



Volume 12 Number 5

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MINUTES FOR MONTHLY MEETING:

APRIL 5, 1993

Tony called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. We had 12 members in attendance.

The secretary's report was accepted as published in the newsletter.

Due to Rick's absence, the secretary read the treasurer's report, and it, too, was accepted as read.

Mention was made of the new TI 4/A Emulator being sold now by CADD Electronics. John Maul told about a program QList v.4.3 which is going into our library. It prints catalogs of disks. Tony reminded everyone that it is shareware and that the users should pay the programmers.

George Reisinger has a program that needs a GRAMcracker to use; no one spoke up, except that someone didn't know what it is. An explanation was made to the group.

Rich Lindway was able to get to the meeting, so he and Scotty Gardner volunteered to count the ballots. The results of the election were:

President: Bill Robinson
Vice President: Bob Hench
Secretary: Dottie Swartz

Treasurer: Rick Rubin
Executive Board: Henry Swartz
John Maul

At that point, Bill took over from Tony. He expressed his worries of slipping membership and asked for suggestions. One was to advertise in local shoppers. Gary Harman suggested handing out flyers about our Group at Ham/Computer Fests. It was decided that for \$10 a table, we would participate in the upcoming Fest at Bressler on July 4th, and would consider York and CCARS later in the year. George thought there might be a joint venture at York with the York User Group.

Bill also wants to explore different printers for use with TI in future meetings.

The meeting was then adjourned by 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Dottie Swartz, Secretary

ARCHIVING - A Headache???

By Andy Fruen, Lima User Group

A lot of people are puzzled by archiving and how to use Barry Boone's Archiver. What follows is both a reference guide and explanation of Archiver III. It is not meant to totally replace the documentation for this program. Actually, I haven't seen a distribution copy that comes with a set of instructions. There may be hidden features of Arc III that aren't obvious to me, for example, Disk Utilities by John Birdwell has a feature to figure decimal-to-hex conversions.

What exactly is archiving? Putting it simply, when you archive, you take a file or set of files, and group them as one file then compress them so they take up less disk space. Some software comes archived. These ALMOST always include the archiving program. Examples are Jack Sughrue's PLUS! and the Complete Adventure disk set.

What is the purpose of archiving? Well, it started out as a money saver for modem users. It is faster, and thus cheaper, to send 90 archived sectors as 1 file, than 120 sectors for 3 programs. Now it is also a means of backing up disks. You can save each of your disks as a one file, squashed archive. You can specify whether you want compressed files or not. The reason you have a choice is that some unusual files actually take up more space when they are compressed. Another useful application of archiving is when you have programs you want to keep, but don't need ready to use. You can keep archives of all these files instead of taking up disk space.

Ok, now that you have the "what", here's the "how". As far as I know, the only archiver is Barry Boone's program. Its operation is completely different from Archiver II. Rather than add new features to past versions, Archiver was completely re-written. It usually contains an XB LOAD program, but may be loaded from E/A. The program's filename is usually ARC1. It can be found on almost all of the bulletin boards, as a commercial version with Geneve utilities, in user group libraries, with other Fairware programs or from the author. Chances are, you can definitely get a copy.

First things first, so get the program loaded. After that, you should see a Fairware notice. Press any key to pass this. You then see a menu. Each menu option is discribed in detail below.

continued on page 3

Archiving cont. from page 2

- 1) Archive Files - These options are largely self-explanatory. As you may have guessed, this option archives files. Pressing one will deliver a set of prompts. These are "Source Drive (1-Z)". Yes, you can have drives numbered from 1-9 and A-Z. Then comes, "Output Drive (1-Z). You may use one drive. Archive will prompt you to change disks when needed. It is highly recommended that you use a blank output disk, since archives may fill or almost fill a disk. Next comes "Output Filename". This is usually the name of the disk you are archiving, or some related heading. For example, a set of D/V 80 articles may be named "ARTICLES". The following prompt is "Pack all Files? (Y/N)". If you answer "Y", then all the files on the source disk are archived. If you answer "N", then when Archiver is working, you are asked "Include Filename? (Y/N)". Then that file is archived, otherwise it is ignored. This is a handy feature if you have programs and files, for example, and need them separated. This process repeats for each of the files on the source disk. The final prompt is "Compress? (Y/N)". Saying "Y" and Archiver attempts to squash each file so it takes up less space. Remember that some unusual file types will actually get LARGER if compression is attempted. When all prompts are answered, press REDO to correct an error in your answers, BACK to return to the menu, or any other key to continue. When Archiver is done performing any operation, pressing a key goes back to the main menu.
- 2) Extract Files - This is the opposite of archiving. It will let you pull (extract) files from an ARC file. You are first asked for the source drive. Next, you input the source filename. After that, you are asked for the output drive. It must be stressed that the output drive for ALL operations of Archiver should be different than the input drive. You may run out of space or overwrite a file accidently. Output disks should be blank.

