Vol. 5 - No. 10

October, 1987

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1987 - 6:30 FM

CHARLESTON PLAZA LIBRARY MEETING ROOM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Plans and preparations for the TI-XPO-80 are running We have made the first mailing of secothly now. invitations to vendors and expect to be sending the user group invitations very shortly. Our flyers have been printed up and most of them are well on their way to being distributed. I have set up a special section on the SNU6 BBS (762-649-1247) with current information about TIXPO. This information will be available to anyone who calls whether or not they actually log on to the BBS. I am in the process of writing letters to MICROpendium. Ryte Data. Computer Shopper, and The Smart Programmer to try to get the information about TIXPO published nationally. In addition, we plan to periodically place messages on Genie and Compuserve to keep as many people as possible informed about what we believe will be the best TI exposition ever. We have had good luck in putting together the show and keeping the expenses down. The price for a booth at TI-XPO-88 will be just \$49.86, approximately half the price that the LA 99ers had to charge. The only thing that we haven't been able to get a discount on so far has been telephone service for the show. Centel wants over \$140 per line for their service. Too bad, I think this may discourage some people from setting up their terminal or BBS software. We are still in the planning stages on such things as door prizes, non-TI specific vendors, quest speakers, demonstrations, and attendee welcome packages. All these things have been discussed and some action has been taken on most of them. I will try to keep everyone informed as things develope.

Now on to new business...

At thins aonth's accting, we will be getting a demonstration of one of the newest accules available to the TI. Rudy Johnson will be showing us The IBM Connection from Corcomp. This module will allow owners of the Corcomp Disk controller to read and write ASCII type files to and from IBM (MS-DOS) formatted disks. This would be a very handy device for people with both computers or for a person who uses an IBM type computer at work and wants to do some work at home on the '4/A.

Rudy will also be showing us Tom Freeman's new CHECKSUM program. This program is used to check for errors while you are typing in programs from newsletters, magazines, etc. All programs published in our newsletter from now on will include the checksum numbers.

SNU6 has just recieved another shipment of disks. These will be available at the meeting in packages of 25 for \$12.50 each. That works out to \$.50 per disk. If you have been thinking of buying some disks, or if you think you might need some soon, be sure to bring your money with you to the meeting. SNU6 makes a few cents on each disk, which helps us to meet our expenses. With the TI-XPO-80 show coming up, we will be having a lot of up front expenses to meet. This is one way you can help out and get some more disks at the same time (no one ever seems to have enough disks).

We have gotten the new business cards printed. These will also be available at the meeting. Take a few and pass them around to any TI users you may know who don't yet belong to SNUS.

For those Monday Night Football fans out there, why drive yourself crazy sitting at home watching the amateurs? Come on, get out of the house. Get away from the TV for a while. Come to the meeting and get your mind off the strike. Who knows, you may even have a little fun. At least you'll be among friends.

I'm told that there will be a surprise demo at the meeting... Watch for it!

In the mailbox...

SNU6 recieved a letter from RYTE DATA newsletter this month. Their editor, Bruce Ryan, says that they are offering discount rates for group subscriptions. 5 or more subscriptions can be had for \$12.00 per year per member mailed to separate addresses or \$11.00 per member per year mailed to the SAME address. He is also offering a 10% discount for 3 or more orders for Monty Schmidt's "Technical Drive" book. This book has all the

disassembled, commented code from the TI DSR routines in the Peripheral Expansion Cards. I have this book, and it is well written (commented). If you are into Assembly and plan to do anything with DSR's, this book is a must. They are making the same offer (18% off for 3 or more orders) on the new "COMMAND DOS" program. This program was reviewed in the June Micropendium by John Clulow this version was called '4A DOS) who gave it straight 'A's. With this program, you will have many of the MS-DOS commands at your fingertips. This program is what we should have demonstrated with the Supercart last month. Yes, it does require a super cart or some equivalent. If anyone wants to order these items, we will have a sion up sheet at the meeting. I reccommend that we support Ryte Data because they are one of a very few people still supporting II users. The Ryte Data newsletter has always had good articles and hardware modifications. Many of the demonstrations and ideas at our meetings came from speething in the Ryte Data newsletter. If we don't support them now, they won't be around for much longer. We can't afford to lose another TI supporter. \$11 or \$12 isn't such of an investment if we can keep a quality periodical and software/hardware source from drying up.

