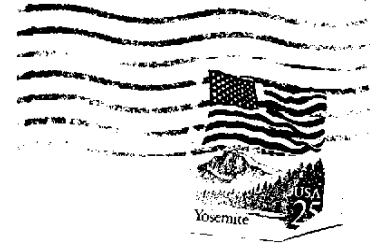


**THE ROM NEWSLETTER
 USERS GROUP OF ORANGE COUNTY
 17161 EDWARDS STREET
 HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92647**



06/90
 Dallas TI Computer Group (DTIHCG)
 PO Box 29863
 Dallas,
 TX 75229



JUL 1990

SERVING THE TI 99/4A HOME COMPUTER COMMUNITY

WE MEET AT MERCURY

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The FIRST Thursday of each month at
MERCURY SAVINGS and LOAN
 7:30 PM.

West of Beach at 7813 Edinger Ave.,
 Huntington Beach, Cal. Use the WEST
 entrance. Park on the west side of
 the building. All are welcome.

U.G.O.C. OFFICERS

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 VICE-PRES . . . EARL RAGUSE 017-5875
 SECRETARY . . . EUGENE SMITH 847-3961
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We solicit letters and articles of interest to the TI-99/4A user community. Material accepted may be edited for fit and format. No payment is offered nor intended (other than your byline).

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NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

NEWT ARMSTRONG EDITOR EMERITUS
 EARL RAGUSE TI FORTH
 ADRIAN ROBINSON ASSEMBLY
 ROBERT SHAFFER CIRCULATION
 JIM SWEDLOW AT LARGE
 BILL NELSON GRAPHICS

TI CLUB ACTIVITIES

CLUB	ACTION	DATE	INFO
BUG	GENERAL MEETING	JUL 02	897-9209
UGOC	GENERAL MEETING	JUL 05	626-2957
UGOC	GRAPHICS SIG	JUL 12	750-6425
UGOC	BOARD MEETING	JUL 19	626-2957
UGOC	NEWSLETTER LIBRARY	CALL	847-5875
UGOC	LIBRARY, FTNVLY	AUG 07	842-0859

**NOTE THE NEXT LIBRARY DATE
 YES IT WILL BE CLOSED TILL AUGUST**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Ben Hatheway

Last month's swap meet was fun for everyone. We'll have to make that a regular event.

Some of you may have heard about the demise of the program "PRESS". Apparently Asgard Software has written letters to those who had placed orders explaining that the program apparently attempted to do too much and Charles apparently could not quite seem to get all the bugs out. If you had placed an order for PRESS through Asgard you should be receiving a letter, too.

The announcements for Fest West have come out. We want to make this the best Fest ever. Let's all get behind it.

This month we will have a demo of the R.A. Green improved Multiplan and a library demo. Hope to see YOU there!

MAY BOARD MEETING

by Gene Smith, Secretary

The meeting was held Thursday, May 17th, 1990 in Costa Mesa, at the home of Ben Hatheway, who called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.

Others present were, Earl Raguse, Gene Smith, Jerry Rash, Bill Nelson, Siles Bazerman, Stan Corbin and Jim Swedlow.

The minutes of the APRIL Board of Directors Meeting was handed to Gene Smith, by Earl Raguse, the former Secretary, who read them for the recommendation of the Board.

After due consideration the minutes were approved as read.

JERRY RASH, the TREASURER, reported that there was \$812.27 in the club Treasury at this time and he then submitted a bank account card that had to be signed by our new President and himself so that checks could be written to pay the Club's bills.

SILES BAZERMAN, the ROM EDITOR, reported that there had been a rather small offering of articles for the ROM for the JUNE issue. He also said that the deadline for turning articles in for ROM publication would have to be when the Board meets; two weeks after the General Meeting. This is due to the present printing deadline.

BILL NELSON, the MEMBERSHIP and HALL OF FAME CHAIRMAN, said that we now have sixty-eight members in our "USERS GROUP" and encouraged us all to bring in as many new members as we could.

RE: HALL OF FAME, Bill brought up the name of RON WALCOTT, the author of the extensive graphic programs called TIPS, and, after discussion it was decided to keep his name on the list.

JIM SWEDLOW, was also nominated and his name was added to the HALL OF FAME list.

