

# NEWJUG 99ER'S NEWS

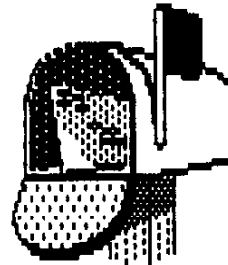
MEMBERS' COLUMN

## DECEMBER 1990

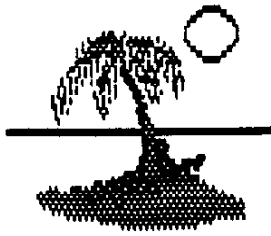
**12  
DAYS  
OF  
CHRISTMAS**

### Highlights:

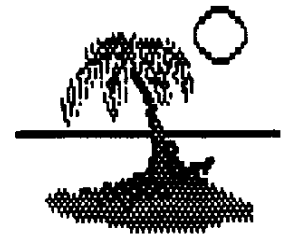
Remind Me Review; Club News; 9940 & 99/4A Vendors;  
 Newsletter Exchange; Editor's Forum; Typewriter 99  
 Review; Joke of the Month; Graphics by Griffin; Help  
 Wanted; Coming Events; BBS Scene



NEWJUG 99ER'S UG  
 P.O. BOX 1463  
 SAYREVILLE, N.J.  
 08871-1463



# EDITOR'S FORUM



By DAN GAZSY

Last month, enclosed with the C.O.N.N.I newsletter was a reprint of an article by Irwin Hott (Sept '90) which concerned the creation of a Clearinghouse BBS. Since I can't directly force you to read other UG newsletters, I'll do the next best thing; include the article in ours.

What's Hott by Irwin Hott - Spirit of '90 Sept 1990

"... As you may remember, in my July Article in the Spirit of '90 newsletters, I talked in some detail about the possibility of setting the Spirit of '90 BBS up as a "clearinghouse." The idea was to make it easier for user groups to gain access to a wide variety of current material for use in their newsletters. This could also be extremely useful for small user groups which are no longer able to publish or exchange newsletters.

After considerable discussion, at two C.O.N.N.I. meetings, it seemed to be a practical idea. It became clear, though, that my cost estimates in the last article were a little low. We would need the following:

1 hard floppy controller	\$300.00
1 20meg hard drive	\$150.00
1 2400 BAUD modem	\$125.00
1 AT style case to hold hard/floppy drives and power supply	\$100.00
1 RS232 card for ports 3/4 for Speech	\$50.00
miscellaneous connectors	\$25.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$750.00</b>

We are now at the point where we need some positive commitments from User Groups before we can proceed further.

In my July article I asked for feedback on the "clearinghouse" idea. I have received a couple of positive responses on the BBS. We need to know if there is really enough interest in the idea.

We are asking that this idea be discussed at your user group meeting. We would like to keep the costs as low as possible. For example if there were 25 groups willing to commit \$30 each, that would be sufficient for us to purchase all the needed equipment. We could stay at 1200 BAUD for a time, but I would prefer to start out with the 2400 BAUD modem. I think a cap of \$50 per user group for first year expenses would be reasonable. We would not purchase any equipment until we had enough for everything but the modem. If we did not receive enough money by January 1st, 1991, all money collected would be returned.

We are hoping we can have the system up and running by that time. Tentatively we would expect to charge \$15 per group for succeeding years.

We are looking at setting up the system as follows:

Access to original material intended for use in newsletters would be limited to 1 or 2 designated persons from each user group. These User Group newsletters would be available to members of any user group. Downloading of other files would be available to everyone.

If your user group is interested in the "clearinghouse" idea please send \$30 to:

Bob DeVilbiss  
2000 Atterbury Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43220

Make checks payable to C.O.N.N.I. and indicate they are for the "clearinghouse fund".

If you need more information, please feel free to write or call me at:

Irwin Hott  
1540 Northridge Road  
Columbus, OH 43224  
(614) 263-5310 (voice)

I initiated some action and sent an inquiry letter to Irwin Hott asking for additional info concerning this concept. Questions I addressed to them concerned 1) outdial access from networks (Starlink, PCPursuit) to their bbs, 2) operating hours of the BBS, 3) ratio of material dedicated to 00/40 vs 00/4a, 4) areas (languages and applications) which articles will address. Hopefully, I'll have a response to these questions at our next (December) meeting.

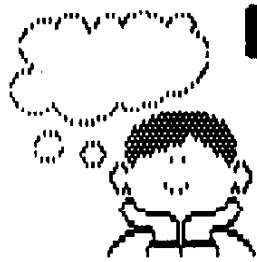
Last month I spent an inordinate amount of time making sure that a wide variety of fonts were showcased in the November newsletter. The purpose was to give you a choice of fonts to be used in future newsletters. I wasn't expecting a tremendous response, but I was anticipating some response. The response I've received to date is similar to the feedback fairware authors generally receive (little or nothing). Remember those last two pages of every newsletter is your means to communicate to me. Please use them!! Till next month

-----  
The following two items were reprinted from the Club00 Newsletter (August-October 1990 issue).

