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JUNE 1988 NEWSLETTER VOL 8 NUM 6

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This newsletter is the official publication of the AMARILLO 99/4A USERS GROUP, a non-profit organization serving member/users of the Texas Instruments 99/4A HOME COMPUTER and compatibles.

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

Minutes of last meeting President's Article Editor's Comments Treasurer's Report STARFLEET drawings Thumball Modification

FENNELWEB 4.0 DOCS NOTE:A GENEVE IS COMING: TI 99/5 Dits and Bytes Computer Humor Swap and Sell

* * * TEXAS INSTRUMENTS * * *

Do you have their number?

TI CARES : 1-800-842-2737

TI MANUALS : 806-741-2265 TECHNICAL ASS'T : 806-741-2663 The Amarillo 99/4A Users Group(AUG) releases its newletter 12 times annually in Amarillo, Texas. Material contained within this newsletter has been freely compiled from various sources (cited when ever possible). While every attempt has been made to provide high quality factual and interesting articles, the AUG and its editorial staff cannot accept responsibility for errors in advertising or text appearing in this newsletter. Any articles concerning hardware modifications are printed with the understanding that the modifications void the warranty and are undertaken at the reader's own risk!

---- DISCLAIMER ======

The Amarillo 99/4A Users Group (AUG) is not affiliated with Texas Instruments and has no type of relationship with them, either implied or otherwise. WE are an independent non profit organization. Views expressed in this newletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the group.

===== ADVERTISING RATES =====

For best results, each ad must be on white photocopy ready media. The AUG is not held liable for any damages exceeding the cost of advertising. Members of the AUG are permitted to advertise TI equipment in the Swap and Sell section at no cost.

FULL PAGE	\$10.00
HALF PAGE	5.00
QUARTER PAGE	3.00
BUSINESS CARD	2.00

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SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Keep other TI99ers in touch with your work by contributing articles, programs and helpful tips. If you want to grow and prosper then your help is needed and appreciated by the officers and staff of the AUG. For information about submitting articles, call Sam Burton - Editor.

at (806)-352-4778.

We welcome papers, tutorials and application articles. Length should be 400-500 words. We prefer delivery by mail or on a 5 1/4 diskette using TI-Writer compatible format. Double spaced, letter quality hard copy is acceptable. Original computer art work (TI-Artist or MAX-RLE files) are welcome. Please include a short biography and author's telephone number.

FROM THE EDITOR:

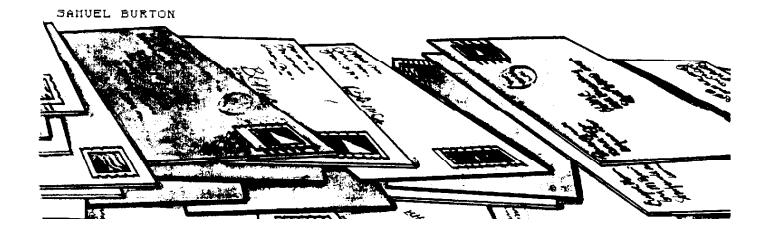
June is in the air and we seem to be well into a lovely summer here in the panhandle of Texas: The Dallas TI Fair has come and gone and school is out for most kids across the country. It has been very hectic getting the newsletters out these passed few weeks. The good news is that my wife Vicky and I are expecting our first child in October. So, time will be precious indeed and will certainly make deadlines hard to meet. As secretary I keep our group listed in COMPUTER SHOPPER and answer any letters and requests for information. The mail is just about caught up (the three day weekend really helped out a lot). We have been getting several requests for GENEVE support and new members trying to get started with garage sale systems.

It is now a full year since I took the office of secretary and about six months since taking over the office of editor of our group newsletter. I wish I could say that I always got the newsletter out on time but several times the work just did not get done. I am of course responsible for delays and missed deadlines. I know I will need some more help in the weeks to come.

