

# NUTI NEWS

\* NITTANY USERS OF TEXAS INSTRUMENTS \*

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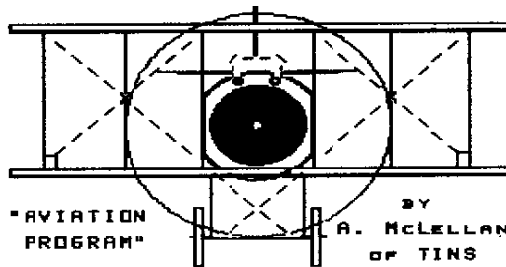
M. Villano, Ed.



TI-99/4A



GENEVE



## ARTICLES BEING FEATURED THIS ISSUE:

- FINE-TUNING GENEVE MENU SYSTEM..loading programs no longer a chore
- AVIATION PROGRAM..1st look at a North-of-the-Bcorder flight planner
- TERMINOLOGY AT HEARTBEAT..Chapin report from the Washington "beat"
- UPCOMING TRIAD..Triple-treat program for the 9640 looms on horizon

## INFORMAL GATHERING HELD ON JULY 17:

Despite predicted inactivity over the summer, a few of our members got together at Maurice's to view the video tapes of the Lima Ohio TI Fair in May. Highlighted was Asgard's new product line of a MIDI, TI house with related software. The Rock Runner game had exceptional graphics. Our evening ended with live demo's on a 99/4A set up for that purpose. We can assemble again at the same place on August 21st if that is your wish. Some bulk-purchased diskettes will be for sale, and your editor is donating program disks from his own collector to the NUTI library. We have two machines for copying. Bring *your* formatted (SS/SD) disks.

## URGENT MATTERS NEED YOUR ATTENTION:

- (1) We need to have a permanent place to meet, beginning in September. *Dave Snell* is looking into use of a room on Campus (*Steidle Build'ng*).
- (2) We need to consider an election and dues structure, by year's end.
- (3) *Dar Dewey* needs floppy cases for our growing library. Any donors?
- (4) This editor needs material for NUTI NEWS. Your articles welcomed!
- (5) Our exchange newsletters need reading. Pre-1989 are being clipped for our tutorial files on hardware hacks, software, etc. then trashed.

## FINE-TUNING A GENEVE MENU SYSTEM

- C H E Z G E N E V E -			
A rchiver	J og Reminder	S earch F1	1 Show Dir
B asic Adv	K ard Game	T elco	2 Type Scrn
C ad TGA	L apTopPubl	U til Dsk	3 Run EA/5
D bm 1st Base	M ultiPlan	V iew Mem	4 Print F1
E xit MDOS	N option	W ord Proc	5 Print Dir
F ortran	O option	X tend Bas	6 Reformat
G PL/EA	P ark HD	Y MYArt	7 option
H yperCopy	Q DE Editor	Z option	8 Read Docs
I option	R TI Artist	O ver. DOS	9 Dsk Mgr V
Enter Se'ction _			

Some housekeeping chores during this long hot summer have included the further tailoring of MDOS menu utilities "EXEC-GETSTR-GETKEY". As I previously reported (February 1990), the utilities load E/A 5 programs directly into the Geneve, by-passing the GPL interpreter. Other programs also will load. *Barry Boone's* "EXEC-GETSTR-GETKEY" is being packaged (with ARCHIVER III also thrown in) by *Texaments*, 53 Center St., Patchogue, NY 11772 for \$17.95, plus \$2.50 postage.