**TI00/4A DOCTOR**

**TI00/4A REPAIRS.** Repairs done at reasonable rates. Firm prices will be given before any work is done and everything is guaranteed. Contact Frank Billeri 515 Newport Avenue, South Attleboro, MA 02703 or call (508) 761-7245 evenings.

**TI00/4A SOFTWARE.** Disks, cassettes, and modules available at reasonable rates. Drop a line or call. Do not forget to describe your system when asking for your free catalog. Contact Frank Billeri 515 Newport Avenue, So. Attleboro, MA 02703/0623 or call (508) 761-7245 evenings, Sat and Sun from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



# REMIND ME!



Are you a disorganized individual, continually forget about appointments or need constant reminders of things that you have to do? If so, maybe this program is for you.

The first two things that struck me about this program were: a) the program is 3 years old and b) it was placed in the public domain (free) by the author (John Johnson). The program claims to support 3 different clock devices, so if you have one of them (CorComp clock, MBP clock, Clulow clock, 640 Geneva or PGRAM clock) it will extract the time, month and year from the device. If you don't have one, don't worry; you'll just have to manually enter month and year when it's needed.

The program is a memory image file and loads into the first 32K (A000-BFFF) of expanded memory, so most program loaders will load the program with no trouble.

Before you get to the Main Menu, you must supply the name of the data file (MM/YYYY) and the drive assignment. When those tasks are dispensed with, the program attempts to load the data file (if it already exists) and present you with a list of menu options (Load Save Print Erase Find Config Bye). To select these options just enter the first letter of the option. The one option which wasn't intuitive to me at first was the Reminder Editor but

pressing the ENTER key resolved that problem. While the Reminder Editor doesn't support word wrap, it is extremely easy to use and supports most of the editing function keys that users of TI Writer have grown accustomed to.

If the FIND option and Scratch Pad weren't included in the program, it would still be a useful program, but these two features just make it more useable. I feel it was a good choice on the author's part NOT to make the search case sensitive. Seeing my search criteria resolved by checkmarks in the calendar were neat graphic displays. I like the idea of being able to do multiple searches before investigating any day's reminders. Using Scratch Pad as a temporary buffer and "picking up" lines and putting them in the workspace or date block is an adequate way of copying reminders.

For Geneva 640 owners, there is also an accompanying utility called REMINDERS which will access the current days reminders. Placing REMINDERS and your choice of arguments in the AUTOEXEC file would either print or display today's reminders when the machine boots. A neat way to start your computing session.

While I'm glad that John Johnson wrote "REMIND ME" and placed it in public domain, I'm also sad that he didn't try to commercially sell the program. It has lots of flexibility and is very easy to use. Though you could use the program without reading the docs, I would advise you to read them anyway. There are enough hints, nuances and tips in the docs to make it worthwhile reading. On a

scale of 1 to 10, this program gets a 10 in ALL categories.



## CLUB NEWS

By DAN GAZSY

I'm not sure how regular this article will appear in the newsletter, but there is enough current news to warrant a column this month. First off, nominations for Club Officers were made at the November meeting and elections are scheduled for the December meeting.

The search for an alternate meeting place for the UG meeting may be over. The limited hours (7pm-8:45pm) at the library have been a detracting feature for quite awhile. An alternative meeting place in the Kennilworth/Westfield area has been found with the desired extended hours and day of the week (Tuesday) available. Our January meeting will be conducted at this new facility. Maps and directions will be distributed at the December meeting. If possible, they will be included in December's newsletter. Before closing, I'd like to remind all members that club membership is due to be paid in January.

## 99/4A & 9640 VENDORS

Alboas Computer Supplies  
6298 Hamilton Rd.  
36 Main Street Village  
Columbus, Ga 31909  
(404) 327-4900

Asgard Software  
P.O. Box 10306  
Rockville, Md 20850  
(703) 255-3085  
Catalog Available

Braatz Computer Services  
719 East Byrd Street  
Appleton, Wisc 54911  
(414) 731-3478  
(414) 731-4820 after 6pm  
Catalog \$2

Bud Mills Services  
166 Dartmouth Dr  
Toledo, Ohio 43614  
(419) 385-5946

CaDD Electronics  
52 Audubon Rd.  
Haverhill, Ma 01830  
(603) 895-0119

Competition Computer  
2629 W National Ave  
Milwaukee, Wisc 53204  
(800) 242-7902 in Wisconsin  
(800) 662-9253 all others  
Catalog \$1

