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Next Meeting
Monday, September 14, 1992
Nevada Power Meeting Room
6226 West Sahara Avenue
Las Vegas Nevada

SNUG BBS, On line 24 hours a day
--- (702) 648-1247 ---
New Callers Welcome, Give us a call

Southern Nevada Users' Group
P.O.Box 26301
Las Vegas NV 89126-0301

TO

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

From The President

by Rudy Johnson

Well, the newsletter deadline is once again upon me despite my intentions of getting this done for George before my normal time of the weekend before the newsletter is due out. The officers had their meeting right on schedule two weeks after the last group meeting. Then, due to the quirk of the calendar, there were two weeks between that meeting and the newsletter deadline, to which I found my way, per normal. On to the next meeting. In seeking a topic for the next meeting we finally came upon the subject of virus scanning programs. Since there' has been a great deal of publicity about viruses in the past year, virus detection and cleanup seemed to be a good topic. So there will a demonstration of at least two detection programs and, hopefully more. I expect that John may mention more of this in his column as he is going to demo at least one with Gordon adding his knowledge of another. It should be an interesting subject!

The DOS Partition

One of the more interesting items to come up this month was an article in the August *MICROpendium* by Mike Wright describing his work on creating an emulator for a PC to run TI software. That's right, TI stuff being run on a PC! He says in the article that the current version of the emulator is capable of running TI BASIC, TI Extended BASIC, and the Editor/Assembler. Mike goes through a list of advantages and disadvantages of the emulator including the hardware requirements. Several problems are still to be solved before the system is fully functional. He goes on to say that the best of his group of programmers who have been coding (in C) this program is getting itchy feet and wants to move on. Mike says that he is looking for nominal support on interested TIers by them sending $1 and their name and address to him. He makes clear that the contribution is non-refundable under all circumstances, including the goal of 1000 people contributing by Sept. 30, 1992. That is what he feels is needed as far as interest to keep the project

going to fix all the problems. This is the second DOS based emulator that has come to my attention.

The first was by a university student in Germany about a year ago. The hold up in that case was difficulty in contacting the fellow. He had sent his information out on a computer network but didn't have normal access in the sense that we do. I have heard nothing further on that so I have no idea of where his emulator is.

The other item was also in MICROpendium. It is a review of a program called **Smart Connect** by Harrison Software ($10.) It is a set of programs to allow text files to be transferred between a 4A and a PC via an RS232 connection. The transfer rate is at 1200 baud, which seems to be slow by most standards, especially when there is a hard wire connection rather than a modem. This is a cheap way of transferring files if one's machine is a standard 4A with the standard single density disk system. If one has a CorComp or Myarc controller **PC Transfer** (which has recently become available again) is a better alternative in that it allows additional file types to be manipulated between the machines.

The 4A Partition

First, please see the DOS section for some interesting stuff on the 4A if you haven't read it yet. The second item is in regard to the Geneve; Beery Miller completed the buyout of MDOS from Lou Phillips and Paul Charlton in August. The source code for MDOS, ABASIC, and the GPL interpreter was acquired. Beery has an agreement to distribute the final packages to the registered (with Myarc) Geneve owners when the completed packages are ready.

Apparently, there are about 2200 owners on Myarc's list - more than the 800 that Beery anticipated. As a result Beery is still looking for contributions to the Buyout Fund, which will enable the contributor to obtain the source code to the programs. Delphi has a couple of conference proceedings regarding the buyout that Beery was the star of, but I had a couple of bad downloads so I don't have any info from them at the present. I hope to have them at the meeting for more information then.