SNUS MEETINGS MAY HAVE TO MOVE...

The October 2nd Review Journal had a story about plans to renovate the Charleston Plaza Mall. The \$3# million project calls for buying out the existing leases of current tennants and razing all but the Home Club store. If this project actually happens, we will most likely have to find a new meeting site for our group. If anyone in the group knows of a more or less centrally located meeting room that we could use for a nominal fee or free, please let us know. I don't know for sure that we will be moving, but it wouldn't hurt to be prepaired just in case. According to the paper, the financing for the deal is supposed to be approved by Nov. 15. That means that we will most likely be able to finish out the year in our current location.

That's about it for this time... See ya at the meeting.

-John-

JUGGLING YOUR D/L'S

By Bob Sherburne

Anyone who has used Fast Term's capability of logging ASCII files to disk while on line to Genie, CompuServe, THE Source, etc. has probably done it! You set your log file name by pressing function (B) and go on about the business of browsing about the board for an hour or so, letting Fast Term record the session on disk for later examination.

The problem arises when you try to load the file into TI-Writer to examine it, and you receive the little message:

TEXT BUFFER FULL! save or purge!

After cataloging the disk you discover an enormous file (my first was over 1186 sectors) and you start digging through the TI-W manual trying to find a way to salvage your megabyte of information. THERE IS A WAY.

First, let me say that I now change the log file name on a semi-regular basis as I plow through these boards. If you only allow F-T to log to your drive twice before changing the file name, you stand a 99% chance of having a complete block of text which is not TOO FULL. However, I like to change file names (by adding 1 2 3 etc. to the end of the existing name) during the BBS prompts for a new Topic or Catagory, thus leaving the text block intact. (it makes it easier to follow the messages that you can't understand anyway) But this method has a flaw. (Tiny) Murphy's law, sec. 102,265,449.87 pagagraph 505 states that if you wait for the prompt indicating the end of a Topic, you will ALWAYS be in the longest Topic of the message base, and thus over-fill your block. (actually, the odds are about 50/50 that your blocks will be too large for TI-W's text buffer)

In order to recover your excess text, you must utilize two of TI-W's more obscure functions. If you press <5> (for show) in the command mode, TI-W will ask you for a line number, and once you input the line number and press (ENTER) the screen full of text starting at that line number will be displayed on your screen. (the line number can be equal to the last line of the text, but no higher or you get the razberry). II-W also allows you to load only a portion of your text into it's buffer by using the format XXX YYY DSK1.ELEPHANT, where XXX is the starting line that you want to load, and YYY is the ending line. (if YYY is too large, TI-W loads all it can until it is gorged, with no complaints) So, now you have the two tools necessary to start hacking the elephant into byte (sick! Ed.) sized pieces. Follow the following, (Pied Piper? Ed.) and you should have no problems. (or very few... remember Murphy?)

- 1. Load your file by typing; LF (ENTER) then DSK1.ELEPHANT (or whatever your filename is). After the file loads, you should see the error message TEXT BUFFER FULL (if not, go on to the next article)
- 2. type (\$) (ENTER) and enter a line number in the neighborhood of 890 then press (ENTER) (if you get the razberry, enter a lower line number) You will now see a screen full of text near the end of the text buffer.
- 3. Use FUNCTION 4 to find the last line number before the <###CINCLED A TO THE TENT OF THE TENT

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- 4. Press function 9 to reenter command mode. (Here is the tricky part!) Type (LF) (ENTER) (you will now load the next block of text beyond the end of file marker by using the above format)
 - Type in XYZ 1886 DSK1.ELEPHANT
 - 5. If you do not receive the TEXT BUFFER FULL error message then you are at the actual end of the file, (simply go back to command mode and save this section under a different name such as DSK1.ELE1#11/2. ELSE you must find the last line number (using the <S> command is easier than using function 4 fifty times) AND ADD IT TO THE FIRST ENDING LINE THAT YOU JOTTED DOWN. JOT DOWN THE SUM. This will be your new starting line number for the next block.
 - Now go back to command mode and save this section of the file under a different name.
 - 7. The next block of text to load will start at your last SUM. (whatever your SUM was, we will call it MXYZ) To calculate your new ending line, add 986 to MXYZ. (we will call this number ABCD)

Type (LF) (ENTER) then type NYY7 ABCD DSK1.ELEPHANT So back to step 5, and repeat the process as many times as necessary until you do not receive the error message.