Computer Shopper  
P.O. Box F  
Titusville, Fl 32781

CorComp  
2211-G East Winston Rd.  
Anaheim, Ca 92806  
(714) 956-4450

Dijit Systems  
4345 Hortensia St  
San Diego, Ca 92103  
(619) 295-3301 voice  
(619) 278-8155 bbs

Disk Only Software  
P.O. Box 244  
Lorton, Va 22079  
(310) 340-7179

Midwest Engineering  
208 Arcadia Dr.  
Vernon Hills, Il 60061  
(312) 362-9034

Genial Computerware  
835 Green Valley Dr.  
Philadelphia, Pa 19128  
(215) 483-1379

Myarc Inc  
2624 Ranier Drive NE  
Birmingham, Al 35215  
(205) 854-5848

Great Lakes Software  
804 E. Grand River Ave.  
Howell, Mi 48843  
(317) 546-0566

Net Polyoptics  
P.O. Box 4443  
Woodbridge, Va 22191  
(703) 499-5548

Harrison Software  
5705 40th Place  
Hyattsville, Md 20781  
(301) 277-3467

Pilgrims Pride  
S Williams Ln.  
Hatboro, Pa. 19040  
(215) 441-4262

Hunter Electronics  
4 N. 370 Pine Grove  
Bensenville, Il 60106  
(312) 766-9503

Quality 99 Software  
1884 Columbia RD #1021  
Washington, DC 20009  
(202) 667-3574

Inscobot Inc.  
P.O. Box 89160  
Pt Orange, Fl 32029

Queen Anne Computer Shoppe  
6102 Roosevelt Way NE  
Seattle, Wa 98115  
(206) 522-6558

Jim Lasher  
722 Huntley  
Dallas, Tx 75214  
(214) 821-9874

Rancharge Computers  
6467 E. Vancey Dr.  
Brookpark, Oh 44142  
(216) 243-1244 evenings

Joy Electronics  
P.O. Box 542546  
Dallas, Tx 75354-2526  
(800) 422-3898 in Texas  
(800) 527-7438 all others

Rave 99  
112 Rambling Road  
Vernon, Ct 06066  
(203) 871-7824

JP Software  
2390 El Camino Real #107  
Palo Alto, Ca 94306  
Catalog \$1

Tenex  
P.O. Box 6578  
South Bend, In 46660  
(800) 348-2778  
(217) 259-7051

L.L. Conner Enterprise  
1521 Ferry St.  
Lafayette, In 47904  
(317) 742-8146

Texaments  
53 Center St  
Patchogue, N.Y. 11772  
(516) 475-3480  
(516) 475-6463 bbs

McCann Software  
P.O. Box 34160  
Omaha, Ne 68134

Tax-Comp  
P.O. Box 33084  
Granada Hills, Ca 91344  
(818) 366-6631  
Catalog \$2

Micropendium  
P.O. Box 1343  
Round Rock, Tx 78680  
(512) 255-1512

The Bunyard Group  
 P.O. Box 62323  
 Colorado Springs, Co  
 80962-2323  
 (719) 488-2572

Tigercub Software  
 156 Collingwood Ave.  
 Columbus, Oh 43213  
 (614) 235-3545

Trio+ Software  
 P.O. Box 114-A  
 Liscomb, Ia 50148

Triton Products Company  
 P.O. Box 8123  
 San Francisco, Ca 94128  
 1-800-227-6900  
 Catalog Available

9640 News  
 c/o Beery Miller  
 5455 Marina Cove #1  
 Memphis, Tn 38115

## TYPEWRITER

# 99



"Why go to all the trouble of making a computer into a typewriter? Why not use a word processor? The answer is simple - a word processor is simply too much for some things. Typewriter is perfect if you want to address an envelope, type up a label, write a postcard, or even a short note or letter. A word processor is simply too much effort - too many commands to play with, and too much work. All you have to do with Typewriter is run the program, and start typing. You don't have to enter complicated commands to set margins or indent lines, double-strike or underline words. You don't have to juggle files and disks to save and

format your text. With Typewriter all you have to do is simply press a Key and start typing any way you want. Typewriter gives you the best of both worlds on your TI-99/4A."

The above paragraph comes from the accompanying docs to the program. At first glance, my reaction to this paragraph was a bit skeptical. I decided to read on anyway. The first thing that struck me was that this program is not only for the disk user, but is also for the diskless TI owner. This program comes in a cartridge or can be loaded via cassette (provided you own a mini-memory cartridge).

