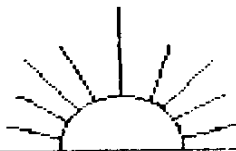


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NEW HORIZONS



NEWS LETTER

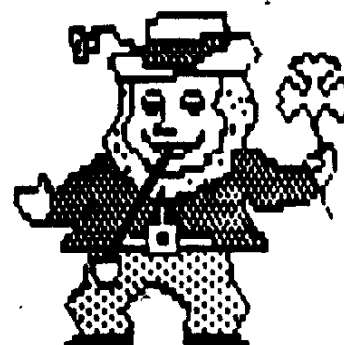
NORTHWEST OHIO COMPUTER CLUB FOR THE TEXAS INSTRUMENTS 99/4A
AND THE NYARC GENEVE 3640 PERSONAL AND HOME COMPUTER

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THIS MONTHS MEETING ~~Mar~~ 14, 1992 SATURDAY AT UNITY CHURCH 12:30 PM. Sharp!
Behind Wendy's off Secor Road on Executive Dr.

TI-COM BBS.....	1-419-385-7484
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HAPPY
ST PATRICKS
DAY



N.W. OHIO 99ERS USER GROUP
2FIRST CHURCH UNITY
3535 EXECUTIVE PARKWAY
TOLEDO OHIO 43606
ATT EARL W. HOFFSIS

**PRESIDENT'S
CORNER**
Roger Feinauer

This article is for the month of March. Here goes. Last month it seemed everyone was running late, or was it just me. We didn't get the meeting going till almost 1:00 PM. Something to think about. Last month did anyone learn anything new about their computer or was it just me. That is, I felt last month was a real bummer. To make next month better I will be asking for suggestions from the members.

Last month I learned from one of the members that he didn't know how to protect and unprotect a file on a disk; and was a bit upset with me about it. Well, all I can say is, I'm sorry. To me this is a very basic command that I took for granted that everyone understood, but I guess I was wrong. To make it as simple as I can: if a file on a disk is flagged as "write protected", when you read the directory of this disk there will be a P in the right hand column of the directory. This means that this file can only be read from the disk or a "read only" file. You can't change the file or the data in the file until the file or program is unprotected. On the TI operating system files cannot be unprotected from basic or extended basic; we have to load what is called a "Disk Manager" to do this as it can't be done in either basic language.

And this requires a knowledge of whatever disk manager you are using. If you are using a TI DISK CONTROLLER get out your DISK MEMORY SYSTEM MANUAL AND CHECK pages

2,3-43. This should be required reading for anyone who has a disk drive system. So read these pages and bring your questions to the meeting. For those who have a Corcomp or Myarc disk controller these manuals are almost carbon copies of the TI manual and they have to be to be compatible so check your index on how to use the disk manager your disk controller uses. You will find that most disk managers have almost the same commands.

One goody of interest is a device I saw in the March Discovery magazine. In an ad for Atari's portfolio PC there was one of the Optional connectors. The one I was interested in was a Portable Hp Interface Loop to control HPIL motors, printers, disk drives and more. HPIL inter- face by Interloop Co. will give you full input/output control of IEEE-488 devices. For more information contact Interloop, Phone 408 922-0520 or write 706 Charcot Ave., San Jose, CA 95131.

Now I don't know how the device is connected to the portfolio computer, but it appears that it may be connected by the RS232 and if it is then there is no reason that it couldn't be used on a 99/4A or Geneve. Of course someone may have to write the software for what you want to use it for but think of the possibilities. I have been really busy this month as I have converted over 300 PC graphics to either Ti or Geneve formats; ie, 250 Page Pro Graphics, about 50 Rle pictures and about 100 Gif or Myart-Yapp pictures. The Page Pro pictures come out very well and all of them haven't been on the TI before. The same is also true for the other graphics. Well, so much for this - see you at the March 14th meeting.

End of line. Roger.

NEW HORIZON MINUTES
February 8, 1992

The meeting of the New Horizon Computer club was called to order at 1:05 p.m. on February 8, 1992, by our President, Roger Feinauer.