This process is tedious for mamnoth files, but it your sections are only slightly over sized it is very simple and fast.

BYE for now...

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT-OCT 87 by R. J. BIEBER

BULK DISKETTES:

SNUE has made another purchase of 500 bulk diskettes. The price for a package of 25 diskettes which includes Tyvec sleeves and labels remains the same as before. SNUE members - \$12.50 per package of 25; Non-members - \$15.00 per package. First come, first served.

They're going fast. I've already sold or reserved 7 packages; 13 packages remain. If these go fast, I have another 12 packages paid for out of my own pocket which SMUS can purchase at cost.

NEW PROGRAMS

Dee Wellman and John Martin have been busy again on GEnie. Both have donated some more programs to SMU6's library. I haven't had much time to give everything a good review, but a lot of it looks useful.

We now have the upgraded stand-alone Ver 3.7 of DM1866 (without the return to Funnelweb option). It is supposed to work with TI, CC and MYARC Disk controllers as well as

most Randisks. NYARC/GENEVE 9640 users be sure to read the DM1898MELP file. The program and help file will be featured on this month's DDM.

For those of you with the Horizon Randisk, we have Version 6.3 of John Johnson's MENU program. Some bugs have been removed and it now gives 3 instead of 2 Menu screens which can be user modified via screen/keyboard options (try FCTN 5 for screens 1 and 2). Part 2 of the user Docs have been changed to reflect the updates.

We also gained William Warren's PRBASE Ver 2.1 that has been audified to work on both the TI99/4A and MYARC's GENEVE 9648. File disk processing has been modified to include standard disk headers in Sectors Ø and 1 to allow backup with any Sector copier. Also included are instructions and programs to convert your old PRBASE file disks to the new PRBASE format.

I picked up 13 new Archived files from Dee, all of them looked promising. Unfortunately, while trying to copy them, we got bad sector indications on all 4 of his disks. At least one file in each Archived set I've checked so far has turned out to be bad. There is the possibility he may have downloaded some bad Archived files; but all 13 of them???

No embarrassment intended Dee; I just want to point out to those users who access information systems or have valuable data they can't afford to loose to ALWAYS:

- VERIFY disks during initialization to insure all bad sectors are cataloged in sector #'s bit map.
- 2. Immediately backup the downloaded/stored data.

OCTOBER DISK OF THE MONTH!

This month's DOM contains primarily utility programs:

CALL-LOADS List of CALL LOAD(xxxxx,x) routines CALL-PEEKS List of CALL PEEK(xxxxx,x) routines DM1989HELP DM 1996 Ver 3.7 Documentation DSKU Disk Utility assembly Memory Image Prom Disk Utility Instructions DSKU-DOCS DSKUSCART Disk Utility assembly Prom for SuperCart LOAD Menu Selection/Loader for Proms on Disk LOAD-DM Loader Program for DM1999 LDAD-DSKU Loader Program for DSKU Program LOADER Memory Image Program Loader DM 1888 Ver 3.7 MI-PGM Part 1 MERI MGR1 DM 1888 Ver 3.7 MI-P6M Part 2 TH-LOADXB Track Hack Disk Conier XB Loader Program TM/COPY Track Master Track Copier Program TMCOPY/LDR Track Master XB Loader Program XB-TH-CC Track Hack for CorComo Disk Controllers YR-TH-TT Track Hack for II Disk Controllers

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OCTOBER'S RAFFLE

Sordon (Luck-of-the-Irish) Leonard and Steve Buchanan won last month's Raffle drawings. Sordon was nice enough to leave the last Diskette Storage Box, but he did take the XB Cartridge and Steve took Video Chess.

We have a couple of new items in this month's Raffle Pot. Steve Buchanan has donated the "SSI Expanded Basic Compiler System" package from SSI Software. Programs to be compiled must be written in TI Basic (not XB) format. The second new item, which I happened across while window shopping at Club Mholesale, is a Disk Drive and Accessories Cleaning Kit stored in a 18 Disk capacity folding plastic storage box.

We're always looking for new and inexpensive items for the Raffle Pot, so keep the donations coming. Any and all items are welcome.