Once the program loads, you have to answer a few short questions before you can begin to type. The program needs to know the printer interface, the left and right margins. Once these questions are entered you're off to the races, or should we say Keyboard. From here you'll be presented with a window which will show you the last 7 lines that were typed, a margin ruler with all active tab stops and the command functions available to you. I started out just using the basics of the program. Typing and reading the screen, I soon found out that the cursor would switch between the bottom line of the window and the margin ruler, every time the cursor hits a tab stop. No big deal as long as you realize this is happening. Every time a line is completed (reaching the right margin or pressing the ENTER key), the line goes to the printer and you are positioned at the left margin. You'll soon realize that your editing abilities

are limited to that of an electronic typewriter. Should you chose the "TYPE" mode instead of "LINE" mode, you have no editing abilities at ALL. In addition, every character is echoed right to your printer. After one line of this, I thought I owned a teletype instead of a printer. Let's just say that TYPE mode works but I wouldn't recommend it as a default mode.

There are a bunch of additional options which can be toggled ON or OFF while you enter data. It's quite obvious to determine whether an option is active or not. If it's on, the option will be in inverse-video. I did find some inconveniences trying to use the BOLD or UNDERLINE option. If you've typed a portion of a line and then decide it should be underlined or in bold, you'll have to reposition the cursor, activate the option and retype the characters to take the new option. I'd of much rather been able to place the cursor, turn on the function, reposition the cursor a second time and turned off the function. All characters between the two repositionings of the cursor would inherit the new function.

I guess if this program was targeted to only the disk based audience, I'd have to recommend that you pass on this program. Contrary to what was stated in the opening paragraph, I will stick with TI Writer for my most simple of word processing functions. I value being able to save and edit any word processing that I write. If I were a diskless user, my opinion would have to be quite different. This program allows me to

simulate an electronic typewriter quite well and the price of the program is well under the cost of a typewriter of comparable features.

## NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

Our list of TI User groups that we exchange newsletters with continues to grow. Our list of 25+ UG's only took 5 months to compile. If your club exchanges with any OG's not on our list, we be very interested in hearing from you via the comments and suggestions on the cover page.

CLUB 99  
Mail Stop 1-21  
34 Forest Street  
Attleboro, MA 02703

North Jersey TI IBM UG  
16 Judith Ann Dr.  
Ringwood, NJ 07456-1863

Central Garden State UG  
61 Country Lane  
Hamilton Square, NJ 08690

QB99er's User Group  
c/o Frank Crotty  
Queensborough Comm College  
Bayside, NY 11364

LITI 99er's UG  
93 Myers Avenue  
Hicksville, NY 11801-2424

Twin Tiers UG  
c/o R. Sass  
RD #1  
Rock Stream, NY 14878

Pittsburg User's Group  
P.O. Box 8043  
Pittsburg, PA 15216

Erie 99'er User Group  
2812 West 33rd Street  
Erie, PA 16506



Nittany Users of TI  
625 Wiltshire Drive  
State College, PA 16803

MANNERS  
15106-A Fredrick Rd.  
Suite 136  
Rockville, Md 20850

Hampton Roads TI'ers  
4701 Atterbury Street  
Norfolk, Va 23513

CONNIE  
181 Heischman Ave  
Werthington, OH 43085

N.W. OHIO 99'ers User Group  
\*First Church Unity  
5555 Executive Parkway  
Toledo, OH 43606  
Attn: Earl W. Hoffsis

Greater Akron 99er's  
P.O. Box 3201  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

Lima 99/4a Users Group  
P.O. Box 647  
Venedocia, OH 45894

Great Lakes Computer Group  
P.O. Box 152  
Roseville, MI 48066-0152

Milwaukee Area Users Group  
4122 N. Glenway  
Wauwatosa, WI 53222

Siouxland 99er's  
4604 Bluestem Circle  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Kansas City TI99/4a UB  
P.O. Box 12591  
No. Kansas City, MO 66416

Dallas TI Home Computer  
P.O. Box 29863  
Dallas, TX 75229

Net99er HCUG  
P.O. Box 524  
Hurst, TX 76053

JSC TI99 User Group  
c/o John Owen  
2321 Coryell Street  
League City, TX 77573

TI SLAVES  
3818 W. 6540 So.  
West Jordan, UT 84084

Southwest Ninety Niners  
P.O. Box 17831  
Tucson, AZ 85730

Southern Nevada UB (SNUB)  
P.O. Box 26307  
Las Vegas, NV 89126-0301

Northern Nevada 99'ers  
5554 Mark Circle  
Sun Valley, NV 89433

LA 99ers Computer Group  
P.O. Box 7746  
Torrance, CA 90504

North County 99ers UB  
P.O. Box 2500  
Escondido, CA 92025

UGOC  
c/o Earl B Raguse  
17161 Edwards  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647



## JOKE OF THE MONTH

While leading a flock of his parishioners on a trip to Hawaii, a minister began to irritate some of the travelers with his overbearing and patronizing manner. In the midst of his hundredth lecture on the flora and fauna of the Big Island, one vacationer finally interrupted him. "Pastor", he said, "you keep referring to the island as Ha-wai-i. Isn't the correct pronunciation Ha-vai-i?"

