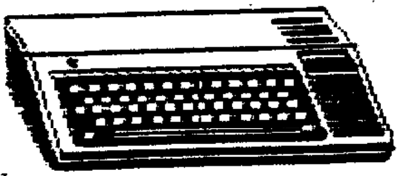
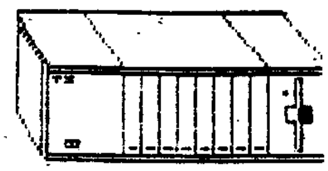
NEW JUG NEWS



NEW JERSEY USERS GROUP



Vol.5 No.3 *Monthly Publication of the New Jersey Users Group* MARCH 1986

****

MEETING

****

MARCH 10 MONDAY 7:00

7:00 - 8:00 BASIC SIG WILL MEET

8:00 - GENERAL MEETING--**UPDATE ON** T.I.C.O.F.F
B. Reiss -demonstration of his new programs

!!

T.I.C.O.F.F. MARCH 15

****

The New Jersey Users Group meets on the second Monday of each month in the Metuchen Library. Dues are $15 per year.

****

OFFICERS

President............Steve Citron..686-5619
Vice-Presidents......John Bonito...653-2637
Bob Costello..663-4512
Mel Gary......828-5407
Bob Guellnitz.382-5963
Secretary............Carol Sudol...494-3781
Treasurer............Marv Shuldman.821-8158
Newsletter Editor....Mel Gary......828-5407
Software Library.....Dave Green....463-9133
Advanced Prog. Sig...Jay Holovacs..356-3150
Basic SIG............Bob Haefeli...572-2828

****

JBSCRIPTION FREE WITH PAID MEMBERSHIP, TO USERS GROUPS AND SELECTED VENDORS

****

MARCH 1986

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 GENERAL MEETING	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 STEERING COMMITTEE	19	20	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22
23	24	25	26	27 ADVANCED PROG.	28	29
30	31					

President:

Steve Citron
981 Townley Ave.
Union, NJ 07083

Send Dues To:

Marv Shuldman
28 Tyndall Rd.
Kendall Pk., NJ 08824

Write For Application:

Bill Dubrow
21 Seaward Ave.
Metuchen, NJ 08840

HOW TO COMMIT SUICIDE FOR ONLY $10

by Stuart Olsen

Since I am not a regular author in the newsletter, many of you do not know me. Some of you know me personaly, while others may recognize my name as the author of a recent software release.

I'd like to talk about suicide. You all know what it means - the taking of ones own life. Well, TI did that several years ago when they orphaned the computer we all love so dearly. However, little did they realize that the orphan would grow into the dyamite little home computer it is today. If you doubt that, you weren't at the 1985 Faire [Chicago].

Unfortunately, the TI population as a whole is now trying to commit suicide all by themselves, without the help of any big texas fire! What i am talking about is FREEWARE, FAIRWARE, or USER SUPPORTED SOFTWARE (I prefer the latter term), or what ever you want to call it.

Let's get one point straight right now. I'm not begging for money! What I am trying to do is give you a first hand observation of just most of you are doing to yourselves.

As the author of MASS-TRANSFER (3.3), I can tell you that there is virtually NO such thing as user support when it comes to software. Yes, I did sell several copies at the FAIRE in November. What I am talking about is the payment for a copy that is given to you or downloaded from a BBS. To date, I've received a grand total of 14 payments from people who have sent a letter saying they were using my program. No, you read it correctly - an entire 14.

Now, the obvious thought is that no one is using my program. That is possible, I admit, but not very probable. the payments that I've received have come from California, Oregon, Nebraska, Georgia, New Jersey, Virginia, South Carolina, and even Illinois. In most cases, the letters made reference to "getting your program from a BBS". This type of comment does not surprise me since I am the sysop on TI-North, and I see similar "bunches of downloading" on some programs. One person who purchased my program also syops a TIBBS in Sacramento, CA. I recently received a letter from him asking if I could supply him with the info on what is needed to support MIT [MASS-TRANSFER] downloads on his BBS. He mentioned that my software is up on his BBS and I quote:"It is the hottest item for downloading and a real winner." So much for the theory that no one is using my program.