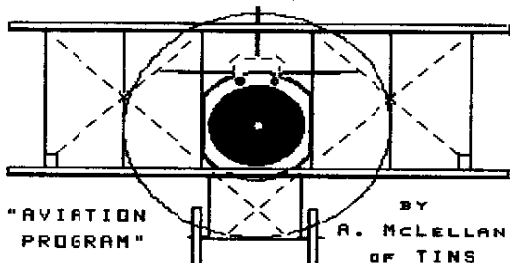
QDE by *Clint Pulley* was used to edit the batch file MM on the root directory of my hard drive for necessary commands. The file ML is used to show a cafeteria-style menu (above) which prompts when the Geneve is booted, or after MM has returned you to the Menu screen. My most-used programs are listed A-Z, and the least-used ones 0-9. Alphanumeric keypress choices were based on acronyms or euphonics.

Selections load from hard drive, except following load from disks: C THE GEOMETER'S APPRENTICE; F FORTTRAN; and H HYPERCOPY. A prompt will guide you to "Insert \_\_\_ Floppy Into Drive A" from MDOS mode. Future hard drive support for these programs is unknown; there are no recent upgrades of TGA, and Mike McCann won't be developing any new software for the Geneve, according to reports; HYPERCOPY never was more than a floppy copier; FORTTRAN in TI-99 version (4.4) coes support the Hvarc HFCC, so may we get it for 9640 before too long?

The old standby disk manager MDM5 (9) is inactive, due to v. 0.97H MDOS currently operated under, and I now use DOS commands. Shown, but not yet installed, is my new data base manager, FIRST BASE, to be key-pressed from 2. "Options" will be reserved for future use.

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AVIATION PROGRAM by Allen McLellan



This month we have a new Extended Basic program called AVIATION2, that comes to us from Canada, via an exchange newsletter courtesy of the West Penn 99'ers (July 1990). After keying in the program I "saved" it to D/V 80 format with a LIST "DSKx.filename" command and 28FORMAT to convert to 28 columns and PRNTALL for listing in multi-columns on these two pages, both utilities by Jim Peterson.

AVIATION2 was written by Allen McLellan of the TINS user group in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Allen retired as a navigator from the RCAF and is authority on the subject. There are actually two programs here: (1) Flight Plan; and (2) Astro Program. Note these are NOT flight simulators. "Flight Plan" does pre-flight calculations on distance, speed and time up to 10 legs of a course, computes fuel consumption, and gives position when a track crosses a longitude. "Astro Program" is about celestial navigation, and to be reviewed next month. We will also benchmark test it on time of execution.

Listing starts on next page and concludes at bottom of this page.

```
780 REM ASTRO PROGRAM
790 CALL CLEAR : CALL SCREE
N(10) : DISPLAY AT(12,7):"As
tro Program" : CALL HCHAR(1
3,9,45,13) : PRINT : PRINT
800 PRINT "Gives computed Al
titude (H) & Azimuth (ZNI) o
f celestial body, given assum
ed position of an observer an
d Greenwich"
810 PRINT "Hr Anole (GHA) &
Declination (DEC) of the body
." : GOSUB 990
820 CALL CLEAR : DISPLA AT
(5,3):"Enter Time: 0000?" :
ACCEPT AT(5,15)SIZE(1)-4)IEEP
VALIDATE(DIGIT):TIME
830 DISPLAY AT(7,3):"Enter A
ssumed Position." : DISPLAY
AT(9,1):"LAT : 00 Deg 00 M
in N/S" : DISPLAY AT(1,1
):"LONG: 000 Deg 00 Min E/
```