The TI community seems healthy enough but what we need is more growth. The people who are going to switch to other computer probably have already done so. We need to find those shut ins who are still using the TI but done know about the Users Group. How can we reach those people? Advertise...Post Memos...Talk to people...Handout flyers...these seem like good ways to start. Other groups in larger cities seem very lucky to have several hundred members and are able to host FAIRS on a yearly basis. Our group will be fortunate to have it's first GENEVE owner this month. That's right the new TI 99/4A compatible is finally here in Amarillo: Steve Eggers will try to demo the 9640 at our next meeting... this is one meeting you won't want to miss:

In this issue I've tried to get lots of information into some kind of reasonably coherent form. What do you think of the STAR TREK graphics of Mr. Barackman? He spent many hours making those drawing for TI ARTIST/ DISPLAY MASTER demonstration. They are very reasonably priced and can be ordered from address in the ADS section of the newsletter. I also received my film back from photos taken at the FAIR. If time permits I'd like to do a slide show and pass around the pictures at our next meeting.

This newsletter has a lot to offer this month. I'm continuing the Modifications Manual. Humor Page. Swap and Sell. and Programs section of the newsletter. Write me a letter, send me your graphics, and share your ideas. Send me any interesting computer articles or cartoons. I need them for the humor page. Get involved See you at the next meeting.



MINUTES.....BY SAMUEL RM BURTON

The meeting was called to order by Joe Slutz at 7:15 PM.

Old Business consisted of FAIRE information. Attending officers were: Joe Slutz(President), Steve Eggers(Vice President), Sam Burton(Secretary and Editor), Diana Woods(Treasurer). Joe then continued the meeting with software demonstrations.

New Business consisted of a treasurer's report. \$256.00 makes up our current balance. Joe read a list of dues paying members and let everyone know their individual membership status.

Steve Eggers demonstrated the 4AFLYER cartridge. Several other flight simulators were discussed. (Sam Burton demonstrated a flight simulator program at the last meeting.) TI-ARTIST art work on STARFLEET technical drawings by Mr. STEVE BRACKMANS was then shown and well received by the group. (See the ad section for ordering details). The various other programs purchased at the Dallas Faire were presented by Joe Slutz. A demo of GREAT LAKES SOFTWARE program CALENDAR 99 was a real hit! Finally you can make calandars with graphics combined. The small instances were really impressive and added a lot to the usually bland calendars generated by other programs. The group meeting was followed by discussion and adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Two new TI users were introduced: Leon Miller and Justin Miller - let us welcome these new comers!

ATTENDING WERE: Joe Slutz, Steve Eggers, Sam Burton, Diana Woods, Fred Dennis, James Billingsley, Larry DeSierra, Erwin Kohn, Jake Fortenberry, Frank Aleman, Robert McGaughey, Leon Miller, Justin Miller

*******	******	* TREASUR	RER'S RE	PORT **	*****	*******
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CASH ON HAND,				\$ 276		
CASH AVAILABLE	Ξ			276	.00 .26	
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 This is page six of a continuing effort to log in a coherent and easily used manual the many known TI hardware modifications that are of interest to the more technically inclined user. This month's additions come to us from Douglas Garner and others of the Langley Resarch Center, Hampton Virginia. It is a thumb ball for the joystick of your dreams! It is only a suggested model but will work if constructed. It brings to mind that the TI 99 premium joystick was built for the Milton Bradley Xpansion (MBX) System. I wish somebody would release the codes to program it!

"Thumball" Auxiliary Data-Input Device

A track-ball-type device is mounted on a joystick and operated by a thumb.

Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia

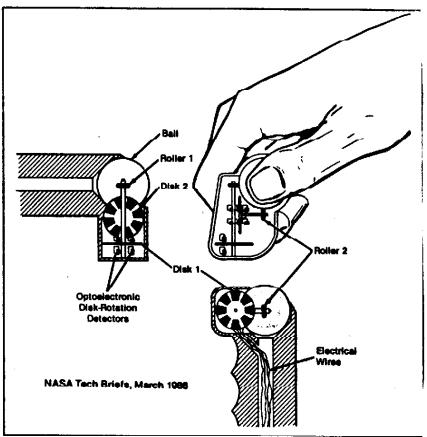
The Thurnball is designed to enable the precise input of data about two different axes to an autopilot, avionics computer, or other electronic device without the need for the operator to remove his or her hands from the joystick or other vehicle control levers.

The Thumball mechanism (see figure) includes a ball retained in a socket in the end of the control handle in such a way that it is free to rotate. Two rollers are pressed by spring-loaded bearings against the ball at points 90° apart about its circumference. As the ball is turned by the operator's thumb, friction drives the two rollers and their respective disks through angles proportional to the rotation of the ball about its x and y axes. This well-known mechanism, called a spherical integrator, simply resolves the motion of the ball into its components about the x and y axes.

The two disks are made of transparent material and have a pattern of dark and transparent sectors printed on their surfaces. A pair of light sources and a pair of photodetectors are mounted on opposite sides of each disk in such a way that, as the disk rotates, light is alternately transmitted to and cut off from the photodetectors. As the disk rotates, the outputs of its two photodetectors produce two square waves, displaced from each other by 90°. The direction of the displacement is an indication of the direction of rotation of the disk, and the number of pulses produced is a measure of the amount of rotation of the disk. The square waves are passed through suitable decoding logic that converts them into a series of clockwise or counterclockwise pulses that can be fed directly to the autopilot or avionics computer to effect a change in heading and/or pitch trim, to reposition a cursor on the screen of a cathode-ray tube, or to make any other precise adjustment required.

This work was done by H. Douglas Garner, Anthony M. Busquets, Thomas W. Hogge, and Russell V. Parrish of Langley Research Center. For further Information, Circle 24 on the TSP Request Card.

This invention is owned by NASA, and a patent application has been filed. Inquiries concerning nonexclusive or exclusive license for its commercial development should be addressed to the Patent Counsal, Langley Research Center [see page 16]. Refer to LAR-13626.



The Thumball Mechanism is mounted on the end of a joystick.

HHH HHH IIIIIIIII ННН HHH IIIIIIII нининини III НННННННН III and Cheerio. Well, it's time for HHH HHH IIIIIIIII another newsletter and I am all ready HHH HHH IIIIIIIII to get going and all fired up about

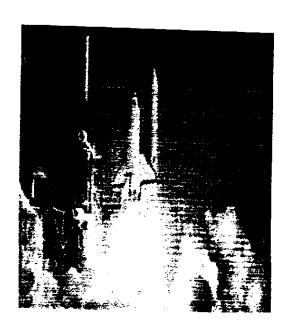
getting into the swing of things for June. I am very pleased to see the new members in the users group and I hope that we can get some more. I am interested in programming in TMS 9900 Assembly language so I can try a thought that I have going through my head at this point in time. The idea I have is to make an Icon evrionment on the 99/4A using the mouse and have pull down menus. I hope that it can be done without running out of memory and having to get a 128k card.

I recently got a P-Code card from Sam Burton, and it was broken. So, I sent it to TI and in two days I got it back, and along with a new P-Code card, I also recieved all the UCSD p-SYSTEM manuals! I find this very generous of Texas Instruments. I thank them for this.

Talking to a friend in Dallas, he told me that there were a few unreleased games from TI that might interest our users such as Joust (Atarisoft) and Battlestar Gallactica (TI) and many more. We have one, Lasso, and we need to get some more. Well not much more to say, See you at the Meeting!!!!!!!!!!