That brings me to the point of you, the user of this USER SUPPORTED SOFTWARE. If you old timers remember back when TI was still making the computers, you'll also remember the software that was available. To say the least, there has been more top quality software released under the USER SUPPORTED concept than TI ever made the entire time they were in the home computer market. MEAT-LIST, FAST-TERM, CATALOGING LIBRARY, and the list goes on.

Since most consider my software to be on the same level as the previously mentioned programs, I would consider the response to my program very typical for all the authors concerned, which is very simple: IT STINKS!

I remember the days when there were such things as disassemblers, terminal software (except TEII), disk oriented utilities, etc. Well, we have them now but the supply may very soon stop.

I just read the December issue of a non-TI magazine (it never hurts to stay up on what is happening) in which the main format is CP/M and MS-DOS. For those of you who know something about other computers, you'll realize that these two operating systems have a HUGE following. Anyway, an article in that magazine commented on the lack of participation [read "support"] towards USER SUPPORTED SOFTWARE on those machines. Believe me, I've run some of those programs and they are IMPRESSIVE! The editor of the magazine stated that many of the authors of these programs have notified him that they are dropping out of the picture. In other words, they are not writing any more USER SUPPORTED SOFTWARE. Reason: the "trickle" of token payments do not make it worth the effort.

$10 software is a BIG bargain. You don't find a piece of software from a distributor for that price, at least not one on the same level as what this article is talking about. If you know where to find it, let me know and I'll be the first in line to buy it. Where else can you get a program, run it, analyze its features, and then decide if you really could use it. Granted, not everyone decides to use these programs, but too many of you do and never pay for them.

It all boils down to one simple fact. Keep cheating the authors out of their small payment, and the software will stop being available. Then you can all be happy, knowing that you can either write your own, or buy the stuff offered through a distributor for 2-5 times the price and 1/3 the quality. It is your choice, and most of you seem to prefer the latter of the two options. As per myself, I'll continue to support the other authors, as I know just what they do to provide you with inexpensive, top quality software.

A rough calculation shows I've made about 13 cents an hour off my software. Now you tell me, am I going to encourage others to release their software under the

great "user supported software" concept. No way, TOO MANY OF YOU ARE TRYING TO "COMMIT SUICIDE FOR ONLY $10!"

(reprinted from December issue of the newsletter of the Chicago TImes with some minor changes by your editor.)

DISK MAP

by Earl Hall

The following is a complete and, to the best of my knowledge, accurate description of the Disk Directory format and file storage allocation used by the TI-99/4(A)
Earl Hall CompuServe ID - 72746,3244

SECTOR 0 - Volume Information Block

ESS	CONTENTS
0000-0009	Disk name - up to 10 characters
000A-000B	Total number sectors on disk (>0168=360, >02D0=720, >05A0=1440)
000C	>09 (# of sectors/trk)
000D-000F	'DSK' (>444B53)
0010	>50 = Disk backup protected, >20 = not protected
0011	# of tracks per side (>28=40, >23=35)
0012-0013	# of sides/density (>0101=SS/SD, >0201=DS/SD, >0202=DS/DD)
0038-end	Sector allocation bit map. See note below

NOTE on >0038-end: This is a sector-by-sector bit map of sector use; 1=sector used, 0=sector available. The first byte is for sectors 0 through 7, the second for sectors 8 through 15, and so on. Within each byte, the bits correspond to the sectors from right to left. For example, if byte >0038 contained >CF00 then the first byte equals 1100 1111. This means that sectors 0 through 3 are used, sectors 4 and 5 unused and sectors 6 and 7 used. Information for the 2nd side of a DS/SD disk starts at byte >0065 and ends at byte >0091.

SECTOR 1 - Directory Link

Each 16-bit word lists the sector number of the File Descriptor Record for an allocated file, in alphabetical order of the file names. The list is terminated by a word containing >0000; therefore, the maximum number of files per disk is 127 [(256/2)-1]. If the alphabetical order is corrupted (by a system crash during name change, for instance), the binary search method used to locate files will be effected and files may become unavailable.

