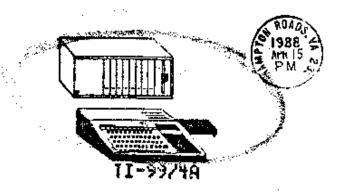
SEFICIAL MEWSLETTER OF THE TIDEMATER 3974A USERS GROUP INC. 4108 S. MILITARY HWY LOT #21 CHESAREAKE, VA 23321

MARCH-APRIL 1988

A Non-Profit Verginia Corporation dedicated to educating and entighteering TJ-99/4 users to the full potential or nowe computing.





Dues FREE DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP P. G. Box 29863 Dallas TX 75229

OFFICERS:

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PRESIDENT	Billy Denny	420-9631
VICE PRESIDENT Adminstration	Allen Leibrand	485-5809
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SECRETARY TREASURE	Dick Hanson	587-1949
LIBRARIAN Mac and Cathy	MacAllister	877-4699

MEETING NOTICE

The club meets every first and third tuesday of each month at E.C.P.I. (Electrinic Computer Programing Institute) located at 5555 Greenwich road in Virginia Beach. Educational classes start at 6:30 pm. followed by the regular meeting and discussion groups at 7:30 pm. Please note these times and dates on your calender.

There is another group meeting on the peninsula on the second tuesday of each month in room 101 at Warwick High School located at 51 Copeland Lane in Newport News. Formal meeting a begin at 7:30 pm with informal discussions before and after the meeting. Please note these times and dates on your calender.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

With summer right around the corner, the number of people attending meetings usually drops a bit. This can be worked to your advanatge. With less people present the classes can provide individual instruction. So If you felt "left out" or "overwelmed" this is your time of the year.

The spirit of the meeting are different now. It is more relaxed and enjoyable than ever before. So come on down and "check it out". Allen

I'm Sorry

As your new newsletter editor I have had a few problems getting the newsletter out on time. In working on it and will try to return to a monthly publishing. Allen

Southside News-

Changes are going on the club you should know about. President Billy Denny is nosting discussions about changing the times and location of the meetings. The proposed sites are:

Tidewater Community Collage, fredrick
 The New Library on Va Beach Blvd.

This tupic was discussed at the March 1st 15th meetings.

By vote it was decided not to change the current location and meeting dates.

Cowing soon to a park near you: The 2nd Annual Club Pinic. Located in the great outdoors, You too can stuff you face and your brain by attending this great event. If you have alittle time to spare contact Pres Billy or V Pres Allen to volenteer your help.

Every meeting at 6:30, Nike Couture, our own instructor, teaches highly refined assembly language techniques. What? You can't make heads or tails of assembly? That because your not here at 0:30 pm. Get here early and get in on Assembly.

On February 16,1988 President Billy won an as is 300 band modem as a door prize! Well hold on to your hats. On April 19 we will give away as a door prize a Signalman 300 band dumb modem. batteries not included. Officers of the club are not elgible for the drawing. Surry Billy Note: This is my old modem. RD

For come time now the club was divided into two chapters, the penensula chapter and the southside chapter. This has changed. The Penensula group has decided to desolve and join the southside group. This was done to save paperwork and to provide better services by consolidation to all concerned. As VP I bid all welcome.

Cowing some to a newsletter near you. Ken Voudcock is writing a series of exticles for the newsletter on the subject of extended basic. How it works. What makes it go, ect.

Product Review and Information

Subject: movation Farrot 1200 band Killer

Product Quality ----> A

Performance ----> &

Documentation ----> D

Customer Service----> B

Final Grade ----> B

Score Key "A" exellent
"B" Bighly Sat
"C" Sat
"P" Marginal

"D" Marginal
"F" Unsat

r onent

A long time ago (September 87) Far Far away, (my house) I caw an advertisment in "Online Today" for the Parrot 1200 modem.

The ad told of a new modes, 1200 baud, Weighing 3cz. and requires no external power or batteries. Its fully Al-compatible and retails for \$119.

Vell, Being In the market for a 1200 band modem and my wall socket looking like a rats nest, the thought of 1 less thing plugged in the wall appealed to me.