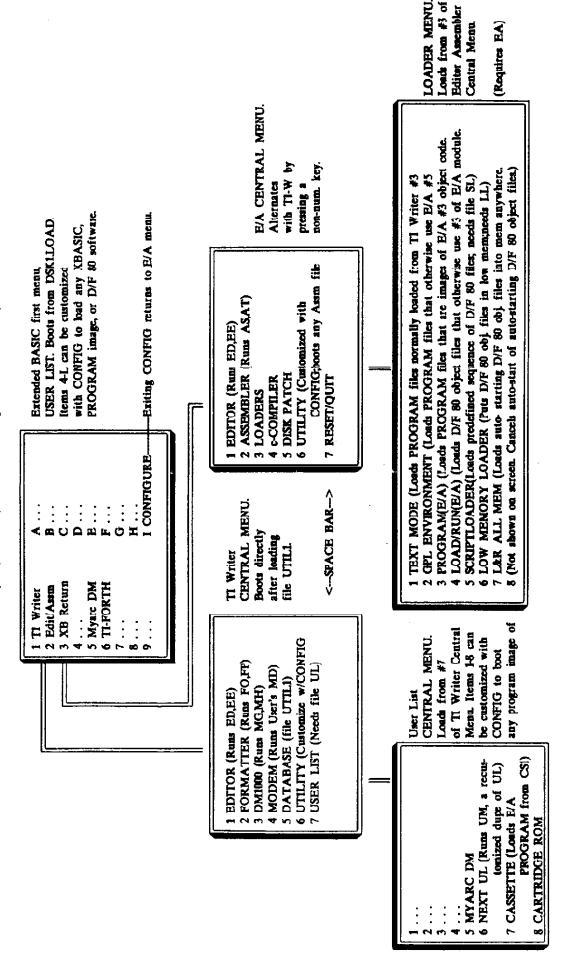
Steve Eggers

FOR SALE:

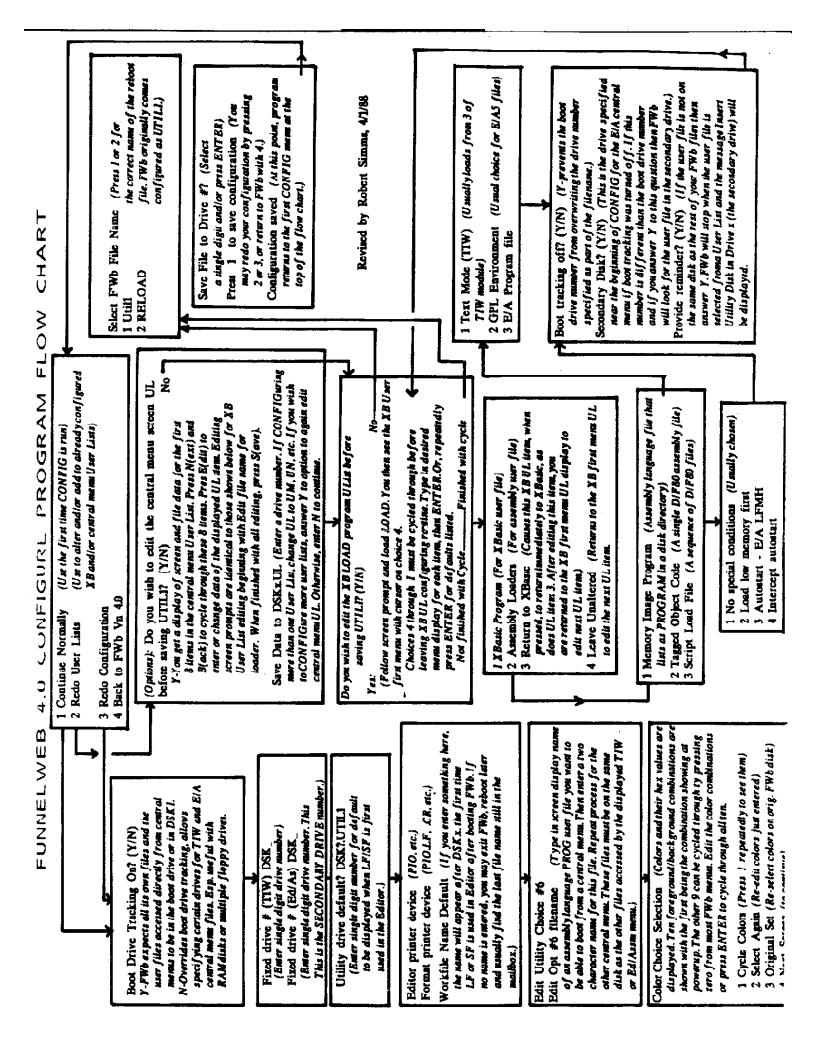


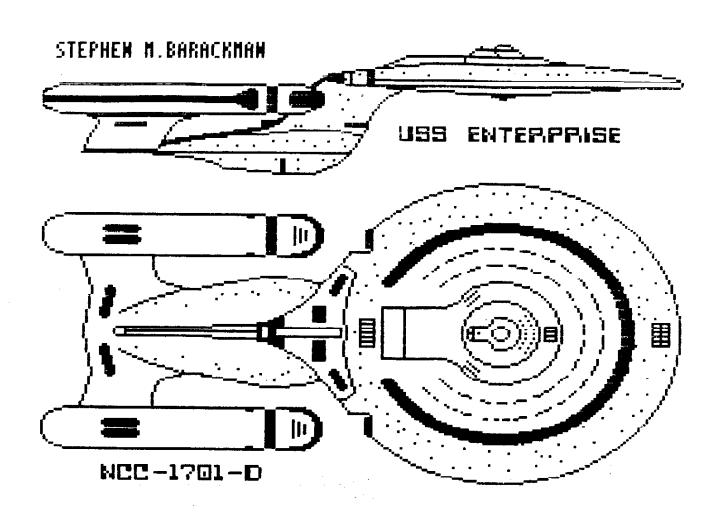
FUNNELWEB 4.0 MENU FLOW CHART

FCIN-7 (AII) from any of these menus gives a disk directory.



Reformatted by Robert Simms from versions printed in the Lima, Ohio Users Group newsletter.





STARFLEET



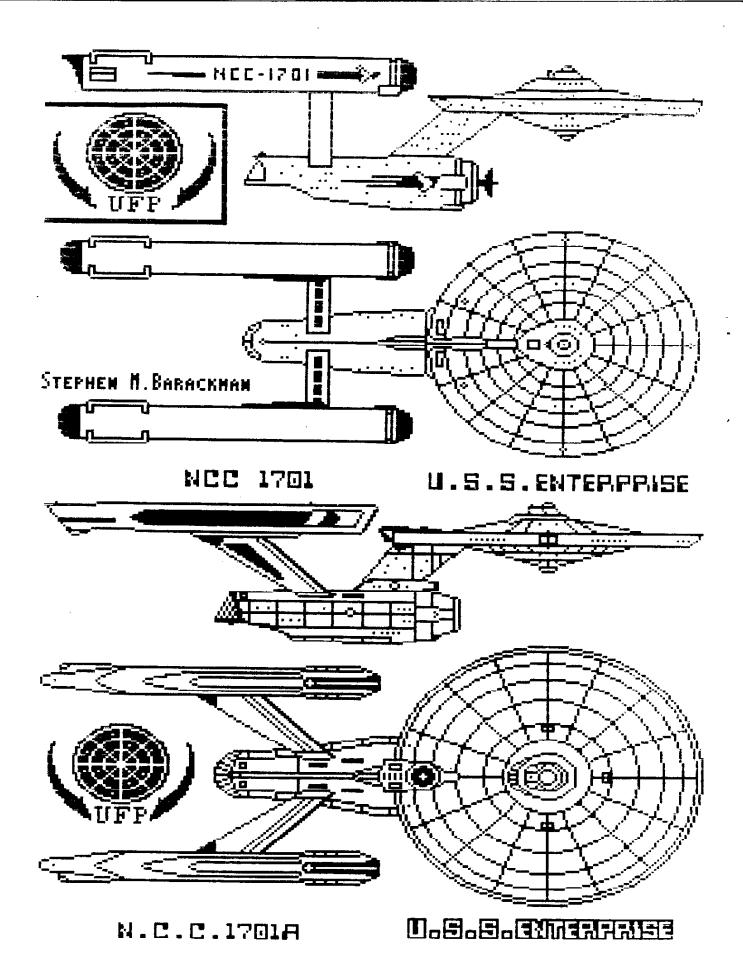
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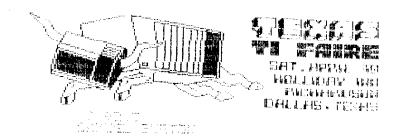
UNITED FEDERATION OF PLANETS