The minister insisted his pronunciation was correct and the argument went back and forth for an hour. Finally, the group stopped for lunch. "Our waitress is a native," the minister

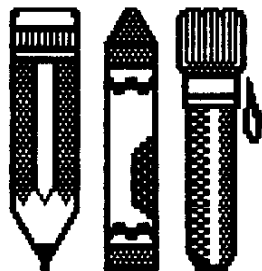
said smugly. "Lets ask her." In his usual deliberate manner and in exaggerated clarity, he asked the waitress to slowly pronounce the name of where they were.

Very slowly and equally distinctly, she answered, "Tac-oh-bell."



## HELP WANTED

WANTED: Newsletter Editor seeks person to write infrequent articles for club newsletter. Technical expertise is not a must. Minimum requirement is to read/write the English language. Hours are flexible. All resumes must include a sample article. Plagiarists need not apply.



## GRAPHICS BY GRIFFIN

For those of you who like artwork and are constantly looking for different graphics libraries, I found a collection of drawings by Don Griffin on the DELPHI network which are quite nice. The majority of the artwork was done with Picasso Publisher and converted to TI Artist picture format. With all the different conversion programs around, it is no monumental task to convert these over to your favorite format. The majority of the pictures are military

airplanes (past to present). The remainder of this article are the author's exact words (found in the README file).

"...I have tried to make the drawings as accurate as possible considering the limitations of a bit mapped screen and a 9 pin dot matrix printer.

I've not included any background in these renderings since you may want to scale, rotate, or otherwise manipulate these images (with TI-Artist Plus) to create dogfights, formations, animation, etc. You can add your own backgrounds and colors if desired. Let your imagination run wild.

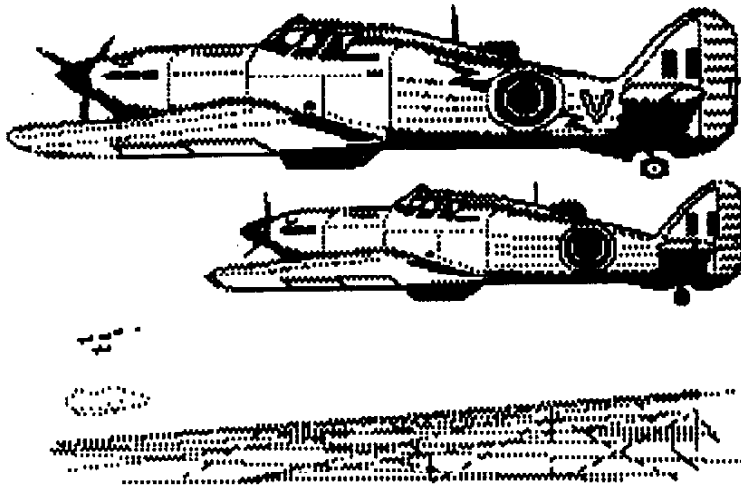
I'm releasing these pictures as Public Domain. I have another 12 or so pictures yet to release, but I'm waiting until I have enough art to fill a double sided disk.

If you like these drawings, or would like to see any particular aircraft or autos on future releases, your comments and/or suggestions are welcome.

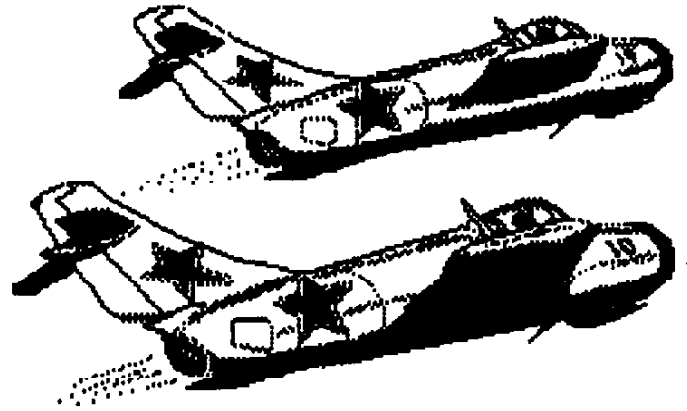
I hope you get as much enjoyment from these drawings as I did in creating them...."

Ron Griffin  
384 W. 17th Ave.  
Milan, IL 61264

The following page of graphics is just a sample of the pictures provided by Mr. Griffin.