Well to make a long story short, I got my grubby little bands on one. When I opened the box I was a little surprised. The modes looked like a cassette tape box. You know, the little box cassette tapes come in. It weighed Soz. no external power Sleek and shiny, and no cables. (After all I just ordered the modes).

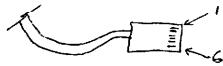
So now a trip to Radio Shack was in order. To hook up the modem to your T.I. You will need a 25 pin Sub D connector and a 6 pin modular connector. The sub D connector they got. The 6 pin modular they never heard of. Don't panic.

You will need to take a trip to your local ATT phone store. Ask for a 6 pin modular extension cord. It should cost about \$6.00. Cut it in half and share it with a friend.

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25 pin sub-d	6 pin modular
6	<u>-</u> 1
2	2
17	3
3	4
5	
Optional for TECH	IE BES SYSTEM
	6

The plug with the cord towards you and the connections facing up, counting left to right.



Now that we have the cable hooked up, we plug it it and turn on the computer. The Parrot has no dip switches to set the parameters. Instead data is stored in non-voletile memory. The data can be changed anytime by using the "AT" commands.

The quality of the modem is noticed the first time you go on-line at 1200 band. It is of exellent design and workmanship. The Parrot performs exactly as promised.

I wish I could give this product straight "A"'s across the board. The manual that comes with the modem is small and could conatin more information on how to use the Parrot. The cable hookup info is incomplete (i.e. does not adquetly describe each line function) The manual does not tell you how to turn off the auto-answer mode. (try ATSO=0)

The customer service people try to be helpfull but they never heard of a T.I. home computer. (But they have now!)

One of the ways to tell how good the a company is to their customers is when you have a problem. One of the modems I bought had a problem. I called customer service and they told me to return the modem to them. They fixed it and promptly returned it to me. No problem!

Overall the Parrot 1200 modem by Movation is an great modem to use on your T.I.home computer. The fact it

doesn't require batteries or a wall transformer plus being American made makes it an exellent buy.

Note from the editor: Although the modem has been tested sat on a T.I. RS232 card it has been noted that problems have occured using the Corcomp RS232. A similar problem may pop up using a Myarc RS232. The problem is on the DTR and RTS lines. They must have 7 volts or more to work. As the modifications come out, they will be published.

Allen Leibrand Test Pilot, TI 99

HELP ALLEN DECIDE WHAT TO BUY

When I did my income tax return I was pleased to find I had some money coming in the form of a refund. Well, I had difficulty deciding what to buy with the money.

I want you to help me decide what to get. I have narrowed it down to a couple of selections.

Option 1. Wyare Hard Disk Controller.

Option 2. Myarc Geneve Computer card.

Option 5. Buy a IBN clone.

Discussion:

The HD controller was my first choice. The thought of 30 meg data storage was a intriging thing. I am doing work on weather fax (pictures over short wave radio) These images take up a lot of memory. The HD controller would solve that problem nicly.

The Geneve was my second thought. It's high resolution screen and large VDP memory would be a joy to work with, not to think about its blinding When I brought this up at the meeting (mar 15) the 3rd option was suggested. Buy an IBK clone. This idea took me by suprise. For me I learned everything I know about computers from the T.I. I was suprised to find that over half of the members present at the meeting have a second non-T. I. computer. What do you think I should do. Send comments to : Allen Leibrand

> Tidewater User's Group 4168 S. Military Hwy. Lot #21 Chesapeake, Va. 23321

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This is the first installment in a series of accembly language lessons. I hope you enjoy 'em. Allen

Introduction to Assembly Language.

By Allen Leibrand

Do you understand what assembly language is? When others speak about writing assembly language, do you smile and nod you head?

If you said yes to these questions this article is for you.

WHAT IS ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE?

Assembly language is using menuminics to create machine code.

WHAT IS "MEMONIHICS"?

Menominics is an easy to remember word which stands for somthing else.

WHAT IS MACHINE CODE?

Machine code is is the internal language of the computer. It is numbers in binary.

Tring to "hand link" machine code is slow and difficult but in assembly language it is all taken care of for you all you do is write your program in "easy to remember menominics". When you finish you assemble or compile your source code into machine code.