EDUCATION IS NOT KEEPING ALL THOSE FACTS AND FIGURES IN YOUR HEAD. IT IS KNOWING THOSE FACTS AND FIGURES EXIST, AND JUST AS IMPORTANT IS KNOWING WHERE TO FIND THEM WHEN NEEDED, SO WE HAVE SCHOOLS TO EDUCATE AND LIBRARIES TO STORE THOSE FACTS AND SOFTWARE PROGRAMS FOR USE WHEN NEEDED. THE TI COMMUNITY IS BLESSED WITH SEVERAL EXCELLENT LIBRARIES AND SOURCES FOR BOTH SOFTWARE AND, WHEN NEEDED, HARDWARE. AND THIS MONTH WE WILL TRY TO COVER THIS FOR BOTH THE TI AND THE GENEVE.

Librarian's Report
by
George Campbell

CHIEF AMONG THESE RESOURCES IS THE *ALTMAN LIBRARY* WHICH SURFACED LAST WINTER AT THE ANNUAL TI WEST FAIRE AND DATED 2/92. THE SOUTHWEST NINETY NINERS OF TUCSON ARIZ. NOT ONLY GATHERED, CATALOGED, AND PUBLISHED A EXTENSIVE LIBRARY OF TI SOFTWARE, THEY ALSO INCLUDED A LARGE LISTING OF SOFTWARE AUTHORS, VENDORS, PUBLISHERS, HARDWARE DEVELOPERS - IN SHORT JUST ABOUT ANYONE WHO HAS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH TI DEVELOPMENT OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS. IN NEARLY EVERY CASE (LOU PHILLIPS EXCEPTED) INCLUDED THEIR ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS. AN IMPRESSIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT TO SAY THE LEAST. THIS SHORT CATALOG AND LISTING CAN BE HAD FOR A TWO DOLLAR BILL SENT TO: PO BOX 17831, TUCSON AZ. 85711.

AN EVEN LARGER LIBRARY OF FREEWARE AND SHAREWARE IS ADMINISTERED BY TIGERCUB SOFTWARE, 156 COLLINGSWOOD AVE., COLUMBUS OHIO 43213. OVER THREE THOUSAND PROGRAMS AND FILES COVER

NEARLY EVERYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE WITH A COMPUTER. AND YOU CAN BUY THE WHOLE LIBRARY (OR COPIES OF IT) FOR LESS THAN I JUST PAID FOR ONE PC PROGRAM (*PROCOMM* $70.). AND I WOULD GUESS ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF BYTES TOO!

THE *COMPUTER MONTHLY* FOR JULY HAS TWO ADS FOR FIRMS WHO BUY AND SELL TI HARDWARE:
1. BRAATZS COMPUTER SERVICES 719 E. BYRD ST. DEPT.C APPLETON WI. 54911 (414 731 3478)
2. COMPETITION COMPUTER 2219 S. MUSKEGO AVE. MILWAUKEE WI. 53215 (414 672 1600).

COMPUTER MONTHLY ALSO HAS AN AD FOR TIGERCUB SOFTWARE.

OUR SNUG EXPERT ON FONTS GAVE AN EXCELLENT DEMO ON THIS SUBJECT AT THE REGULAR MEETING FOR AUGUST. I DIDN'T REALIZE THERE WERE SO MANY WAYS TO MAKE THE LETTER "A". HE IS ALSO THE EDITOR OF THIS NEWSLETTER AND DOES A GOOD JOB OF PUTTING THAT EXPERIENCE TO GOOD USE. HE TOLD US A TRADE SECRET (SOMETHING I HAVE WONDERED ABOUT) ON HOW TO MAKE THE SIZE, NUMBER OF BYTES, AND COLUMNS FIT THE SPACE AVAILABLE. SO, I WILL QUIT WORRYING ABOUT THE SIZE AND TILLEY WILL PUSH HIS BUTTONS AND MAKE IT ALL FIT.

COMPUTER MONTHLY DID AWAY WITH ITS "CLASSIC COMPUTERS " SECTION THE MONTH AFTER I RENEWED MY SUBSCRIPTION, SO THERE GOES OUR TI COLUMN BY BARRY TRAVERS. I WILL MISS IT AND I WROTE THEM SO.