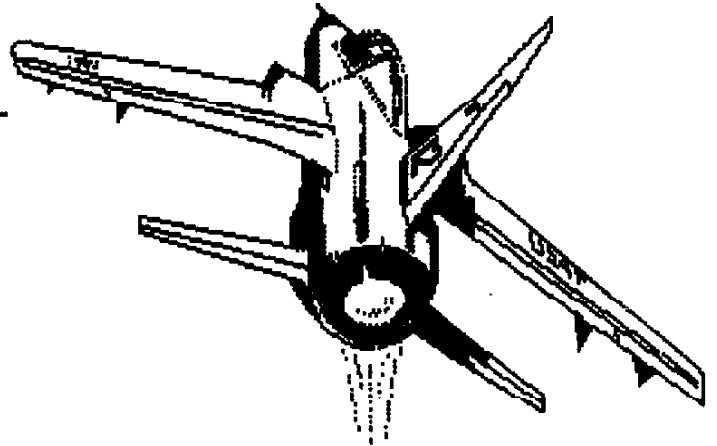
HURRIS



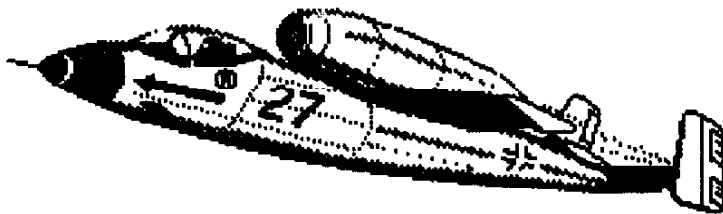
MIGFORM



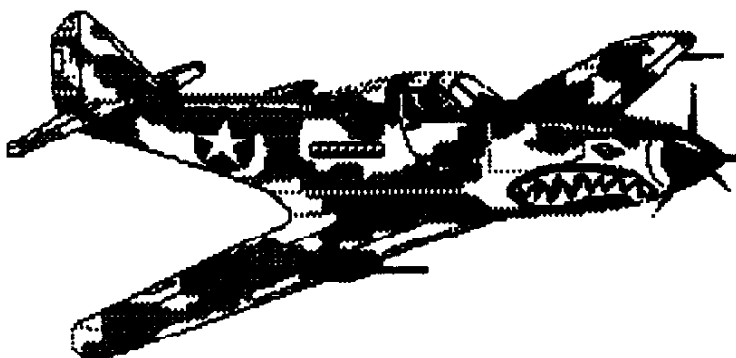
F4



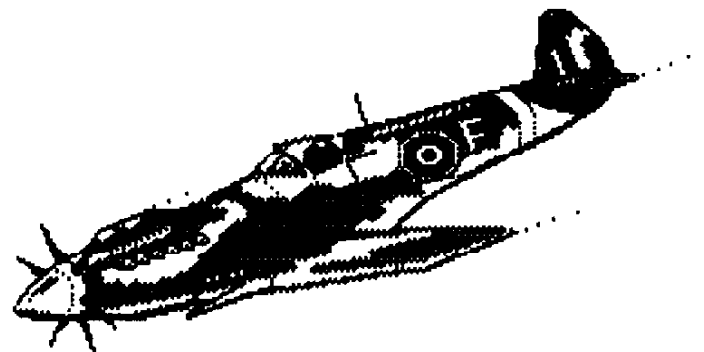
THUD



HE162



P89



SPITFIRE



# COMING EVENTS



## DECEMBER

December 15

Wayne, NJ - Wm. Patterson College  
400 tables in Rec Center - over 2K in free parking.  
I-80 to 23N to Alps Rd. to Ratzer Rd to college entrance. Park in Lot #5 and take the two minute shuttle bus ride. 10 am to 4 pm. Call (800) 631-0062 for more info.

## JANUARY

January 19

Hackensack, NJ  
FDU Rothman Ctr  
500 tables, Rt4 to Hackensack Ave So. Left at Temple Ave. One minute to Riverside Square (Bloomingdale's) Shopping Mall  
Call (800) 631-0062 for more info.

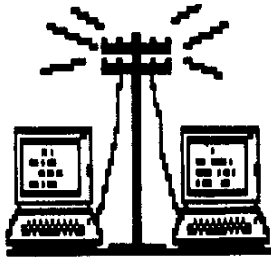
## FEBRUARY

February 8

Wayne, NJ - Wm Patterson College  
400 tables in Rec Center - over 2K in free parking.  
I-80 to 23N to Alps Rd. to Ratzer Rd to college entrance. Park in Lot #5 and take the two minute shuttle bus ride. 10 am to 4 pm. Call (800) 631-0062 for more info.

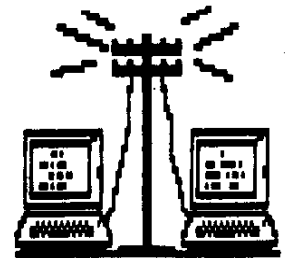
February 16 & 17

Fest West 91 to be held at the Ramada Inn, right across the street from Disneyland, Anaheim CA. Tickets are \$6 for both days. Future announcements will be available at the UGDC BBS (714) 778-5459 or write to FestWest91 Committee c/o Bill Nelson 11698 Puryear Lane Garden Grove, CA 92640



# BBS SCENE

BY DAN GAZSY



This month the BBS's have again been loaded with lots of good information for the TI and Geneve owners. First off, I found the following dialog on DELPHI, describing a bug in the use of the HFDC with TI Base. This is very similar in nature to the same bug that existed in the 80 track aprom for the FDC before v1.6 resolved the problem.