VHY ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE?

Why should a person program in assembly language? The answer is speed and control. Assembly language produces machine code which is fast. Very fast.

With assembly language you have total control of the computer. If it can be done, assembly can do it.

DISADVANTAGES OF ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE.

As you probley already know, assembly language is time consuming to write. Just to print to the screen a number from a register takes several lines of code.

THE MECHANICS OF ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE.
*CARTRIDGE *MANUAL *2 DISKS

The Editor/Assembler package contains the editor/assembler cartridge, manual, and two floppy disks.

To write your own program first plug in the editor/assembler cartridge. Turn on the computer and select editor/assembler from the menu. Insert editor disk "A" into disk drive #1.

Non select "edit" from the menu. You are now ready to type in your assembly program.

One concept the new programmer will find difficult to understand is the material you type in is not the program

you run. What you are typing in is the assembly instructions to be read by the assembler program.

EDITOR - write source code

SAVE TO DISK

to

ASSEMBLE - reads the source code

For Sale

One console with a spare keyboard
T.I. Color Monitor
Two each 5 1/4 in. Disk Drives
Two each Disk Controller Cards
One each Peripheral Expansion Box
One each 32k Memory Expansion Card
One each RS232 Interface Card
One each Speech Sythesizer
One each Set of T.I. Duel Joysticks
One each TAC-5 Joystick with Adapter
One SEIKOSHA GP-100 Dot Matrix Printer
One each Cable for Cassette Recorder

Cartridges:

MicroSoft Multiplan
TI-Extended Basic
Disk Manager II
Personal Real Estate
TI-Writer/Word Processor
Household Budget Management
Personal Record Keeping
Terminal Emulator II
TI Logo
Touch Typing Tutor

Game cartridges:
Blasto
Indoor Soccer
TI Invaders
Kunch Kan

Vell over \$200 of Disks, including Beginner's Basic Tutor, Teach Yourself Basic, Teach Yourself Extended Basic, Auto-Spell Check, QS-sideways, TI-Artist Artist Companion, and many more!

Asking \$800

Contact: Leon England PH# 721-6833

TRLCO REVIEW

by Michael Dorman
(Reprinted from TIDBITS, Mid South 99/4A

Users Group Newsletter)

When was the last time you received a program that really grabbed you and made you say "wow, this is neat"? For me, it was when I first ran Telco. I downloaded Telco from GBnie when it first appeared there. "Just what I need - another terminal emulator." I then uncompressed and unpacked the files with Barry Boone's wonderful Archiver 2.4. As usual I ran the program(I never read the docs first) and ..."boy this is neat!"

From the first moment the title screen appeared, I knew something different was about to happen. Drop down sliding-bar menus - just like some of my favorite PC programs. In tact, the menus look just like Borland's Reflex which uses Lotus-style menu options that can be chosen by arrowing down to a highlighted option or by pressing the first letter of each option. Choices - in a TI-99/4A program!

Even better, Telco will let me take advantage of my 80 column Geneve's capability. In fact, almost everything I imagined in a TI terminal emulator is an option in this program. That's the real ket to this program - options! Choose your colors, your screen width, your terminal settings from within Telco. Then save your settings to diskette and they become your permanent defaults. (Permanent, that is , until you change them.)

Telco is a BIG program. Too big, in fact to fit into memory all at once. That's why Telco was developed using overlays. What this means is that Telco must call some functions from diskette. Up to 3 overlays (more with Minimem and Supercarts) will reside in memory. By using overlays, Telco is able to provide several modules that are usually separate programs in other terminal applicators for the 4A.

Teleo allows you th choose between three different emulations: ADM3A, AWSI, and D410. Yes, this means you can call a PC BBS and view ANSI graphics. You no longer have to look at all those seemingly random characters. (Of course, you are limited to two colors because

of the text mode of the video chip.)

Well, what about a dialing directory? Okay, glad you asked that! up to 99 entries are avaiable with separate boud rate, parity, and terminal emulations(!) settings. What's even better is that you don't have to use a separate program to add, change, or delete your phone numbers or settings. the dialer actually a redialer which redials whichever numbers you select - up to 15 in a continuous cycle until you receive an answer.