R.A. GREEN'S name was also brought up and discussed, but no decision was made to include his name to the HOF LIST, at this time.

EARL RAGUSE, the NEWSLETTER LIBRARIAN, reported that the library is bursting at the seams and that loose-leaf binders are needed (2" to 3" preferred) so that this very helpful data can be better organized for our individual member's use.

The next GENERAL MEETING (June) will consist primarily of a SWAP MEET in which there should be some very worthwhile hardware and software. The DISK LIBRARY will also be open.

UGOC HALL OF FAME

by Bill Nelson

This month's Hall of fame selection is Mr. Jim Swedlow. Jim has been with our club since August of 1984. Ever since joining he has helped in one form or another making us better. If you like our library thank Jim, he is the one who organized and cataloged it. The last two years he has been our club president, and a very fine one at that. That's just some of what he has for our club.

Writing for the ROM is something many persons in the club do. Jim; however, has written and then been picked up by so many other club newsletters I'm sure even he does not know who all reprints his columns. TI Bits gives us all valuable tips on our little machine. Have you ever configured FUNNELWEB? With the docs supplied with the program it's very difficult, Jim helped us all with configuration instructions that were printed in Micropendium October of 1988 and updates have been done as the new releases to FUNNELWEB have come out.

We also have seen the fairware program Sideprint released by Jim. This program allows us to print those extra wide pages, such as those needed with Multi-plan, in a large single sheet with out having to tape them together.

Needless to say I've only slightly covered some of the accomplishments of Mister Swedlow. Oh by the way, we had to wait till he got out of office before

we could give him this award, he kept vetoing his nomination.

Thank you again Jim for all of your support. People like you make having our orphan so much more fun.

UGOC HALL OF FAME REPLIES

Sorry, during the last month we didn't receive any a responses from Hall of Fame inductees watch for replies next month.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

by Bill Nelson

Our membership is currently fifty-nine. Six members are currently over ninety days in arrears; however, as the new Membership Chairmen, we, has just gotten under, I want to carry these names one more month. One member is currently ninety days in arrears. Two members are currently sixty days in arrears. Six members are currently thirty days in arrears. Three members memberships are currently due. One member informed me that he was moving and would not renew his membership. We'll miss you Tom King.

A new policy has been started for members needing to renew their membership. Letters have been sent to all the above and after a week or two, if I haven't heard from you, I will call. Because this is a new policy, carrying members over ninety days is necessary to fully implement the program. Hopefully our attrition will stop.

At the last meeting many of you present identified that you never received your membership certificate, they are ready and will be at the next meeting. If you also fit in this category, please contact me.

We acquired one new member during the month. Welcome to the club Ralph Metz.

Our club library has a large number of excellent programs now available so please patronize it if at all possible.

Are you receiving the ROM at your home? If not and you would like to, the ROM is sent to all members of the club, join us. To do so send \$20.00 (the first years membership) to:

Users Group of Orange County
Membership Chairmen
Bill Nelson
11692 Puryear Lane
Garden Grove, CA 92640

For more information, contact me on GENIE: B.NELSON7

AND SO FORTH #49
By Earl Raguse

MORE STRING WORDS

Last time I left off with Screens #40 and #48, expecting to do #49 thru #51 next time. Now I find I can only do Screen #49 this time. That was not the way I had originally planned it, I thought I could do all the rest of the screens this time, but I just got too verbose, so Screens #50 and #51 will have to wait until next month.

One of the reasons, that I did not present all of the screens the first time was supposedly lack of space, but actually I was stalling for time to work on them some more. That's no longer the real reason for this delay, some words just take too much discussion. So lets get to it.

On Screen #49, line 1. I load Screen #48 to give you something to look at while the other screens are loading. The `O CLOAD TT&` just checks to see if the words from this set of screens are already in the vocabulary, and if so, they are not reloaded. I would like it better if `CLOAD` let you print some sort of message if they were already loaded, or returned you to the `DIReCTory`, but so far as I know, it doesn't. The rest of the line just loads Screen #48, if `CLOAD` doesn't fail.

Lines 2 and 3 create variables `POS`, `LA`, `LB` for the indicated purpose. To use any string words, one needs to provide an address. The easiest way to do that is to create a variable as above, but allot more space. For example,

```
# VARIABLE A$ 64 ALLOT
```

This creates a name (address) of a place, `A$`, to hold a string.