SEE YOU AT THE REGULAR MEETING.
George Campbell, Librarian

Secretary's Report

by Cindy Mitchell

The meeting began at 7:15 PM with George Tilley working with Windows 3.1. George began by explaining the difference between object-oriented and bit-mapped files. If you have ever resized an image in a paint program that uses bit-map there has been a loss of smooth lines and the odd pixels had to be edited. The object oriented image may be manipulated and will retain its smooth lines.

Then there is the mystery of Fonts. If you have three or four (or more) programs that utilize fonts it is quite noticeable that several fonts resemble each other but the names give no hint that they are possibly the same font. So every time you purchase or D/L a font file you probably already have it under a different name. This is where the chart George generated and WfnBoss enter. WfnBoss is font conversion program for CorelDraw.

George showed how he created his chart by modifying the .ini file and using "table" in Microsoft Word. To have this procedure explained more clearly contact George. Fonts are his expertise.

Then we proceeded to CorelDraw where he made it seem so simple to manipulate text. An art in its self. George also explained Character Attributes. It looked so easy watching him use these programs. Also read the article "Fonts Galore" George wrote in the August SNUGLETer.

George had each members attention throughout the meeting. His demonstration gave a new meaning to fonts. It was to bad that the members on holiday missed this meeting. Once again, Well Done George...

At the September meeting Gordon Leonard and John Martin will be using Norton, Central Point and McAfee anti-virus scan programs. With viruses on the rise, this is a MUST meeting. No one is excluded from the wrath of a virus. You may never download from a BBS or trade disks with a friend but that software you purchased could be infected.
Scary..

Cindy Mitchell
SECRETARY
SNUG USERS GROUP

SNUG TREASURER'S REPORT
Ralph F. Guise - Treasurer

- 31 AUG 1992
(in lieu of 31 AUG 1992 bank statement)

FIXED ANNUAL EXPENDITURES
(see Nov 90 Newsletter for last revision)

BANK STATEMENT BALANCE
(as of 31 JUL 1992)
(7.72 service charge), +232.44
BB FUNDS,   +178.80
GENERAL,   +53.64

FUNDS STATUS - 31 AUG 1992
COLLECTIONS
Membership Dues,   +25.00

EXPENDITURES (EST.)
Postage - MAY-AUG 92,   - 88.00
Copying - MAR-AUG 92,   -126.23
                ----
      sub-total),   -189.23

BB BALANCE :,   +178.80
GENERAL BALANCE,   -135.59
PETTY-CASH (undeposited funds),   0.00

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE,   + 43.21 •

This is one bad brain lock! No ideas at all.
Brainium = NULL. I could try to fish up
something interesting about DOS, but I'm sick of
writing about DOS when everyone is using
XTREE GOLD or NORTON DESKTOP FOR
DOS or sum such. Windows is Windows... I could
crack my cranium
and come up
with a few useful
tips, but Who
wants to hear
about Windows?
Maybe we should
all get together
and write a new
shell called

Bob's Corner
PC — **By Bob Sherburne**

DOORS! OK, here's a Windows tip; if you want
to save the current layout of your desktop
without actually leaving Windows, click options,
click "Save Settings on Exit" so that the check
mark shows, hold down the SHIFT key and
double click the minus sign at the top left of the
desktop screen. Don't forget to uncheck the Save
Settings option... Where was I? Ah, yes. Still
stumped. This may be a very short article. Batch
files are out since I've milked them for all they
are worth. Hmmmm. I know! Let's rap about
programs!

Have you heard about SHOWGIF? No? It's a
program which lets you view GIF files as you
download them! There is a new version out
(SHOWGIF V.55) which is very cutsey, but is a
bit picky about what directory you run it from,
and it wants to have GIF files already in the
same directory. SHOWGIF V.52 (SHWGIF52) on
the other hand works great for viewing while
downloading, even though it doesn't include a
built in GIF viewer for strictly looking at GIFS.
VPIC V.50 is much better for viewing anyway.
SHOWGIF runs as a TSR and once loaded you
will forget it's there until you start to download a
GIF. All of a sudden the picture will start to
form on your screen as your download
progresses. If it's a GIF you already have or one
that really sucks, you can abort the download
and look for something better!