DRAWN BY

stephen M. Barackman





Bits and Bytes.....by Sam Burton

Our Users Group is listed in a national magazine, check out this month's Computer Shopper in your local bookstore. (When we get our BBS running I will try to get it listed as well.

If you need ANYTHING for your TI call 352-4778 or contact Fred Dennis at 355-3868.

IMPORTANT:: - This next meeting Steve Eggers will demo his new GENEVE computer. You will want to see this machine in action:

DID YOU KNOW THAT TI STILL SUPPORTS THE TI COMMUNITY? Sure enough that is the sign of a good company...coustomer service. We usually hear negative comment from other vendors but Texas Instruments does not need to do anything for the 99er community yet still does provide information, repairs, and diagnostic aids. (I bet IBM PC jr. users wish they had that kind of support from IBM.)

Our mailing rates are getting more expensive all the time...please consider this fact when the vote for raising dues is taken. (An alternative would be to apply for non-profit group status.)

The Dallas Fair photos and slides are in! I will try to get a projector reserved for the next meeting.

ONE LAST TIME FOR THOSE WHO MAY HAVE MISSED IT...Get your latest TI-WRITER Manual Update from Dick Altman. He rewrote that whole manual into an easier to read version. It can be run interactive with TI-WRITER to give you direct use of the instructions in a real application mode. This is available on disk from Dick at no charge! Please be sure to support the reproduction and mailing costs or he'll loose his enthusiasm. The address is DICK ALTMAN

1053 SCHRADER STREET TEL #(415)-661-1994 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94117

Our group MICROPENDIUM subscription runs out next month so I have sent in our renewal. These magazines are available from the secretary. Newsletters from other groups are stored in the main library metal files (first floor). If your not reading them your missing a lot of good information on your TI home computer. Ask for more details....

If you like golfing you will like PAR-FORE. This 3d graphics program will be demonstrated at the next meeting. Come prepared to enjoy yourself!!!!

Assembly Language Humor

Everybody is familiar with the programmers quide. Here is one for the assembly language programmers.