SECTOR >2 TO >21 - File Descriptor Records

ADDRESS	CONTENTS
0000-0009	File name - up to 10 characters
000C	File type: >01=Program(memory-image) >00=DIS/FIX >02=INT/FIX >A0=DIS/VAR >82=INT/VAR File deletion protection invoked by Disk Manager 2 will be shown by >08 added to the above.
000D	# of (MAXRECSIZE) records/sector
000E-000F	Number of sectors allocated to the file. (Disk Manager 2 will list one more than this number, thereby including this sector in the sector count)
0010	For memory-image program files and variable-length data files, this contains the number of bytes used in the last disk sector. This is used to determine end-of-file.
0011	MAXRECSIZE of data file.
0012-0013	File record count, but with the second byte being the high-order byte of the value.
001C - end	Block Link (see note)

Note on file storage: Files are placed on the disk in first-come / first-served manner. The first file written will start at sector >0022, and each subsequent file will be placed after it. If the first file is deleted, a newer file will be written in the space it occupied.

If this space isn't big enough, the file will be 'fractured', and the remainder will be placed in the next available block of sectors. The block link map keeps track of this fracturing. Each block link is 3 bytes long. The value of the 2nd digit of the second byte followed by the 2 digits of the first byte is the address of the first sector of this extent. The value of the 3rd byte followed by the 1st digit of the 2nd byte is the number of additional sectors within this extent.

Sectors 2 through >21 are reserved for File Descriptor Records and are allocated for file data only if no other available sectors exist. If more than 32 files are stored on a disk, additional File than 32 files are stored on a disk, additional File Descriptor Records will be allocated as needed, one sector at a time, from the general available sector pool.

(reprinted from the newsletter of the Central Westchester 99'ers.)

FIXING BLOWN DISKS

By Miraj M. Shah Mike Ballman

This article originally appeared in the Spirit Of 99, the Newsletter-Bulletin Board of The Central Ohio Ninety Niner's. The Board Number Is 614-451-0880

Did you ever try to catalog a disk and find out the Disk Controller thinks the disk is NOT initialized? But you know better! What do you usually do with the blown disk? Most people Delete the file giving them the problem. Usually that does correct the problem, but it also gets rid of that file forever. The ultimate solution is to use DISK FIXER by Navarone Industries. The DISK FIXER enables one to examine and change the contents of any disk on a a sector- by- sector basis. I think it is worth its forty-dollar list price. It is available from some TI retailers or directly from Navarone Industries.

Here is the process to fix a blown-up disk...

First acquire a DISK FIXER from a freind or buy one, they're worth it. Get a hard- copy catalog of the blown disk, or even better, get a complete (old) catalog of what should be on the disk. If a complete catalog is not available try to remember what should be on the disk and write a catalog of the disk, you are ready to start using DISK FIXER.

Insert the DISK FIXER cartridge and select option 2 from the Title Screen. Upon doing so you should see the DISK FIXER menu. Do the following if the most recent catalog of the bad disk tells you there are more sectors used/free than is logically posssible: 358 for single side & 718 for double sided disks. For example, IF the catalog lists 500 sectors used/free on a single-sided disk THEN do the following, ELSE GOTO the paragraph on "SECTOR ONE".

This part tells you how to fix up Sector 0; which is the sector containing the information concerning the disk name and number of sectors used/free on the disk. If the disk catalog tells you the used/free sector information is in error then Sector 0 needs to be fixed. The easiest way to do this is to copy a good Sector 0 from another disk to the blown disk.

Here is how to do that:

1) Insert a good disk in drive
2) Read Sector 0 of that disk: R 0,1 [ENTER]
3) Put the blown disk in drive
4) Write good Sector 0 to disk: W 0,1 [ENTER]

If you catalog the bad disk, you will see that the diskname and the used/free information is the same as the good disk But do not let that alarm you. We did that to fool the Disk Controller into thinking the bad disk is at least partially restored to normalcy. Now we need to fix up the blown disk as much as we can. This is done by changing Sector 1.

Here is how to fix SECTOR ONE.