There have been a rash of Windows graphics
programs appear over the last few months and
four of them are worth mentioning. Graphics
Work Shop now has a Windows version!
(GWSWN)It seems to do everything the DOS
based version does, but from Windows. Paint
Shop now has an
upgrade from V.201.
It's called (Paint Shop
Pro) PSP10 and it is
also a must-have. It
also loads lots of
graphics file types,
does conversions and
dithering, cutting,
pasting etc. COLOR
VIEW '386 (CVIEW95) lets you view JPG
(compressed GIF) files, and make a few changes
to the image. Worth a look... The last of the
four is WINGIF14, a long-awaited upgrade to
V.10 which has been out a few years and
wouldn't work with Windows 3.1. This one also
has lots of features and is well worth a look-see.

Three Windows games also come to mind. I'm
not sure how new they are, but they are all
worth a look. The first is BLITZER, a helicopter
rescue game in which you rescue stranded dudes
while alien spacecraft try to blast you. (I didn't
write it!) You can also blast them back and that's
the fun part. To heck with the stranded guys...
The next game, SKI, reminds me of the TI
version of SKI. You use your mouse to ski down
a slope while avoiding trees, logs, animals etc.
It's a bit frustrating though as the bear has
developed a taste for human flesh. (YUK!) The
last game, KLOTSKI, is a bit like the little plastic
game we used to play as kids, where you move
the numbers one through nine around on the
playing surface, trying to get the numbers in
order. KLOTSKI has no numbers however. In fact
it has no plastic either. The object is to move
TETRIS-like shapes around on the playing surface
in order to maneuver the reddish colored piece
around the board and out through an opening.
There are three levels of play and twenty-four
different boards! Tons of fun if you like puzzles.
Try them out for a bit of recreation.

August was a pleasant surprise for your SysOp. I was on vacation for the first two weeks. I have to admit that I didn't do much thinking about SNUG or the BBS during that time. As a matter of fact, where I was, not only did I not have access to a computer, but even electricity was in very short supply. It was GREAT! Anyway, the point of all this is that the SNUG BBS ran, completely unattended, for the whole time. In the whole 7+ years that this BBS has been on line, this is the first time I have been able to leave town for any length of time without the board crashing.

Since I came back, there have been two occasions when the BBS was off line. The first one was because of a thunderstorm. A very short power failure caused the system to reboot. Since I had been watching TV at the time, I noticed the failure. By the time I got to the computer, It had finished rebooting and the BBS was once again on-line.

The second time, I took the BBS off line so it could be taken to the Computer Source for repair. I have been meaning to get it back to them since they told me that the reason I was having difficulty writing to floppy disk with the computer set in turbo mode was a problem with the mother board. They were supposed to call me when they had gotten one in stock. Last week, Lance Wilson had some trouble with his computer. Since he bought his computer from the same place, he offered to take the BBS computer in at the same time that he took his own in. Lance tried for two days to get the computers into The Computer Source for repairs. Both days, the store was closed. He has since been trying to call them, but without much luck. Their answering machine promises to call him back, but you know how those things lie! Lance says that the store still has merchandise in it and that there is a banner out front celebrating their first year in business, but they haven't been open for business since he has been trying to get

to see them. I hate to say it, but it looks like another computer store may have gone the way of La Jolla computers. Anyway, that's why the SNUG BBS was down for a couple of days last month.

BBS usage has been slow this month. The actual number of callers has probably remained steady, but there haven't been very many messages. The uploads and downloads have also been sluggish. Guess it must be the summer activities cutting into everyone's computer time.