AVIATION PROGRAM by Allen McLellan

```
100 REM *****
110 REM * AVIATION PROGRAM *
120 REM * BY A. McLELLAN *
130 REM *16 ROBERT AILEN DR*
140 REM * HALIFAX I.S. *
150 REM * CANADA B31 2Y7 *
160 REM * 26 JAN 90 *
170 REM *****
180 CALL CLEAR : C=I/180 :
CALL SCREEN(12) : DISPLAY
AT(2,6):"Aviation Program" :
CALL HCHAR(3,8,45,16)
190 DISPLAY AT(4,13):"by" :
DISPLA AT(6,9):"A. McLellan"
200 DISPLAY AT(8,2):" This
program performs all computa
tions using spherical trigono
metry and therefore is
completely accurate."
210 DISPLAY AT(17,6):"1 - Fl
ight Plan" : DISPLAY AT(19,
6):"2 - Astro Program" : DI
SPLAY AT(23,3):"Select Prog
ram 1 or 2:"
220 ACCEPT AT(23,25)SIZE(-1)
BEEP VALIDATE("12"):K : IF
K=2 THEN 780 : CALL CLEAR :
CALL SCREEN(14)
230 PRINT " Flight Plan
Program" : PRINT "
-----" : PRINT "
This program gives track, "
240 PRINT " heading, distan
ce around " : PRINT " speed
, time, and fuel for " : P
RINT " each of the legs, an
d the "
250 PRINT " total time and
total fuel " : PRINT " for
the entire flight, or " :
PRINT " as many as ten opeo
raphic "
260 PRINT " position (incl
uding both " : PRINT " dep
arture and destination " :
PRINT " points). "
270 PRINT " Also gives lati
tude where "
280 PRINT " tracks cross in
termediate " : PRINT " lon
gitude. Positions must " :
PRINT " be entered in degre
es and "
```

## TERMINOLOGY AT THE HEARTBEAT

By Chip Chapin

During the last month or so I have been spending my time in the nation's capital (the nation's 'kinder and gentler' Heartbeat) and, while some things are exactly as you would expect, some things are just that little bit different. When I ran across some computer terminology definitions in a U. S. Government publication, I just knew that they were going to clear up any old confusions that might have crept into our non-official lingo over the years. I was just a teeny bit worried that the definitions might not relate to the TI, it being an Orphan an' all, but shucks, it all fit in just as fine as frog hair. Them Gumb'nent folks has really got it together. Why, I'll even be able to join in when my friends with IBMs talk about using those AUTOEXEC.BATs. Anyhow, here's some of the latest definitions making the rounds in the DC area.

Advanced User: A person who has managed to remove a computer from its packing materials.

Power User: A person who has mastered the brightness and contrast controls on any computer's monitor.

American-Made: Assembled in America from parts made abroad.

Alpha Test Version: Too buggy to be released to the paying public.

Beta Test Version: Still too buggy to be released.

Release Version: Alternate pronunciation of "beta test version".

Sales Manager: Last week's new sales associate.

Consultant: A former sales associate who has mastered at least one-tenth of the dBase III Plus manual.

Systems Integrator: A former consultant who understands the term AUTOEXEC.BAT.

AUTOEXEC.BAT: A sturdy aluminum or wooden shaft used to coax AT hard disks into performing properly.

Backup: The duplicate copy of crucial data that no one bothered to make; used only in an abstract sense.

Clone: One of the many advanced-technology computers IBM is beginning to wish it had built.

Convertible: Transformable from a second-rate computer to a first-rate doorstop or paperweight. (Lexical note: replaces the term "junior.")

Copy Protection: A clever method of preventing incompetent pirates from stealing software and legitimate customers from using it.

Database Manager: A program that allows users to manipulate data in every conceivable way except the absolutely essential way they conceive of the day after entering 20m of raw information.

EMS: Emergency medical service; often summoned in cases of apoplexy induced by attempts to understand extended, expanded or enhanced memory specifications.

Encryption: A powerful algorithmic encoding technique employed in the creation of computer manuals.

FCC-Certified: Guaranteed not to interfere with radio or television reception until you add the cable that is required to make it work.

Hard Disk: A device that allows users to delete vast quantities of data with simple mnemonic commands.

Integrated Software: A single product that deftly performs hundreds of functions the user never needs and awkwardly performs the half-dozen he uses constantly.

Laptop: Smaller and lighter than the average breadbox.

Multitasking: A clever method of simultaneously slowing down the multitude of computer programs that insisted on running too fast.