First, get the most complete catalog and the most recent catalog of the bad disk in front of you. Then compare the two catalogs to see which filenames are missing. Next, compile an alphabetical list of all the filenames which are and should be in the catalog. Then you need to find the corresponding sector for each filename. This is done by using the Find String function of the DISK FIXER.

1) Put the bad disk in drive
2) Find a filename by: F 0,2D0,1 [ENTER] type in the filename [ENTER]
3) Ignore the "ERROR IN SECTOR" message
4) Write down the sector number for that filename
5) If that filename could not be found make sure you typed it in correctly and try again; otherwise that file does not exist on the disk.
6) Repeat the process from step two for all of the filenames

You should now have an alphabetical list consisting of two columns: filenames and sectors. With that information in hand you are ready to begin fixing up the bad disk. This is done by modifying Sector 1 of the blown disk. First you have to read Sector 1 from the bad disk by doing this:

1) Put the bad disk in drive
2) Read Sector 1 of disk by: R 1,1 [ENTER]

Then you want to alter the contents of sector 1. This is done by using the alter function of the DISK FIXER. This process is best learned by observing a concrete example.

Lets say the blown disk has 14 files (filenames) on it. Thus there should be 14 entries on sector 1; one entry for each file. The rest of the sector should be all zeros. Lets alter Sector 1:

1) Keep the bad disk in drive
2) Enter the Alter function: A 0 [ENTER]
3) Type in the following just as shown, including the spaces:
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E
4) Do not press [ENTER] yet!
5) If you saw a non-zero entry after the E entry in the first column then type in [0] and a [SPACE] and repeat until the first column shows a zero.
6) Press [ENTER]

7) Write the revised Sector 1 to the bad disk: W 1,1 [ENTER]

You have just entered a table of pointers to the files on the disk. The table points to the corresponding sector for each file name. This is the table that is updated and sorted if you add/delete files to the disk. Leave the DISK FIXER by typing [Q] for QUIT and press [ENTER]. Then catalog the disk. Lets call this new catalog the mixed catalog. You will see the reason once the disk has been cataloged. Notice how the catalog is NOT in alphabetical order It does however contain all of the file names that you hoped and prayed would be on the disk! The next step is to alphabetize the catalog. This is done by first alphabetizing the catalog on paper and carrying along the appropriate sector number of each filename.

Here is an example of a Mixed Catalog.

MIXED CATALOG		SORTED CATALOG	
FILENAME	SECTOR	FILENAME	SECTOR
CAT	1	APPLE	E
SCREEN	5	CAT	1
VOTE	2	DEMO	7
FIRE	6	FIRE	6
APPLE	E	HELLO	9
HELLO	9	JUSTIFY	D
SCROLL	C	LOAD	3
LOAD	3	LOGO	A
TIME	8	PLOT	B
DEMO	7	QUICK	4
QUICK	4	SCREEN	5
JUSTIFY	D	SCROLL	C
PLOT	B	TIME	8
LOGO	A	VOTE	2

The above example shows how you should alphabetize the filenames and the corresponding sector numbers on paper. If you are unsure when dealing with funny characters, the system alphabetizes by lower to higher ASCII values. These values can be found on your TI Basic reference card. Once you have done this you are ready to enter this information into Sector 1. You do not have to enter the filenames, just the sector numbers.

Here is how to do that:

1) Put the blown disk in drive
2) Read Sector 1 by entering: R 1,1 [ENTER]
3) Enter the Alter function: A 0 [ENTER]
4) Type in the sector numbers in the order as shown for the above sorted example catalog. Separate each number by a space:

E 1 7 6 9 D 3 A B 4 5 C 8 2

5) Then press [ENTER]
6) Write the revised sector to the disk: W 1,1 [ENTER]
7) Put a Write-Protect tab on the disk!