There is one file that I put up in the PC section that I want to call your attention to. It is called MULTICFG.ZIP. This is a program that allows you to boot up with different configurations depending on what you plan to do. If you have been having memory errors while trying to run certain progams, this might be the program that will solve your problems. I have tried several other programs of this type in the past and junked them because they were too cumbersome to work with. Most of this type of program requires you to have a separate Config.sys and Autoexec.bat file for each different configuration. They also require you to reboot if you want to change to a different configuration. Multiconfig works by intercepting your system at the first line of your Config.sys file. It then allows selective loading of lines in Config.sys. This means that you can have all your different configurations set up in ONE Config.sys file. The program is also supposed to pass information to the Autoexec.bat file through an environmental variable, but I haven't been able to get that part to work for me. Even without the passing of parameters, this is the best program of it's type that I have used. I have set up three basic configurations. In my default configuration (which will boot automatically if I don't select on of the others in 4 seconds) is the same one that I have been running for 6 months or so now. The other two basically change the size of my ramdisk. For Windows, I have no need for a ramdisk, so I don't set one up.

BBS Report ... (continued from page 6)
This has the effect of speeding up Windows a great deal. The reason (I guess) is that with an extra meg of RAM wo work with, Windows doesn't have to swap things to the hard drive as often. For some applications, the difference is quite dramatic. The third setup is for DOS applications where I need a lot of ramdisk space. Since I have been running Bob Sherburne's Ziprunner program. I have found that having a big ramdisk is very advantageous. By setting up a 2 MEG ramdisk and letting Ziprunner use the ramdisk to unpack the files to, I find that even the biggest Zip files will unpack and run quickly enough that I hardly notice the process of unzipping. Well, enough of that. Now for the GOOD STUFF!

New in the PC section this month:

CHESS.ZIP   57,344   08-02-92
Chess Program For Windows
Uploaded By: Henry Nitta

QCLONE.ZIP   23,552   08-02-92   Printer Quick
Switch Clone V 1.0
Uploaded By: Bob Sherburne
VMIX386.EXE   156,672   08-07-92
Multitasking Program For 386 And Up
Uploaded By: Rodger Hartley

TECHELP.ZIP   188,416   08-07-92
Tech Help Files From Computer Shopper
Uploaded By: Rodger Hartley

IMPROC40.ZIP   336,896   08-08-92
Improces 4.0! Now Has Animation!
Uploaded By: Bob Sherburne

ZIPRUN21.ZIP   62,464   08-19-92
Now Runs Lzh And Arj Files!
Uploaded By: Bob Sherburne

ELFTREE.ZIP   176,000   08-22-92
File Directory And Program Management Program
Uploaded By: Gordon Leonard

BOX400.ZIP   261,248   08-22-92
A Good Fast Ascii File Editor.
Uploaded By: Gordon Leonard

DOSREF24.ZIP   265,287   09-02-92
Memory Maps, Interrupts, & Undocumented DOS
Uploaded By: Sysop

MULTICFG.ZIP   14,863   09-02-92
Boot Up With Different Configs. Easy Setup.
Uploaded By: Sysop

New in the TI section this month

MAKEMONE.TXT   15,886   08-15-92
Make Big Bucks, It Worked For Me!!
Uploaded By: Mike Wilson

There were **NO files uploaded to the Geneve section** this month (again)

Well, I guess that's about it for another month.
See ya at the meeting.
-John-

Our quote of the day:
I do not like work even when someone else does it.
–Mark Twain

Bob's Corner...continued from page 5

The last program I want to mention is IMPROCES V.4. (IMPROC40) If you have a hi-rez video card with 256 colors, you have got to try this puppy out! The program will load GIF, TARGA, PCX and PRF files in any resolution you like up to 1024 x 768, and let you make changes to the image with a complete set of drawing tools, effects, and filters. You can animate sections of the image, or change the color values in the palette, cut and paste sections of one file into another with several options as to how you want the paste done. You can scale images or sections of images, and repaste scaled section. It will flip images vertically or horizontally, and mirror a section up, down, left or right. It will draw clouds with PLASMA, or terrain with TERRAIN. You can also have automatic color cycling, much like FRACTINT! Speaking of FRACTINT, you should get that too! All of the above programs are Shareware and can be found on local BBS's.

