codes to be sent to the printer.

SUM- will add all the numerical data of a field from all the records on that database.

EJECT- sends a Form Feed code to the printer.

I will be demonstrating this newer version at the next club meeting.

File Naming Conventions

A filename can be up to ten characters long and may contain any character except the period and the space character. However, the Disk Manager module recognizes *only* characters with ASCII codes of 32 through 95. For best results, use only upper-case characters A through Z and other characters with ASCII codes of 95 and lower (excluding the period and the space character) to name your files.

File Processing

There are seven main TI BASIC statements that are used to access files on diskettes. They are OPEN, CLOSE, INPUT, PRINT, EOF, RESTORE, and DELETE. In addition, a special subprogram named CALL FILES lets you change the number of files allowed to be opened at the same time. The following discussions of each of these statements relate to their use with the disk system.

OPEN — The OPEN statement prepares a TI BASIC program to use data files stored on diskettes. It provides a link between a file-number used in a program and the file on the diskette, and it describes a file's characteristics so that a program can process or create the file. If the file already exists, the description that is given in the program must match the actual characteristics of the file.

The OPEN statement has the following general form:

```
OPEN #file-number:"device.file-name" [,file-organization] [,file-type] [,open-mode]
[,record-type]
```

The *file-number* and *device.file-name* must be included in the OPEN statement. The other information may be in any order or may be omitted. If an item is omitted, the computer assumes certain defaults, which are described below.

- *file-number* — The *file-number* (1 through 255 or an expression) is assigned to a particular file by the OPEN statement. (File number 0 is the keyboard and screen of the computer. It cannot be used for other files and is always open.) You may assign file numbers as you wish, with each file having a different number.

  The *file-number* is entered as a number sign (#) followed by a number or a numeric expression that, when rounded to the nearest integer, is a number from 1 to 255 and is not the number of a file that is already open.

- *device.file-name* — The *device* refers to the diskette on which a particular file is stored. If a file is on a diskette in disk drive one, the device is DSK1. For drive two, the device is DSK2. For drive three, the device is DSK3. The *file-name* may be any valid file name.

  Instead of the disk drive number you may use DSK followed by a period, the diskette name, a period, and then the file-name.

  ```
  OPEN #1:"DSK.DISKETTE1.FILE1"
  ```

  The computer will search all drives for the diskette with the name you give.

Disk Memory System

- *file-organization* — The records in a file can be accessed either sequentially or randomly. Records accessed sequentially are read or written one after the other. Records accessed randomly can be read or written in any order, including one after the other.

  To indicate which access method you wish to use, enter either SEQUENTIAL for sequential accessing or RELATIVE for random accessing. If you are creating a file, you may optionally specify the number of records on a file by following the word SEQUENTIAL or RELATIVE with a number or a numeric expression. If you do not specify the *file-organization*, the default is SEQUENTIAL.

- *file-type* — Files can be stored on diskettes either in easily readable ASCII characters or in machine-readable binary form. If the information is going to be printed or displayed for people to use, ASCII format is usually a better choice. In most cases, binary records are preferred because they take up less space and are processed faster by the computer.

  To specify that you wish the file to be in ASCII format, enter DISPLAY. (The length of a DISPLAY-type record is limited to approximately 150 bytes.) To specify binary format, enter INTERNAL. If you do not specify a *file-type*, the default is DISPLAY.

- *open-mode* — This entry instructs the computer that the file may be both read and written upon (UPDATE), may only be read (INPUT), may only be written to (OUTPUT), or may only be added to (APPEND).

  If a file is marked as protected, it cannot be written to and may only be opened for input. Also, APPEND mode can only be specified for VARIABLE length records. If you do not specify an *open-mode*, the computer assumes the default UPDATE.

  Note: If an unprotected file already exists on a diskette, specifying an *open-mode* of OUTPUT to the same file name writes over the existing file with the new file. You can prevent this by opening in the update mode and reading all the existing records so that you move to the end of the file or by using the RESTORE statement with the proper record number.