From: 9640NEWS To: TI994A

Paul, I have just located and identified I think what is a bug, possibly in the master DSR, or a bug in TI-BASE and have found a way of reproducing it.

Symptoms: a 500+ sector file (On HDS1.UL.) is suddenly decreased in size to 6 or 7 sectors, then after re-entry again and performing a task, it is back to it's original size (fortunately).

Software Using: TI-Base V8.03-  
Geneve Software: MDDS 0.97H, and GPL 1.04 with Groms 1.2 replaced.

I have a database file on the hard drive with 275 records in INT/FIX 255 format. If I do the following instructions in TI-Base I get the following symptoms.

```
USE ADDRESS (PATH ALREADY DEFINED)
CLOSE
QUIT
```

That's it, nothing viewed, edited, or saved with TI-Base. A simple open and close. When I return to MDDS, and do a DIR, the file is shrunk to a 6 or 7 sector file from the original is not copyable.

Repeat, the same thing, but add one thing:

```
USE ADDRESS
EDIT 274 (last record, counts 0 to 274 for 275 records)
(Press F9 to exit)
CLOSE
QUIT
```

Return to MDDS and the file is now back to it's original size when I do a DIR and it is copyable, whereas before it wasn't. This operation is REPEATABLE EVERY time. I don't know if it is a TI-Base bug, or a MDDS bug, but it seems to follow along some previous messages I saw about relative access and such. I am not saying this is a Geneve bug, or a TI-Base bug, or what, but it is reproducible. It could even be of the lack of presence of all the GPL >2x routines, but I thought I would let you know.

Paul, I checked it out, and floppy and RAMDISK do not show the problem. Only on Hard Drive access. There are other things I have seen that 0.97H doesn't do with the hard drive or floppy, but haven't pinpointed the problem or any way of exactly describing or reproducing the problem. When I have time to find reproducible methods, I will forward them on as I did earlier. Will catch you later, Beery

The following message was sent from Myarc to a HFDC owner who wanted to get rid of the 45 second delay. This info was provided because the user only had floppy drives connected to the disk controller and the delay was getting a bit much.

From: MYARC To: ROYCAMP

...Here is the change you need to do to get the HFDC 45 sec. wait out jumper pin 1 to pin 8 on U21 and the HFDC will not look for a hard drive....

How many of you wondered why the 99/4a could not take advantage of floppy drives larger than 720K? The following response will help explain it.

RE: DISK DRIVES (Re: Msg 18964)  
From: JERRYC To: LAPEASE

The IBM 1.2meg format is 80 tracks X 15 sectors X 512 bytes - and the spindle speed is 300 RPM (which is the standard speed for 8" floppies). The 720K format (3.5" or 5.25") is 80 tracks X 9 sectors X 512 bytes. This translates to 80 tracks X 18 sectors X 256 bytes on the TI.

Oh yes - and the spindle speed for 720K is 300 RPM - the same as 40 track drives.

The higher packing density on 1.2 meg (and 1.44 meg 3.5") drives requires a higher data transfer rate (500Kbps rather than 250Kbps). The HFDC has the hardware to support the higher data transfer rate (since it already supports the 5Mbps rate for the hard disks), but the eprom does not support the 4 to 1 bit mapping needed to use such high capacity disks in the TI disk operating system. The eprom DOES support such bit mapping on a large hard disk. So what is needed is some code in the eprom to do the same thing for floppies.

Clear as mud huh?  
Jerry

This month's column would be remiss if there wasn't at least a mention of the Chicago Fair. The following report was written by Chris Pratt of ESD.

### 1990 CHICAGO TI FAIRE HIGHLIGHTS

11/3/90

The Chicago Faire had many high points let me elaborate on just a few of them. Here are the things that caught my eye:

\* Comprodine released several new programs for the TI. My favorite was a game called "BACKSTEINE" (bok'stin.y) -- it immediately caught my eye as I passed their booth. The game is so similar to the game Arkanoid for other clone or special video card hooked up to the TI console, but to my pleasure the game is for the TI-99/4A. I bought this one right away.

\* Barry Boone was manning the Texaments booth and everybody

loved his new program "GIF MANIA". This program allows 4A owners to display GIF pictures without any special equipment attached (video cards and the like). Definitely a winner.

\* Chris Bobbit from Asgard had the new MIDI interface set up (I believe the author was demonstrating it for people but I am not sure, I apologize). Also the new very impressive graphics program "YAPP" (which stands for Yet Another Paint Program) was for sale. YAPP is well documented and comes with a large manual in a hardback binder.