You have now fixed up the disk. For verification quit the DISK FIXER program and catalog the disk. You should have no problems during the cataloging process. But you are not completely done yet! DO NOT add/delete any files or programs to this disk! Get a fresh disk and inititalize it to the same configuration as the blown disk Then backup the blown disk to the fresh disk. Then catalog the fresh disk and you will see that the used/free sector information is now correct. Thus, the fresh disk is now your working disk and the blown disk is now a disk for your archives. Keep the blown disk in a safe place just in case you remember a file that was not previously recovered from the blown disk Go through the above procedures to recov er that new-but-old file.

If you are using DISK-FIXER, some information can be recovered from a bad sector by typing in M 1000V,10FF. The information recovered must be typed in with Alter to get it back to the disk. It will not write with the Write command. If you have any questions on how to fix blown disks, please leave private mail to MIKE BALLMANN (that's TWO N's). Happy fixing!

[Programs such as DISKO and DISK+AID can also be used in this manner to repair a blown disk. USE THIS INFORMATION AT YOUR OWN RISK. EDITOR NOT RESPONSIBLE!]

PAID MEMBERS MAY GET

DISCOUNT TICKETS FOR

T.I.C.O.F.F.

AT MARCH MEETING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"BE AWARE THE IDES OF MARCH" is the slogan adopted by the TEXAS INSTRUMENTS COMPUTER OWNER'S FUN/FEST (TIC-OFF) which will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Saturday, March 15 at Roselle Park High School.

The 'Fair' or convention will feature a series of talks by authorities on various aspects of computers. A number of speakers will be conducting symposiums on programming, hardware, computer language, educational programs, graphics, etc. In addition there will be a considerable number of vendors and equipment. Hardware and software (including fair-ware) will be demonstrated and sold. User Groups from The United States and Canada will be attending and conducting demonstrations and exhibitions.

The highlight of the day will be the introduction of a 256K Computer compatible to the T.I. 99/4a with highly-advanced capabilities. The new computer will be manufactured by N.J. based MYARC Inc. (Micro Computer Architechts). It is rumored to be the DREAM MACHINE of the 1980's and is expected to revolutionize the Family Computer industry.

Since Texas Instruments left the home computer market more than two years ago, they have abandonned more than 3,000,000 customers around the world. Yet, computer owners still thrive because of 'user groups' that have sprung up. These groups offer many services to their members, including technical assistance, low-cost programs, and instruction, to name a few. Most groups publish a newsletter and communicate to other groups, thereby furthering their knowledge and comraderie.