The following items are in October's RAFFLE Pot:

(SPECIAL ITEMS:)
Complete TI-WRITER Package
186 Biskette Locking Storage Box (the last one)
1 Package (25) Bulk diskettes w/envelopes
ALSOP Disk Drive Cleaning Kit
TI SS/SD Disk Drive for P-Box

(DONATED ITEMS:)

(2) Scott Adams ADVENTURE Cartridges
with Pirate Adventure on disk
ALPINER
The ATTACK
HOME FINANCIAL DECISIONS
MUSIC MAKER with 2 disks
PERSONAL REAL ESTATE
PERSONAL RECORD KEEPING
SST EXPANDED BASIC COMPILER
TAX/INVESTMENT RECORD KEEPING
VIDEO GRAPHS
TI LOGO II with Manual

1 Pair Commodore Joysticks with TI-Adapter

That's all for this month. I'll see you at October's meeting. - Happy Computing !!

UNLOCK THE ALPHA LOCK

The following is from Mack McCormick's column in the February, 1987 MICROpendium.

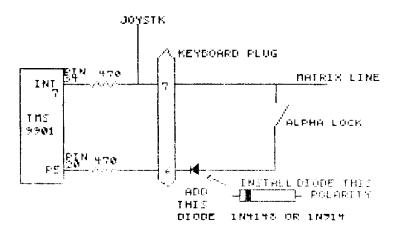
I've had many folks ask why the alpha lock key must be up to use the joystick. This is due to the way the TI99 decodes the keyboard matrix. If you're interested I'll

provide a complete tutorial in the future. (Mack is no longer writing a column. Ed.)
Anyway, if you'll add a simple 1N4149 diede as shown in Fig. 1 you'll never have to worry which position your alpha lock key is in. This modification involves opening the console and soldering the diede into keyboard line 6 which connects to pin 29 of the 9981 chip. Be careful, polarity of the diede is important.

Some notes on the diode installation. Yes, it is necessary to cut the trace on the PC board and bridge the gap left with the diode. An 1N914 diode which is available at Radio Shack as Part No. 276-1628. In package of 58 for \$1.98. It is also possible to put the diode on the main board inside the computer rather than on the keyboard. This would eliminate the need of modifying every keyboard that would be hooked up in a particular unit. All that is required is to cut the same line after it leaves the keyboard plug.

The accompanying figure shows the keyboard PC lines lines in schematic form. The lead that needs to be cut is the lead where there is only one lead from that side of the key connection. The other key connection has two leads going from it and is not the correct side to cut.

Happy computing! Rudy Johnson





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IN THE ROW/COLUMN MODE by George Tilley

No single perspective on computing can be all encompassing, but thinking and reasoning in the row/column mode comes close. Prime examples are spread-sheets, tables, charts, graphs and also word processing although we don't usually percieve it that way.

Humerical expressions frequently convey a meaning in the row/column format that cannot be expressed any other way. Many times after studying the docs. I've put something in row/column format and immediately got a big "A-HA". Just below there are four tables for the four arithmetic functions (+ - # /) applied to a single byte. Don't expect am A-HA but you might find it interesting.

I used NULTIPLAN to format and print the tables.

The program on the right is for the Multiply(Hex) table. It can easily be modified to print-out the others. I've amnotated the major changes inside braces(you won't need it).

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300 DIM DOS(15,15) [DEC(15,15]
310 FOR ROW=0 TO 15 :: FOR COL=0 TO 15 :: DEC=ROW#COL
[fer BEC go to 350] :: HID=INT(DEC/16):: LHX=D EC-(HHX+16) 320 IF HIDX(10 THEN HIDX9=STR$(HHX)ELSE HIDX9=CHR$(HHX+55)
330 IF LIDX(10 THEN LIDX9=STR$(LIDX)ELSE LIDX9=CHR$(LIDX+55)
348 IXS(ROW, COL)=HEXSELHXSE*
350 NEXT COL :: NEXT ROW
! PRINT SECTION [reformat for DEC]
400 OPEN #5:"PIO" :: PRINT #5:"
418 FOR C=8 TO 15
420 IF C(18 THEN CS=STRS(C)&" * ELSE CS=CHRS(C+55)&"
438 PRINT #5:CS;:: NEXT C :: PRINT #5:" ": :
510 FOR N=0 TO 15
528 IF R(18 THEN RS=STRS(R)ELSE RS=CHRS(R+55)
538 PRINT #5.USING "# -- ":R$;:: FOR C=# TO 15
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ADD / SUBTRACT (Decimal)