Network: An electronic means of allowing more than one person at a time to corrupt, trash, or otherwise cause permanent damage to useful information.

Portable: Smaller and lighter than the average refrigerator.

Support: The mailing of advertising literature to customers who have returned a registration card.

Transportable: Neither chained to a wall nor attached to an alarm system.

Printer: An electromechanical paper-shredding device.

Spreadsheet: A program that gives the user quick and easy access to a wide variety of highly detailed reports based on highly inaccurate assumptions.

Thought Processor: An electronic version of the intended outline procedure that thinking people instantly abandon upon graduation from high school.

Upgraded: Didn't work the first time.

User Friendly: Supplied with a full-color manual.

Very User Friendly: Supplied with a disk and audiotape so the user need not bother with the full-color manual.

Version 1.0: Suggier than Maine in June; eats data.

Version 1.1: Eats data only occasionally; upgrade is free, to avoid litigation by disgruntled users of Version 1.0.

Version 2.0: The version originally planned as the first release, except for a couple of data-eating bugs that just won't seem to go away; no free upgrades or the company would go bankrupt.

Version 3.0: The revision in the works when the company goes bankrupt.

Videotex: A mcribund electronic service offering people the privilege of paying to read the weather on their television screens instead of having Willard Scott read it to them free while they brush their teeth.

Warranty: Disclaimer.

Workstation: A computer or terminal slavishly linked to a mainframe that does not offer game programs.

That's all, folks. This came from MICROCOMPUTING, government computer news, who credited the WIC Connection, the newsletter of the EPA's Washington Information Center. The WIC obtained it from an EPA employee who picked up a copy in New Hampshire. And guess what - the author or authors are unknown.

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UPCOMING TRIAD PROGRAM FOR GENEVE

(Ed. Note: I got this via modem from Chip Chapin who downloaded it from GENie's TISIG. Sorry, but I forgot to ask for a file number. TRIAD for the TI-99/4A was reviewed in February 1989 MICROpendium. The upcoming version of this combined editor-disk manager-terminal emulator for Myarc 9640 Geneve is awaited with great anticipation, all of the below features entirely memory-resident in one package. But read on. Please excuse some minor editing to conserve space.)

June 22, 1990

Preliminary Information on Release of TRIAD (or whatever) for the Geneve:

A number of folks have asked questions about this project, mainly, 'When will it be out?' I hope that it will be done in a couple of weeks, but since it is a Geneve project....

The following is a brief summary of some features of the program. Please understand the information included here is NOT guaranteed. Program is still in flux, as it were, and I don't want people to think I promised something and then didn't deliver. So with that caveat in mind, here goes:

The program consists of three main parts:

- Terminal emulator
- Floppy disk manager
- Word processor

-In addition, a configuration program will be included which will be bootable (is that a word?) from the main menu. That's the only part of the program which does not reside in memory. Yup, all the other stuff does. (Well over 100K of program).  
 -A quirky little option on the main menu is the ability to leave the program and enter the EA cart. Leaving the EA cart takes you back to the Triad areas.

Terminal emulator features:

-The usual configuration possibilities (baud, parity, etc.) plus a few odd ones: add linefeed to incoming/outgoing carriage returns, automatically increment the log name (LOG1, LOG2, etc.), set time delay for logging, set echo to host mode (echo characters back to the other guy who forgot to go into half duplex on a local call), toggle the beeps and honks on or off, decide how to handle untrapped control codes, toggle flow control, toggle ADM3A.  
 -Text buffer: just under 24K, automatically logged to disk when full or with a single keypress; allows recovery from disk errors. Status line at the bottom of the screen dynamically updates the display of the buffer size.