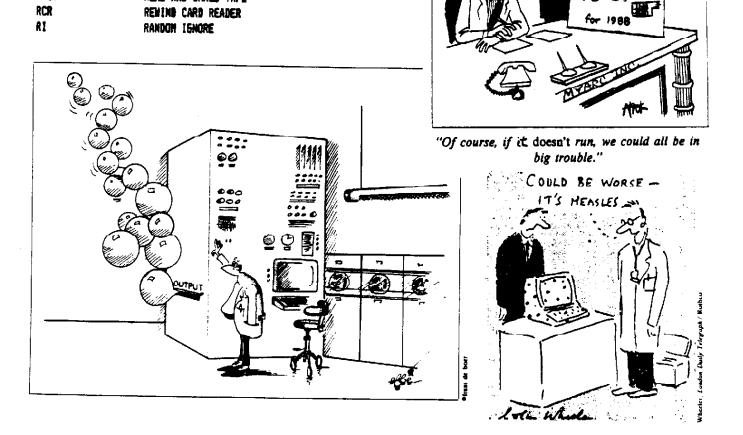
PPL

RAST

PERFORM PERPETUAL LOOP

READ AND SHRED TAPE

. ,		•	• • • •
BH	BRANCH AND HANG	RI RS	READ INTER-RECORD GAP
BST	BACKSPACE AND STRETCH TAPE	RLF	REVERSE LINE FEED
CDCF	CONDENSE DISC AND CROSS FILES	RLL	RANDON LOGIN LOCKOUT
CKSF	CURVERT KEY TREE TO SEQUENTIAL FILE	RPA	RANDONIZE PORT ASSIGNMENTS
CN	CIRCULATE MENORY	RS	RANDON SLEW
CPPS	CRITICAL POINT POWER DUMP	SFFR	SET FALSE FORWARD OR FAST FORWARD AND REWIND
CRM	CONVERT TO ROMAN NUMERALS	SFOP	SET FALSE OUT-OF-PAPER CONDITION
DAO	DIVIDE AND OVERFLOW	SFTT	STRIP FROM TRACTOR TEETH
EÐ	ERASE DIRECTORY	SH	SPONTANEOUS HALT
EDR	EXECUTE DESTRUCTIVE READ	SMD	SPONTANEOUS HENCRY DUMP
EIBE	ERASE INSTRUCTION DEFORE EXECUTION	SPE	SET PARITY ERROR SPEC
EIDC	EXECUTE INVALID OF CODE	SRSD	SEEK RECORD AND SCAR DISC
EMU	ENULATE SYSTEM 3	SRI	SUBTRACT AND RESET TO ZERO
ERCF	EXTRACT RECORD AND CROSS FILE	9 58	SCRAMBLE STATUS BYTE
ESP	ERASE SECTOR POOL	SSJ	SELECT STACKER AND JAM
FOTA	FAULT ONLY ON TECHNICIAN'S ABSENCE	555D	SEEK SPINDLE SHAFT AND DESTRUCT
FSRA	FURN SKIP AND RUN AWAY	SWP	SELECT WRONG PRINTER
HCF	HALT AND CATCH FIRE	UDR	UPDATE AND DELETE RECORD
IDPS	IGNORE DISC WRITE PROTECT SWITCH	usml	URGENT-SENSITIVE MODEN LOCKUP
IEDF	IGNORE END OF FILE	WALR	WRITE WRONG LENGTH RECORD
IETH	IGNORE END OF TAPE MARKER		
IFL	INVERT FORWARD LINK	From The Clev	reland Free Net, (216) 368-3888.
119	IGNORE INTERRUPT AND BRANCH		·
IRAC	INJECT RANDOM ASCII CHARACTERS		
LCH	LOAD AND CLEAR MEMORY		
MLR	HOVE AND LOSE RECORD		£ 3
PACSP	PRINT ALL CHARACTERS IN SAME POSITION	•	
P 80	PRINT AND BREAK DRUM		CONRACTION CONRACTION



TI-99/4A SUPPLIERS Courtesy of Janet Ryan NUTMEG TI-99ERS Users Group 12/12/87

> Via SFV TImes 1/88 Updated by

Barry Long

Central Pa 99/4A Users Group

1/26/88

FROM NET 99ERS APRIL 1958

Codes: S=software H=Hardware K=Keyboards

AMNION HELPLINE (S) 116 Carl St. San Francisco. CA 94117

(415) 753-5581

ARMADILLO BYTES (SH*) Box 181662 Dallas, TX 75218 (214) 328-9257 (also hardware repairs)

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L.L. CONNER ENTERPR (SI COMPUTER & ELECTRONICS 1521 Ferry St. Lafayetts, IN 47904 (317) 742-8146 (317) 423-4879 CONNER ENTERPR (SH)