Line 4, `NIP` is a handy word from Forth 83 and is rather obvious.

Line 5, `2DUP` has been discussed many times, and is part of my Stack Manipulator Screen, but since we don't need to `LOAD` all of the extended stack manipulators (see `ASF #27 Feb 88 ROM`), I just defined this one. If we had infinite memory, we could load all sorts of useful words, but unfortunately we must be careful.

`LEN$ (a - n)`, line 6, expects a string address on the stack, and leaves the character count on the stack. `LEN$` uses a `DO LOOP` to find the length of a string, given its address. It checks each character starting from the first, `DUP I + C@ 32 < IF I LEAVE THEN`, to see if its code is less than 32, ie less than ASCII 32. Space character, such as ASCII 13, the `ENTER (CR)` character. If it finds one, `I LEAVE`, leaves the count `I` on the stack.

Since `GET$`, line 9, below normally is ended with `ENTER (ASCII 13)`, this is an easy way to find the end of such a string. The `LOOP` index `I`, is a count of the string length, and is stored in `LA` and left on the stack, by `DUP LA !`. Here is where I get to use `NIP` to get rid of the unused address one down in the stack at the end of the loop. The reason the length count is also put in `LA`, is that some subsequent words need multiple access to the count.

`GET$ (a -)`, on line 9, expects an address on the stack, and will get a string from the keyboard and put it at the address specified. This is a much simpler word than my old `GSTR$`. All it does is to clear the specified address with `64 BLANKS`, and `EXPECT` up to `64` characters from the keyboard. I used to go completely around the barn using `WORD` and getting the string temporarily in `PAD` before moving it to the target address. Its only saving grace was that it worked fine. Strange how one can get such tunnel vision that the simple solution evades one.

`PACK$ (a -)`, Line 12, may be used to create a `PACKED` (counted) string from the one acquired by `GET$`. What `PACK$` does, is to use `LEN$` to find the character count, (also puts it in `LA`) and then moves the string temporarily to the `PAD`, then moves the string back from `PAD` to the original address plus one. Then stores the count in the first byte.

I can hear somebody saying, "Why didn't you just move the string to the right one place instead of going around the moon to `PAD` and back". The problem lies with `CMOVE`, or rather what it must deal with. If we move the first byte of a string to an address within the length of the string, we will overwrite part of the string before we have copied it. That happens with screens too. I had to write a new `SMOVE` to handle that.

There are two touted ways to deal with this problem, 1) use an intermediate address, as I have done, or 2) rewrite `CMOVE` such that it copies from the right end first. This is done by a word called `CMOVE>`. I don't use it because it is less obvious, but it may be slightly faster overall, of course, it doesn't work if you are moving text to the left.

C U next time, MAY the Forth be with U.

```
SCR #49
0 ( STRING WORDS #1 EGR 3/20/90 )
1 48 LOAD 0 CLOAD TT& 40 LOAD
2 0 VARIABLE POS \ to store POSition
3 0 VARIABLE LA 0 VARIABLE LB \ to store leng a and b
4 : NIP SWAP DROP ; \ drop second on stack
5 : 2DUP OVER OVER ; \ double dip DUP
6 : LEN$ ( a - n ) 64 0 DO DUP I + \ leaves length
7 C@ 32 < IF I LEAVE THEN \ of the string @ a
8 LOOP NIP DUP LA ! ; \ on stack and in LA
9 : GET$ ( a - ) \ addr to store string
10 DUP 64 BLANKS \ clear the addr
11 64 EXPECT ; \ get the string at addr
12 : PACK$ ( a - ) DUP DUP \ strg addr 3 times
13 LEN$ PAD SWAP CMOVE \ temporarily move to PAD
14 1+ PAD SWAP LA @ CMOVE \ then back to a+1 and put
15 LA @ SWAP C! ; --> \ length in first byte
```

TI BITS * Number 31

By Jim Swedlow

FUNNELWEB 4.30 RELEASED

Funnelweb version 4.30 is out. The support for 80 column display is vastly improved. For the rest of us, the changes are minor.