- *record-type* — File records may be all the same length (FIXED) or may vary in length (VARIABLE). If they are all FIXED, shorter records are padded to make up the difference. Any that are longer may be truncated to the proper length. Files that have FIXED-length records are processed faster than files with VARIABLE-length records but usually take up more space on a diskette.

  If you like, you may specify a maximum length of a record by following VARIABLE or FIXED with a numeric expression. The maximum length for a VARIABLE file is 254 bytes, and the maximum for a FIXED file is 255 bytes. If you do not specify a record length, the default is 80.

  RELATIVE files must have FIXED-length records. If you do not specify a *record-type* for a RELATIVE file, the default is FIXED.

SEQUENTIAL files have either FIXED or VARIABLE-length records. If you do not specify a *record-type* for a SEQUENTIAL file, the default is VARIABLE. A file with FIXED-length records may be reopened for either SEQUENTIAL or RELATIVE access.

The following are examples of OPEN statements.

OPEN #1:"DSK1.MYFILE"	Creates or reopens a file on the diskette in drive one with a name of MYFILE. The file is a SEQUENTIAL file in the UPDATE mode with DISPLAY format and VARIABLE length records having a maximum length of 80 bytes. (These are the default attributes assigned by the computer.)
OPEN #23:"DSK.MYDISK.X",RELATIVE 100,INTERNAL,OUTPUT,FIXED 80	Creates or reopens a file named X on the diskette named MYDISK in whichever drive it is located. The file is a RELATIVE file in the OUTPUT mode with INTERNAL format and FIXED-length records having a maximum length of 80 bytes. Initially, 100 records are made available for the file, if enough room exists on the diskette.
OPEN #243:A$,INTERNAL	Creates or reopens a file on the diskette in drive two with a name of ABCD if A$ equals DSK2.ABCD. The file is a SEQUENTIAL file in the UPDATE mode with INTERNAL format and VARIABLE-length records having a maximum length of 80 bytes.

CLOSE — The CLOSE statement discontinues the association between a file and a program. After the CLOSE statement is performed, the file is not available unless it is opened again with an OPEN statement. Files may optionally be deleted by adding :DELETE to the end of the CLOSE statement.

The CLOSE statement has the following general form:

CLOSE #file-number [:DELETE]

The *file-number* is the number which you used in the OPEN statement to open the file.

If you do not close a file, data on it may be lost. If a program ends due to a BREAK statement, by your pressing **CLEAR**, or because of an error, files may not be closed even if you have a CLOSE statement later in the program. However, you can close the files properly by entering CLOSE *#file-number*, NEW, or BYE if you wish to leave BASIC. Editing the program also automatically closes any open files.

Note: If you leave TI BASIC by pressing **QUIT**, data may be lost. Leave TI BASIC only by entering BYE when you are processing files.

P-GRAM

by Mark Maisonneuve

P-Gram As a novice to the TI I incounter numeris problems so when I can I try to limit my agrevation to a minamum. I had heard of the P-Gram but didn't really consern myself much with it until I started to have edge connector problems with my console. I would have to insert a cartridge two or more times before it would work and sometimes I would just give up.

Well the P-Gram add says:"The P-Gram Card by John Gulon and Robert Jones. The P-gram Card is a GROM Emulation Card for use with the TI 99/4A ..." Plus the required system req.(which I meet)."The P-Gram will save and run MODULES andis compatible with files saved by the GRAM-KRACKER or CART-SAVE.""A FULLY DOCUMENTED SOURCE CODE ON DISK AND USER MANUAL allow you to SAVE Modules,edit as you wish, LOAD to card and RUN".

O.K. This to me ment I no longer had to mess with the cartridges that I have a box full of and the agervation of the edge connector going bad.So I purchased one. It does everything I wanted to do plus now I have the time clock so I know how much trouble I'm in for spending so much time on the computer. I bought mine built,a friend saw mine and he was having simmaler problems so he decided to purchase one also only thing is he purchased the kit. so we set one evening aside to build this card (we figured it would take us awhile) but to our suprise it was togetha and running before we knew it.