MULTIPLY / DIVIDE (Decimal)

ADD / SUBTRACT (Hexadecimal)

MULTIPLY / DIVIDE (Hexadecimal)

:: PRINT #5:HX\$(R,C);:: NEXT C

::PRINT #5:" " :: NEXT R :: CLOSE #5

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Same ROW-COLUMN-INTERSECT procedure but more remainders megative numbers and decimal-fractions are in another catagory If # not on table: use the largest # that is smaller than the known

14- 8 14 28 42 56 78 84 98 112 126 148 154 168 182 196 218 15- 6 15 36 45 60 75 90 105 120 135 150 165 180 195 210 225

> 162 [(A2] / 12[(0C] = 13[(0D] w/remainder of 6 (156 +6) [(9C + (86] / 12[(8C] = 13[(8D] w/remainder of 6 proof: <A2 - <86 = <9C = <8C = <8D

SMUG OFFICERS 1986-1987; SOUTHERN NEVADA USERS' GROUP # The SMUSLETter is published monthly by the Southern Mevada # President: John Martin - 647-1062 # Users' Group (SNU6). SNU6 is a non-profit organization of \$ Vice President: Steve Buchanan - 363-1043 2 individuals with an interest in all aspects of Texas Instru- 8 Secretary: Don Hitchell - 736-1644 8 ments' 99xx & 99xxx based computers including hardware # Treasurer: Bob Bieber - 878-3167 \$ and software by third party vendors. The GROUP seets 6:30 \$ Librarian: Bob Bieber - 878-3167 8 PM on the second Monday of the month - currently in the # Associate Librarian: Lance Wilson - 648-6452 # Clark County Library meeting room, 1726 E. Charleston Blvd. # Hembership: Dee Hellman - 454-1376 \$ (Charleston Plaza Hall). Visitors and quests are welcome to \$ Youth Liason: Joe Leavitt. Jr. - 382-1409 # attend the meetings. Information on membership is available # SMUG Bulletin Board - (702)648-1247; 24hours 300/1200 # # provided credit is given to both the author and the original # NEWSLETTER INFORMATION: # source and that the article not be used for profit. # Editor: Rudy Johnson - 871-9583 # (For-profit organizations wishing to use any articles from # Assoc. Ed.: Dee Hellman - 454-1376 * the SMUGLETter will need to make prior arrangements with the * Newsletter submissions can be sent to P.O. Box 26301, * * Executive of the Southern Nevada Users' Group.) # Las Vegas, NV 89126. Articles using TI-Writer on disk # # are ideal. They may also be phoned with a modem, also # # a preferred method.

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Dallas TI Home Computer Group

P.O Box 29863 Dallas TX 75229

SAUG MERSURER'S REPORT - 30 SEPTEMBER 1987 (in ligu of 30 Sept 1987 Wark statement) R, d, BIEBER - Teasurer 6 (Ites adjusted Sept 1987)	SNUGLETter (Estimated cost per 100) Publication Costs (\$45/Mo X 12) \$ 516.00 Postage (\$22/Mo X 12) \$ 564.00 Meting Room Rental Fee (\$5/Mo X 12) \$ 564.00 P.9. Box Rental Fee (\$5/Mo X 12) \$ 50.00 P.9. Box Rental Fee (\$5/Mo X 12) \$ 50.00 Rath Account Service Charge (\$8.00/Mo X 12) \$ 96.00 SNIG B/Board Phone Line (\$11/Mo X 12) \$ 132.00 Long Distance Phone Calls (Estimated) \$ 50.00 Miscellaneous Expenditures (Estimated) \$ 60.00	Tins COSTS (Estimated) - \$ 1200. tion: (Avg 30 Mbrs X \$18) + \$ 540. L DEFICIT (Estimated) ru Fund Raisers, Disc. ial Sales, elc	COLLECTIONS (juring Sept 1987) Mesbership Dues (Regular \$18 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Expenditures (during Sept 1987) Sept 87. Sept 87	E : E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E	PROJECTED EXPENDITURES: Purchase of 500 Bulk biskettes + Envelopes. > \$ 170.00 Tipo88 (Officer Out of Pocket Expenses) > \$ 34.24 Purchase of items for Raffle Pot > \$ 8.73 Bank Account Service Charge (Sept Estimate) > \$ 8.00 + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +
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