Dan Block moved that we approve the minutes of the January meeting as they appeared in the newsletter. Margaret Dixon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Our treasurer, Richard Taylor gave the President and the Secretary copies of the annual report for 1991. There were no current figures available. Therefore the January report was still not approved, and no February report was available. It was suggested that the Treasurer's report be included in the newsletter on a monthly basis, so that if Richard was stuck at work and unable to attend, at least the report would be available. It was agreed to begin this with the March newsletter.

In the work of updating the club library the first 50 Club disks that have been prepared and sold to our members will be put into the library. Earl is filling in the gaps, copying disks that are missing and adding those that were never included. Bud Mills donated the disks for the project. John and Chris Dewey will make a new listing of all disks available with programs on each of them, for all club members to have.

We do need labels for our disks, and our president, who has many programs for them, will find one that is appropriate this purpose for the project. The club disk for February was a label disk.

There was a discussion of the idiosyncracies/problems some of us run into, and how we can get through to correct them. Basic rule: Don't be Afraid! Seldom do you loose any thing.

The 50/50 drawing was won by "Lucky" Dan Block; he accepted \$5.00 of his share, leaving \$11.00 for the club. The Disk of the Month, one of 2 label disks, was won by Margaret Dixon.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m. Demonstrations were of the labels both with graph and without graphs.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Schafstall, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT
YEAR OF 1991

Mo.	Income	Expense	Balance
	(Balance on hand		\$433.40
01	60.95	51.25	443.10
02	114.16	87.24	470.02
03	28.75	32.95	465.82
04	20.26	134.00	352.08
05	19.83	55.00	316.91
06	23.05	69.00	270.96
07	1.04	5.00	267.00
08	1.02	5.00	263.02
09	1.00	5.00	259.02
10	70.50	217.33	112.19
11	80.50	35.00	157.69
12	48.00	35.00	170.69
End of year balance:			170.69

1992:			
01	45.45	40.00	\$176.14
02	61.30	40.00	197.53
Balance on hand February 8, 1992:			197.53

READ THE DOCS
by Stan Corbin
Central PA Users Group

One of the most common complaints, expressed by someone trying to help another to understand a program, is the pupil did not read the docs. This can be very aggravating to the educator, because it makes it necessary to do a lot more "teaching" to help the student understand the problem. There seems to be a universal antipathy to reading the docs. We are all guilty of it, at least once in our life.

It is strange, most men will not ask for directions on the road. We wouldn't want anybody to suspect we can't read a map. Yet, when it comes to computers, we find it so easy just to ask someone else how to make it work, without so much as a perfunctory perusal of the documentation.

Part of this might be blamed on the writer of the documentation. Writers are often so steeped in the knowledge of the subject, that they think everyone knows what they are talking about. If the readers understood it all, there would be no need for the docs. Some writers write about the program, describing its virtues, but never give a hint about how one gets it to do those things. Often an otherwise good program gets trashed because the documentation was so poorly written. Writers should bring themselves down to the level of the novice and describe the method of making the program work, step by step, or by going through examples.

Almost everyone who has just received a new program, want to see it work - immediately - sooner if possible. The first thing he does

is try to boot up the program. If the program boots up, then he starts finagling around to try to put it through its paces. Often, he gets nowhere, so he calls his friend and asks for help. He might have gotten all the help he needed by reading the docs, but that will take too long, he needs to know all about the program, now! Ah said Naow! He can't be bothered reading the docs, besides, he might not understand them. So his friend has to explain the nuances of the program and read the docs to him.

Does this sound like someone you know? We all know someone like this - in fact, it might be us.

Computers are supposed to be fun, and reading the docs is work and time consuming. We're lazy, we don't want to work.

The moral of this story is, authors make it easy and fun to read your documentation, and then maybe - just maybe, we'll read it.

Your editor has been one of those! My excuse is that it does take so much time - and I very often don't understand the terms that are used in the explanations. However, the easiest thing that took me the longest to learn was the fact that some discs carry a program called "ReadMe", which may contain instructions and aids to "getting into" programs on that disk. I really owe Roger an apology - he put such a program on the very first disk he gave me when I began working as your editor - and it took me 6 months to find it! And, of course, now that I know enough to look for it, he doesn't include it any more!