It sure is nice to have all my cartridges stored on disk. No more problems with the edge connectors,and having the modules at a keystroke is nice.

XCOM

by UNKOWN

First Impressions of XCOM, a Basic/Xbasic Compiler from DKM Enterprises, p.O. Box 501046, Indianapolis IN 46250-1046.

Well, I got it, I've mentioned it before here, this Basic/XB Compiler from "DKM". After some hints I got my wife to get it for me for Xmas. Considering that it's 49.95 this was quite a step on my behalf, getting an "untried" piece of software for a "you got to be the best thing since sliced bread price" in the TI world. The program comes on a "protected disk". I know there are many out there who would not get anything if it's protected. Actually, in this case I can almost live with the protection **** IF ***** the loader for the compiled programs were unprotected. In fact, just as there is now a fortran loader and quick-run loader released, it's absurd to not just release a loader into the public domain. As it turns out now, even after compiling your program, you still must use the "PROTECTED" disk to load your program. Totally unacceptable. It also uses either the MINIMEM or Editor/Assembler cart to compile or load the programs. I also found that it would not work with the Gram Kracker Utilities version of the E/A (E/A loaded with XB). XCOM also uses the RAM in the MINIMEM so larger programs can be compiled and run with it over the E/A. I assume, but do not know for sure, that a supercart would also help.

Compilation involves saving your program in merge format. If Basic, there is a utility to allow you to save your programs in merge format using either the minimem or E/A carts with basic selected. To compile you use option 3 of e/a or 1 of minimem.

The filename is "XCOM". It asks for a source name and a name for your compiled program. I found no problem using either the Myarc RAM Disk as DSK5 or the CC RAM disk on my second system as DSK3. Worked fine. ONE BIG ANNOYANCE I HAD WAS THE AUTO DEFAULT TO DSK1 FOR A WORK DISK! Need to have an unprotected disk in drive 1 for it to create a work file to use. It deletes it when it's done. I would much prefer the option to select a work drive. I would of course select a RAM disk drive #. The compiled programs are run using a "LOAD" program which much be first loaded using again option 3 of e/a or option 1 of minimem. When loading it obviously loads several utilities. The disk does not have to be in drive 1. I had it in drive 4. It keeps looking for a disk name obviously. Did that several times. Then you load your compiled program and off it runs. Quick, I must admit. Tried compiling several programs, found that it stumbled of things like "USING" and "IMAGE". It gave gave compilation errors with those. I tried it with a Basic calendar program I have. It MOVED!!!! Much faster I must admit. Tried it with an old Xbasic game called something like "SPACEPATRL". It ran much faster but seemed to have trouble defining the sprites. My sprites were just large letters. The joystick scan seemed to be much faster. There were very few missed "COINC" that Xbasic is famous for.

The compiled code is D/F 80 and uncompressed. A 22 sector original program wound up as a 94 sector D/F 80 file. If a loader were available to be released into the public domain as it should, I would upload it with before and after files so you could see for yourself.

The program needed to load the compiled code and the compiled code itself should be in program image format and the loader, at least, should be converted to work in XB, pussibly by using a "SYSTEX" type aproach. The best approach would be where the utilities to run the compiled program and the compiled program itself would be combined in a "Program Image" format capable of being run from Option 5 of E/A or any other program image loader.

I feel XCOM has alot of potential. It's an approach to the one utility that we are still hurting for. Mr Douglas Martin of DKM should talk to either Barry Traver of Genial Software or Chris Bobbit of Asgard Software. I had previously suggested to Mr Martin that he join Genie. If he has, he's never left a message. I suggested to him that he attend and give a demo at the TI Faire in Chicago. He never did. As I've said before, DKMs distribution capacity are poor even by orphan standards. I feel the marketing capacity of ASGARD software or Genial Software, plus the technical expertise that they could supply/get to aid Mr Martin. Could aid in turning XCOM into the next big seller in the TI world.