DATABITOICS. INC (SH*) P.O. Box 1194 Palos Verdes Estates CA 90274

DIJIT SYSTEMS (RGB Conv) 4345 Hortensia St. San Diego, CA 92103

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ENHANCED PC PURSUIT SERV. GTE Telenet Comm. Corp. 12490 Sunrise Valley Dr. Reston. VA 22096 1-800-368-4215 8-5 M-F 1-800-855-5001 24 hrs

GENIAL COMPUTERWARE (SP) 835 Green Valley Dr. Philadelphia, PA 19128 Philadelphia. P ("DISC-A-ZINE")

GREAT LAKES SOFTWARE (S*) 804 E. Grand River Ave. Howell, MI 48843

HORIZON RAM DISK (H) P.O. Box 554 Walbridge, QH 43465 (419)-666-6911

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING (S) P.O. Box 2737 Rohnert Park, CA 94928 (707) 585-3922 lote: Discontinueing support

MCCANN SOFTWARE (S) P.O. Box 34160 Omaha, NE 68134

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MYARC. INC. (SH*) P.O. Box 140 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

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QUALITY 99 SOFTWARE (5*) 1884 Columbia Rd #1021 Washington, DC 20009 (202) 667-3574

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RYTE-DATA EXPRESS (PH*) 210 Mountain St. Haliburton, Ontario KOM 150 (705) 457-277 (order)

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TEX-COMP (SH*) P.O. Box 33084 Granada Hills. (818)-366-6631 CA 91344

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MICROpendium (P)
P.O. Box 1343
Round Rock, TX 78680
TI-99/4A monthly news
publication (GOOD!)

COMPUTER SHOPPER (P) P.O. Box 1419 Titusville. FL (800) 327-9926 32781-9988 May be purchased locally

CORCOMP (SH*) 2211-6 Winston Rd Anaheim, CA 92306 (714) 956-4450

THE BUNYARD GROUP P.O. Box 53171 Lubbock. TX 79453 Manual for TI (hardware)

TIGERCUB SOFTWARE (S*) 156 Collingwood Ave. Columbus, OH 43213

The Peripheral Shoppe





New half-height DS/DD disk drives - \$80.00 Used half-height DS/DD disk drives - \$50.00 TI external disk drive assembly - \$60.00 TI RS-232 card for P.E. box - \$60.00 CorComp RS-232 card for PEB - \$40.00 Unitech Modem/Speakerphone - \$40.00 Volksmodem with TI cable - \$20.00 Radio Shack Modem 1B - \$20.00 TI speech synthesizer - \$25.00 TI joysticks (set of 2) - \$10.00 TI-WRITER package - \$20.00 TI LOGO package \$20.00 Disk Fixer module \$10.00 25 original PLATO DISKS (make offer)

Call Fred Dennis at 355-3868 (evenings)

WANTED: TI COLOR MONITOR in good shape....

Call Sam Burton 352-4778 after 6 PM

Wanted : Your sellable TI items....call Sam Burton

FOR SALE: Various Cartridge Games (\$5-10)

2 Modems 300 baude rate

TI-Writer in Original unopened package 3 complete starter consoles(power supply.RF

mod, books) \$60.00 /each

PE-BOX (32K,disk controller,ss Shugart drive,RS 232 flex cable, all cards original TI equipment) \$320.00

32k memory expansion card (TI original) \$90.00 RS 232 card (TI original) \$80.00

TI tape recorder with cables Call Sam Burton

\$45.00

FOR SALE: Console, PE BOX, monochrome monitor, and various cartridges....\$300.00......call Richard Whitehead

FUR SALE: Mechatronics Mouse for your TI system.. works with TI-Artist. Call Steven Eggers \$150.00

NOTICE: The Swap and Sell section of this newsletter is provided for your computer needs. Should you have an item to sell or swap let the editor put your ads here at NO CHARGE.

FOR SALE OR TRADE:

TI-99/4A black console with Rave-99 Keyboard \$150.00

TI expansion box with 32K & single disk drive \$125.00

Complete system - \$250.00

Call Mike Phillips in Lubbock at 791-4894 (evenings)