The next prompt asks: "Extract all files?." If you answer "Y", then every file stored in the ARC file will be taken out. If you answer "N", then when extracting starts, the program asks, "Include filename?" for every separate file in the archive. Again, press REDO (to restart this option), BACK (returns to main menu), or any other key to continue.

continued on page 4

Archiving cont. from page 3

- 3) Catalog Disk - This is fairly self-explanatory. Simply input the source drive name. The program will ask if you want a printout. If you answer yes, then you are asked for the printer name. If there are more files than can be displayed, then (more) is printed on the screen and pressing a key advances the screen.
- 4) Catalog ARC File - If you aren't sure what files are contained in an archive file, then this option tells you. You are asked for the source drive, source filename, and whether or not you want a printout of the list of files.
- 5) Files Copy - This option will copy a file (obviously). Simply supply the source drive and filename, the output drive and filename.
- 6) File Rename - Again, this option should explain itself. Give the source drive and filename, then the output filename.
- 7) File Delete - Supply the source drive and filename.
- 8) File Un/Protect - You first supply the source drive and filename. You are then asked "Protect?". If you answer "Y", the file is protected. Otherwise, file protection is lifted.
- 9) List Text File - This will display or print a D/V 80 file. Give the source drive and filename. You are then asked if you want the file printed or not.
- 10) Load FW - This returns to Funnelweb. Simply give the drive number on which the UTIL1 file is located.

NOTE: When an I/O error occurs, pressing a key returns to the main menu. If you have a Geneve, this is for you. Using a sector editor, find the string 04E08C00 and replace it with D8018C00.

I think that this should get people on the road to understand Archiver. Remember that it is fairware, so if you find it very useful, send the author (Barry Boone) a donation.

This article was copied from the September 1992 newsletter of the ERIE 99'ER USER GROUP.

WE WILL LOOK FOR

YOU

AT THESE MEETINGS

Circle your calendar with these meeting dates for 1993:

JANUARY	5,1993	JULY	5
FEBRUARY	1	AUGUST	2
MARCH	1	SEPTEMBER	11 SATURDAY
APRIL	5	OCTOBER	4
MAY	3	NOVEMBER	1
JUNE	7	DECEMBER	6 *-CHRISTMAS -*

All meetings begin at 7pm except Saturdays 12 noon at the CAMP HILL SHOPPING MALL COMMUNITY ROOM. The Group equipment will be UP and READY for use at approximately 1hr prior to meeting time.

 This newsletter is published monthly by the Central Pa 99/4A users Group. Material may be reproduced without permission, provided the author and the source are acknowledged. IF YOU DESIRE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CENTRAL PA 99/4A USERS GROUP, CONTACT:

PRESIDENT

 Bill Robinson
 3407 Walnut St.
 Camp Hill Pa 17011
 (717) 534-2056

VICE PRESIDENT

 Bob Hench
 RR # 1
 27 Barnett St.
 New Bloomfield Pa
 17068

SECRETARY

 Dottie Swartz
 5309 Devonshire Rd.
 Harrisburg Pa.
 17112-3906
 (717) 545-7873

TREASURER

 Rick Rubin
 P.O.Box 10558
 Harrisburg, Pa.
 17105-0558
 (717) 652-4756

SOFTWARE LIBRARIAN

 Gary Harman
 P.O. Box 612
 New Bloomfield, Pa.
 17068
 (717) 567-9027

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

 Tony DeDonatis Sr
 Dottie Swartz
 Bill Robinson
 John Maul

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 7th, 1993 at 7pm *-MONDAY-*