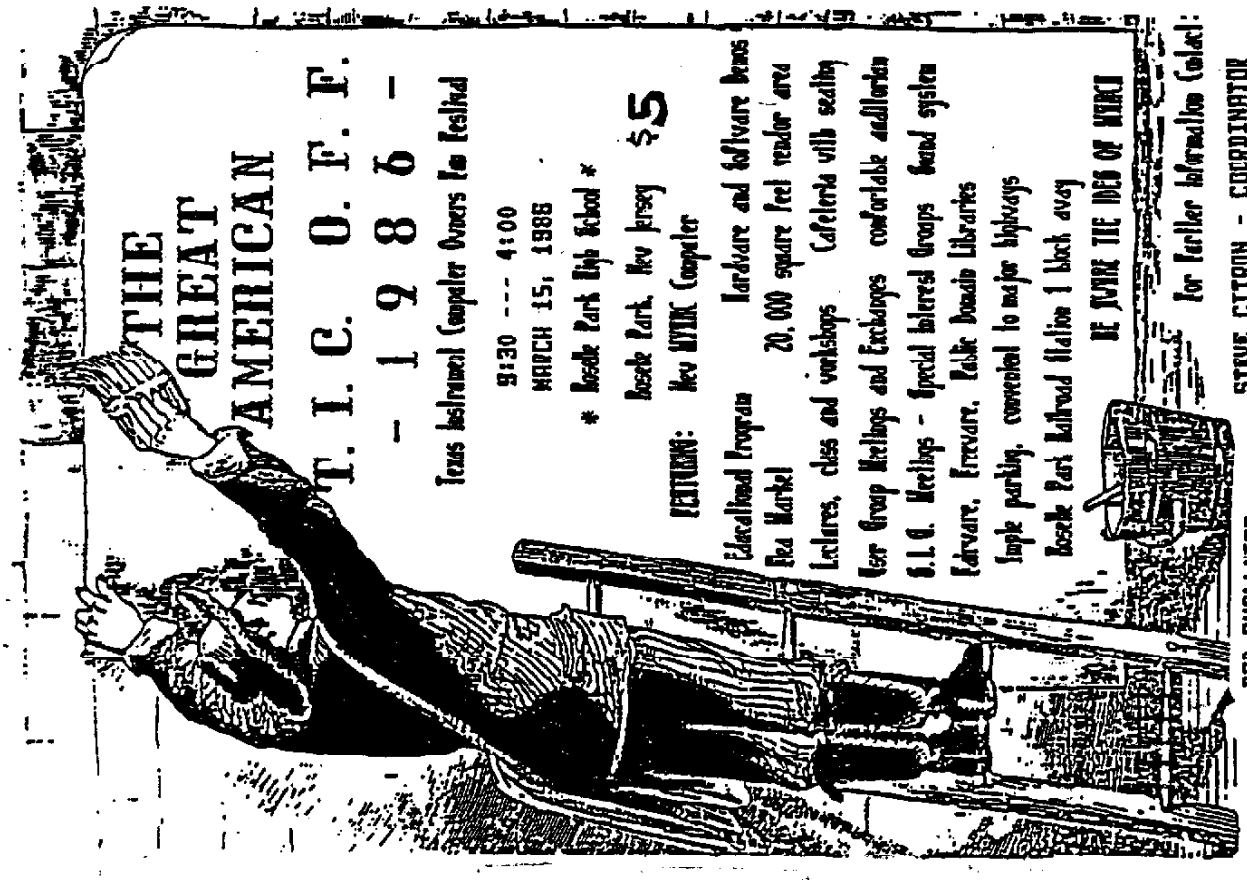
The Fair is experted to attract many owners of the 500,000+ estimated T.I. computers in the N.Y. - N.J. metropolitan area that are not aware of the potential of the computer or the availability of software and hardware. In addition, many user groups are expected from Canada, Massachusetts, Maine, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.

The site was chosen for a number of reasons: it is in a quiet suburban setting, yet is convenient to mass transportation and all of the major auto routes in the N.Y.-N.J. Metropolitan Area. It is situated less than three minutes from the Garden State Parkway (exit 137) in Union County. Travel time to Newark airport, Staten Island,N.Y. is approximately 20 minutes. Off-street Parking for more than 500 cars is available . The Roselle Park H.S. student Council will be providing lunch and refreshments in their sit-down cafeteria. Hospitality committees will accomodate out-of-state visitors.

A flea market will also be held and individuals wishing to participate should contact Randy Evans at 201-549/5926.

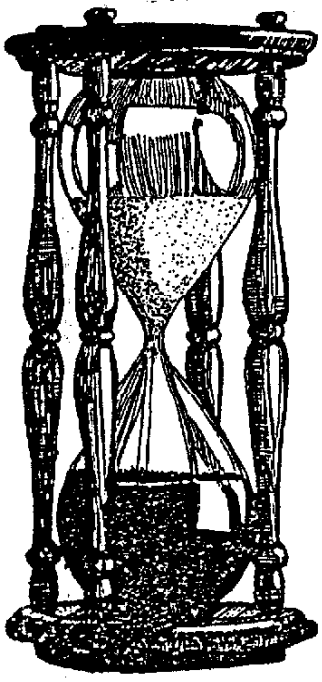
The entrance fee for individuals is $5. Group discounts are also available. Vendors, user groups and individuals who wish further information may contact:

Steve Citron
P.O. Box 255
Roselle Park, N.J.
07204.



NEW JUG NEWS

NEW JERSEY USERS GROUP



Mel Gary
49 Pine Grove Ave.
Somerset, NJ 08873

THE GREAT AMERICAN T. I. C. 0. F. F. - 1 9 8 6 -

Texas Instrument Computer Owners Fan Festival

9:30 --- 4:00

MARCH 15, 1986

DALLAS TI H. C. GROUP
1221 MOSSWOOD PL.
IRVING, TX 75061