Continued on next page

3.5 DISK DRIVE GENEVE
by Roger Feinauer

I have managed to get a 3.5" drive to work on my Geneve. I am using a Corcomp disk controller, with 512k of expansion memory. That is a total of 1 Meg of memory. And I'm running MDOS 114f, so I can run Advanced Basic 2.99 or GPL. I have tried a version of 97h, but couldn't get it to load GPL so for the time being will stay with MDOS 114f. This is a shame, as 97h allows format-ting a disk with 3 directories. That is one root directory and two subdirectories. Each directory acts as a separate disk.

You may ask why is this important. My 3.5 disk, which is drive #4, holds 720k of data. How large is this? A 90k disk has 360 sectors; a 720k disk holds, now get this, 2880 sectors. The 720k disk holds about 8 times as much as the 90k disk. You have to remember both disks will only allow 127 files to be stored on them. Now if you could somehow break up a disk so the system thinks it is 3 disks with the same number but with 3 disk names, you could in theory make the disk hold 3 times as many files. This is what is done when you have a disk with 3 directories. But not quite. To keep track of the subdirectories the root directory allows 126 files and one special file used by the system to track the subdirectories. The two subdirectories can have 127 files each. Using this method to hold more files on a disk you can get about 380 files a disk if all the files don't exceed the disk space.

To give you an idea what can be done with this large a disk, on one disk I have a backup for my large

16 bit disk, which is drive #8 and holds 2138 sectors, and I still have 742 sectors free. This a little more than what is on a double sided single density disk or one with 720 sectors. On another disk I have put TI-Artist Plus and Spellit on the same disk with about 20 Artist Fonts and still have room to put Page Pro Utilities on the same disk. I have been using Funl/Webb 4.40 alot and have put it on my drive #8 on my Geneve Ram Disk. I have one question: why doesn't more software have a return to FunlWeb on it.? Some of the software that could use it is Spellit, Page Pro, Telco, Ti Artist Plus, Pix Pro??, Macflix, and of course PC Transfer. This would give us an operating system on the TI or Geneve that would be simply AWESOME.

READ THE DOCS (continued)

Now I will tell Roger (and all of you) that I have followed his suggestion on his President's Page. I've only had my disk drive setup since 1983, and I never realized there was so much information in that system manual, even though just last week I'd been reading in there how to install a disk drive in the P-box! Thanks, Roger. I really believe, and hope I am right, that there others like me, who can't see through the programs, or understand how to write one, but can learn how to run them (as I've done with the TI-Writer) and will continue learning about computers and how they work as long as I have one. Please never assume I know something or how to do something just because you (whoever you are) know how to do it.

TI-WRITER TRICKS - Part 2
Ozark 99er News

retyped for NEW HORIZONS by
Judy Feinauer

"MASS" FILES

After typing the text, and saving it (calling it, say, DSK1.XXX), I call up my "MASS" file (I literally call it "DSK1.MASS" for lack of a better name), which I always keep nearby. As many of you know, one file (when printed) can call up another using the "Include File" (>IF DSK1.FILE- NAME) formatting command. To ease things a bit, I put nearly all my formatting commands in one file, with the last line being ".IF DSK1.XXX". The formatting commands I use (but you may prefer others) are:

- | .LM 9 (Left margin)
- | .RM 69 (Right margin)
- | .PL 58 (Page length)
- | .LS 2 (Line space)
- | .FI (Fill - [page])
- | .AD (Your editor added this:
Adjust = right hand
margin will be even)
- | .HE % (OR.FO) (Header/Footer)
(Page # will appear here)
- | .IN +5 (Indent #spaces)
- | .IF DSK1.XXX (Include File)
- | .IF DSK1.YYY (Include File)

This will give double-spaced text, about 25 lines long, nifty margins, with page numbers, no less. Don't forget to load the

file "DSK1.MASS", not "DSK1.XXX" when formatting.

(Your editor has used this file often when what I want to print is too long for one file. I usually use "AD"; and have included as many as nine files.

They print out beautifully, as if they were one.)



ARE YOU ON THE LIST?

Following is a list of members who have paid their dues for 1992. If you are not listed here, this will be the last Newsletter that you will receive.

Dan Block
John and Chris Dewey
Gail Divan
Roger Feinauer
L. & C. Fleischman
Earl Hoffsis
Don Liebherr, Sr.
Denis Majewski
Burr Mallory
Bud Mills
Linda Peters
Marilyn Schafstall
Paul Sneider
Charles Strobell
Richard Taylor
Don Turner