- Conference mode has separate window at the bottom.
- Help screen
- Screen dump (not real exciting, but...)
- Review buffer (window back) allows paging received text up and down.
- Autodialer for 20 numbers, which can be stacked for rotational dialing until connect. User-selectable modem initialization strings, recognition strings, error strings, timeout.
- Script language which allows you to automate communications, including downloading or uploading of files (very complex, but it works).
- Script supports concatenation of variables and several powerful string operations, including the ability to trap incoming text and respond accordingly. You may use labels and many easily recognizable commands such as GOTO, GOSUB, RETURN, and SEND. Script can be in either object or source form (if the latter, it is compiled on the fly) and can be loaded directly from terminal mode or included as a macro and bcoted with a single keystroke from the macro screen.
- Ten macros may be created, each up to 76 bytes in length.
- File transfer options: ASCII, KMODEM, KXMODEM, Compuserve B+, and YMODEM batch. In the latter, you may send files from several devices. If receiving files in batch mode, any file extension which causes hard drive directory indigestion is stripped (e.g., PICTURE.GIF would arrive as PICTURE). If you upload a DIS/FIX 128 file, you will be asked if you really want to include a TI (Charlton) header. (For YMODEM batch, you set this up beforehand so you don't have to sit there and answer the question for each file being sent). A detailed screen for each protocol (except ASCII) allows you to track the progress of a file transfer.
- Online buffer over 100 K (this may change) to which you may download files or into which you may pre-load files for uploading before you go online. You may flush all files to disk by simply giving a pathname.
- Transfers may be made to or from the usual devices, including the hard drive.
- External protocol. An easily accessible hook allows you to boot a protocol not included in the program, such as KERMIT, ZMODEM, or BIMODEM. Naturally, someone will have to write one. (Specifications will be made available without cost). If I remember to do it, I will include a dummy file that you can boot. It will also be possible to have the external booted with the main program instead of on the spot.

Floppy disk manager features:

- Well, you can expect the obvious here: copying disks, files, etc.
- You can of course copy files to and from a hard drive, or between directories on a hard drive. I have not included code to format a hard drive, create, rename, or delete directories, or set up an emulation file. I'm too lazy to do so. Besides, how often do you

you do it? The 'sweep disk' option is sensitive to the number of sectors actually formatted, so you should be able to sweep those weird-sectored ram disks you set up in your AUTOEXEC. Another option will allow you to recover files on a floppy. You may enter a single name for the search or let the computer search the disk and present you with possible files you might wish to recover.

Word processor features:

- Large buffer (90K?)
- Can hold 9 documents in memory simultaneously. Supports separate tab settings and formatting specifications for each document.
- Supports 'true' word wrap, i.e. the words move to the right and wrap around as you insert text. No more FCTN2/CNTL2 split lines.
- Can print a file to a printer, screen or disk. Printing to disk, you have choice of DIS/VAR 80 or DIS/FIX 128 formats. If you select the latter, you may print it to suit the IBM or MAC worlds. (Program will also load DIS/FIX 128 and DIS/VAR 80 files, as well as the special Triad format files).
- Allows loading of an alternate CHARAL file.
- Mark or block mode allows you to mark text to be deleted, copied, moved, printed or saved. You may also mark a block to be forced to upper or lower case letters. Marked text is highlighted.
- Reasonable solution to the TIWRITER problem of special character mode
- Control codes for printers will be contained in user-definable macros.
- Press CTRL-L and cursored line is displayed in a window. You may add the appropriate macros for underlining, italics, etc. The macros are never shown while in normal edit but a flag on the status line informs you if a cursored line contains a hidden macro. Macros can be reviewed at any time by pressing F10. A help screen is available in case you forget which of the 62 macro possibilities you want.
- For printing you can specify the number of lines per page, number of lines per page, number of blank lines at the top and bottom and a couple of other odds and ends.
- Keypresses are as consistent with MYWORD/TIWRITER as possible. There are a couple of additional keys: CNTL-3 will delete a word, CNTL-8 will back tab to the previous word, and CNTL-C will center the current line on the screen.

Hope this has been of interest to you.

Wayne Stith

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