\* Gary Bowser from OPA (in Canada) demonstrated many of his new electronic gadgets, including a new widget type device which allows users to access up to ten command modules simultaneously and a 9958 circuit which plugs into the 9918A socket in on the mother board. This 80 column/hires video device has 192K of video memory, a 25 pin analog RGB video connector, and requires no external power supply. Gary demoed the 9938 prototype but will be selling the 9958 version for \$179 soon. I own a Mechatronic 9938 device and love the added features on the 4A including the 80 column support, since the Mechatronic device is no longer available I am glad to see others pursuing these expansion options. (Asgard plans to be coming out with a Mechatronic "CLONE" in 9958 version too, Asgard's will be an external device with power supply and a DSR; OPA's does not have a DSR on the board.)

\* T and J Software demonstrated a new program called "Hardback" by Mr. Tom Freeman. This program is a miracle for those who own the Myarc HFDC and wish to back up their hard disks. Also demonstrated a program called "The Bugger".

\* Other hard drive news for the TI came when ESD announced its official shipping date for their new Hard/Floppy controller. They will be shipping on November 30th. Mr Shane Truffer (President of ESD and the designer of the controller card) along with yours truly (Chris Pratt) fielded questions after the announcement. ESD also held a 3 1/2" 1.44MB floppy drive give away to promote their new controller which is able to control the 1.44MB floppy drives.

\* Rave 99 demonstrated their new PE/2 expansion box which is very sleek looking and allows for the user to install the 99/4A motherboard or the Geneve in the chassis, with other TI peripheral cards, hard drives, floppy disks, and with the Rave XT Keyboard allows users to change the look of their TI. The only draw back I can see is that although they allow for the plugging in of command modules however it is a little awkward with an extension

It appears that a wider variety of mice devices will soon be working with WINDOWS 9640. If you have a Logitech Serial mouse and wanted to use it with your Geneve or WINDOWS 9640, the following message will show you how to get WINDOWS 9640 or the Geneve Mouse Development Kit updated.

From: 9640NEWS To: ALL

Bruce Hallstrom has just completed the Logitech Serial Mouse driver for WINDOWS 9640. Anyone not that does not use a Myarc Mouse for their Geneve, but has access to a Logitech SERIAL and a null modem cable, and is a registered user of WINDOWS or the Geneve Mouse Development Kit, can return their disk with \$2 to cover postage and handling. This Driver 'currently' only works within WINDOWS and no modifications were required to WINDOWS to adapt another device. It has not been tested with the Asgard Genius Mouse but has a 75% chance of working since Logitech and Genius can both use the same MSDOS driver at their default states. If the Asgard Mouse does not work, we will try to quickly get a version together. The driver was a little more trickier than suspected, but now that the serial routines are written, adopting other devices should not be a problem.

From: BBOONE To: LAPEASE

Version 1.0, now renamed "GIF Mania" adds a fullblown floppy/hard disk drive cataloger to the "GIFY" program... other than that it is the same... I am selling updates for \$5 (that includes shipping and handling)... if you want version 1.0, send it to my address... P.O. Box 1233, Sand Springs, OK 74063

Barry

More woes for the HFDC owner who have little ones that like to play around computers. While this is not a serious problem, it was rather interesting to hear about the inquisitive fingers of a two year old.

From: RFELTON To: T1994A

My two years old son had me discover something strange yesterday. He was playing with the Keyboard, typing random characters. Once in a while, he's been pressing the enter key, which gave a "bad command or filename message", of course. The strange thing is:

I've discovered file with the same random characters on my hard drive!!! These files were all Dis/Fix 80, 4 sectors long (size may vary, depending on the size of the hard drive).

This lead me to two things: First, if you type a non-existent filename, it'll be created on the hard drive for a reason that is obscure to me. Second, never let a two years old kid touch play with the Geneve > Have any idea why this is happening?

Rejean

From: T1994A To: RFELTON

Rejean. I'll bet that ">" was one of the characters typed...and created the new file as a result of "IO redirection" as implemented in MDOS.

PaulC



From: RFELTON

To: T1994A

Probably. I know that one file was named "8" (without quotes) and it was the only character typed. I've noticed it. Anyway, it's not what I would call a bug and it's not very important. Just have to check out when typing filenames.

Re: Jean

From the fairware community, Clint Pulley continues to provide more new utilities and upgrade others. New for MDOS users is a program called CDEF which will alter the MDOS character set. Makes reading an 80 column screen a bit easier with a larger font. His prior releases of Directory Manager and FIND have also been updated and are now at revisions 1.2 and 1.1 respectively.

From Joe Ross, author of cShell99, he's created a demonstration package of his program and uploaded to TI boards. The program is primarily for the 99/4a community, but it will run on the Geneva too. Program supports graphics, text and bitmap mode.

One last item, FunelWeb v4.31 is now available for the 4a community. Disk Review for the 40 column and 80 column user are now on a par.