TIL NEXTIME!   Bob

From the President... continued from page 2

I have finally browsed through the exchange newsletters from the past few months. There are some articles in there that may be of interest to the 4A/Geneve readers. One item that I noted is that the LIMA group will no longer be sending us a newsletter, rather they will be depending on putting their N/L on GENIE and the C.U.N.N.I. Clearing House BBS. I believe that we will no longer be receiving their disk mailings either. Another item I saw was that George Tilley's article describing the differences in floppy disks in standard and high density versions was reproduced by quite a number of newsletters, 6 to 7 at least. Good work does get noticed! Well, it is time to get this up on the BBS for George as I am seriously late this month. See you at the meeting.

Rudy

— *Tid Bits* —

by George Tilley

Juicy morsels from the August **MICROpendium :**

The **buyout of MDOS** from Myarc was the big news. It was thought to be a "done deal" but still pending when the August issue was distributed (see *From the President,* this issue, for report of the actual buyout)- As part of the deal, Berry Miller agreed to accept some of Myarc's responsibilities and send copies of the final MDOS to all registered Geneve owners (*Rudy reports that this turned out to be about 1400 more Geneve owners than Berry had expected*). Miller says MDOS improvements, suggestions for improvement and source code will be limited to contributors to the *Buy MDOS Campaign.* If that and/or the need for more support moves you, the address is Berry Miller, P.O. Box 752465, Memphis TN 38175 ---Home phone (901) 368-1169 — —*MICROpendium* Publisher John Koloen says "For now, as a Geneve owner, I'm optimistic "

Help by phone for 9640 owners — Don Walden of Cecure Electronics, who repairs the Geneve 9640, says he can often help hardware-handy Geneve owners to do-it-themselves, so they don't have to send their

machines in for repair. Cecure Electric's phone is (414) 529-2173. Don hoped to become an authorized Myarc repair center in June or July but has been delayed due to what he calls playing "telephone tag" with Lou Phillips. Don hopes to get access to Myarc's inventory of specialized chips and to take notes on the procedures. If successful, he feels the service can be improved and the repair costs lowered.

some one liners--

Berry Miller noted that he hasn't mailed an issue of *9640 News* since December, but hopes to have an issue out before the Chicago fair (Oct. 31)

Some of the "classic equipment" for the TI99/4A is reported to be in short supply with dealers buying from each other to meet demand. (I wonder if that includes my single sided, single density, full height disk drive? If our club inventory qualifies as "classic" we may be sitting on a gold mine).

Mike Wright's audacious proposal (no accounting, refund or promises) deserves $1. Brazen honesty should be rewarded. Decide on the project later.

If you change batteries for your Geneve, Dee Turner (Chino CA Pomona Valley 99ers newsletter) says do not solder the connections to the batteries. You could explode the battery. The idea is to fix it, not blow it up.

Harrison vs Myarc — None of Harrison Software's products (except Midi-Master music) will be guaranteed to work on any system containing Myarc products — *"We're sorry for our potential customers who may be inconvenienced, but we feel it's better if those who have Myarc equipment do not order software from us, rather than find through our software that Myarc products are not truly compatible with software written for the TI99/4A. "*

Bruce Harrison

Delphi introduces 10/4 —
Delphi now offers 4 hours of evening access for $10 p/month with additional time at $4 p/hour. To join dial 1-800-365-4636, press return twice and enter TEN4. The 20/20 Advantage plan is still offered. That's 20 hours of evening access for $20 p/month with additional hours at $1.80 p/hour. .