There is a catalog routine in Telco that will not only catalog a disk(or randisk) but will also let you delete, protect and unprotect files. This comes in handy fir making room for downloads and protecting archived files for uploading.

Another really nice feature in Telco is its macro editor. Macros allow passing of repeated strings to remote computer. This saves on having to manually retype the same information (for example, user id and information.) Telco lets you write up to twenty-six 36-character macros. Another nice feature of Telco's macros is the ability to link macros together.

Telco also has a review buffer and a print spooler. The Review buffer will allow you to save the screen to disk or printer. The print spooler will print your secsion to the printer if you have a TI or CorComp RS232 card and a parallel printer. The Myarc RS232 is not currently supported.

Other nice touches include a status line , beep/chimes option, selectable window width, and window scrolling (useful for viewing ansi graphics with a 40 column screen for 4A.) Ascii uploading is available for uploading DV80 files. Telco does not permit manual line line uploading but does allow the replacement of blank lines to with a space by using an Expand toggle to send a CR/LF (space) CR/LF sequence for blank lines. This is useful for uploading text to a system that assumes a blank line is to be the end of the text.

Xmodem uploading/downloading counts blocks in decimal and shows the total

size by using the TIFILES header designed by Paul Charlton. If you download files that do not have the TIFILES header (for example, GIF or RLE pictures), the files is saved as a DIS/FIX 126 file.

Telco proves that PC-style programs are indeed possible on the 4A and is a positive step in TI software design. It is extremely user-friendly and intuitive in many ways, Telco strongly resembles such PC terminal programs as Quodem and Procomm.

Telco is a fairware offering written by Charles Earl of Ottawa. The registration cost is \$20.00 and is well worth it. You can download Telco and the documentation (which is very complete) from my BBS, The Midnight Hour, by calling (501) 735-9980 (a local call from Memphis.)

Micheal Dorman

Note: Telco is available on Jim's Techie BBS (804) 486-5937 (a local call from VA.Beach. ED:

NOW T KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT EXPANDING YOUR T.I. 99/4A?

Just call one of the phone number of the officers of the club. We will be happy

to advice you on what to get and how to get the most bang for the buck.

TECHIE

Have you ever felt you were missing something, or missing out with what everyone else is experiencing and taking advantage of in the way of staying up to date with your 99/4A or 9640 computers?

Well with the availability of 1200 baud Hayes compatible modems that can be purchased locally for less than \$80.00. than the origanal price of TI-VRITER or MULTIPLAN, you can be in touch and online with TECHIE. Being able to access TECHIE is the convenient and guickest means of getting the latest information on, product releases" concerning hardware software. Not to mention being able to have access to the most sophisticated fareware software available for either machine instantly. It could take weeks or months for you to find such programs or information by any other source.

TECHIE has members that are constantly in touch with national telecommuni- cations networks, which in turn brings this new information directly to you for your personal use.

The most corredible and least noticed point of TEASUR is that to have all this available to you costs absolutely nothing. THATS \$00.00 ! FREE of charge, No salesseen will call, No obligation.

Is not that something, for the price of a smart modem, roughly three cable TV payments or four tankfulls of gas, you can be online, in touch and informed with the most recent hows, information and software available anywhere, "FREE OF CHARGE".

You may say "Naw, there a gotta be a catch." Well if you thought that, I have to admit there is a catch.

THE CATCH: The catch is there is the sure possibility that you will say to yourself "VOV! I can't believe I've been plosing out on all this news and neat software that I could have been using all along. Why did'nt someone tell me about TECHIE before?

You were just TOLD!

And hopefully your interreactions with TECHIE will provide other onliners with some ideas that they wished that they could of had before you became involved!

The command to access TRCHIR is as simple as:

ATD4865937 You will get the response:

CONNECT 1200 And your there. There, that was nt hard was it.

If you have any questions on how to obtain a 1200 baud Smart modem at a reasonable price, connecting a modem or need to ask more questions about getting online with your TI or GENEVE, just call me at 486-5937 between 7am to 7 pm. or any of the officers listed at the beginning of this newsletter, and help will be on the way.

Thank you.....Jim Brushwood