First, you can configure Funnelweb to have one of three functions appear first when you load with Editor Assembler: Funnelweb, your User List or Disk Review.

Second, the name of the file for the Disk Utilities User List has been changed from DS to D1. This is because the 80 column version of Disk Review now requires two files. DR and DS.

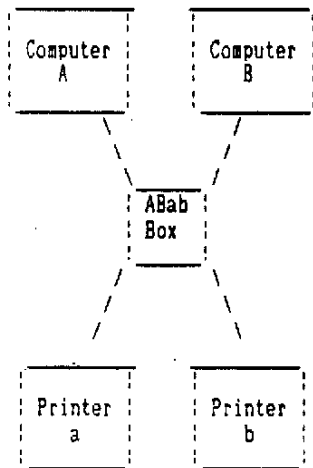
SYSCON files are fully compatible between versions 4.30 and 4.2x.

Upgrade is recommended if you have an 80 column card or if you are using version 4.1x or lower. Otherwise, wait for version 4.31!

MULTIPLE PRINTERS AND COMPUTERS

Over time you tend to collect lots of stuff. I have two operating computers and four printers. I wanted to set up two printers -- one for regular paper and one for labels (I do lots of labels).

The first thing I found was a ABab switch box. It works something like this:



The box has four standard, 36 wire centronics plugs on the back and a switch with two positions on the front. In one position (AaBb) computer A is attached to printer a and computer B to printer b. In the other (AbBa) computer A is attached to printer b and computer B to printer a. I found a box for under \$25.

You have to buy two more cables with centronics connectors on both ends. Luckily, these can be found for under \$10 each if you shop around.

No problem, or so I thought. I hooked everything up and it didn't work. The problem came because standards change. If you look in your RS232 book, it tells you to use pin 16 on the centronics side for the ground. All of my printers accept this as a ground. Unfortunately the cables are not 36 wire -- they just use the common wires and 16 is no longer used as a ground in the IBM world.

Out came my handy soldering iron. I switched a wire from a pin that the TI does not use to pin 16 on both ends. Now everything works like a dream.

It is a joy not to have to unload paper and load labels and then reverse the procedure. Net cost was about \$35.

TI IN ENGLAND

Received a letter from Stephen Shaw, who is the Disk Librarian and VP of the TI 99/4A User Group in the United Kingdom (TIUGUK). He had some interesting things to say:

"TIUGUK is now into its 8th year. Back in 83, JUST before the plug was pulled, TI insisted that the amateur TI HOME group should pass to a commercial organization. Membership was then 4,000 and rising and getting a little heavy to handle on a non commercial basis. Then TI pulled the plug and there was no user group. And we could not get the mailing list. So we managed perhaps 400 members by the end of 83. A small local group in Brighton became the default national group and started from there, presently declined to about 140 odd, which is just about sustainable."

"[Our] annual meet [was] held at Chester Northgate Arena on Saturday, May 26th, 1990. The annual meet again confirmed the strong support of the 4A in the UK by a small handful of users."

"With a membership of between 140 and 170, scattered over the UK and with several living aboard, the meet was visited by maybe 50 odd members, who came together to elect group officials for the year and to see the latest in software and hardware."

"One unexpanded owner went away the proud owner of a mini memory, a stand alone 32k ram, a full Editor Assembler pack (for only five pounds) and the rare Miner 2049er sideways module. Your scribe picked up a Munchman II module to add to the collection. There was even the excellent SuperSketch peripheral on

sale! And lots of spare bits and cables and so on."

"One display item was a photograph of young George Shaw (present with his favorite teddy bear Matthew) measuring two inches by two inches, and two printouts produced on a 4A, based on the photos, one measuring 7/8" by 5/8" and the other 8" by 8". These represent an interesting beta test of a possible new service for TI owners which may be offered by a famous US based owner (who at present wishes anonymity) - the photograph was scanned on a PC and cleaned up using Paintbrush (in particular the background was removed). Then the PC picture was translated to MacPaint format and transferred to the TI via RS232. From here it could be printed with MacFlix or PixPro and in fact was translated from MacPaint format to TI Artist format using PixPro."

"The TI Artist pictures was then printed as the 8" x 8" pictures using Smartcopy by Alexander Hulpke. The smaller picture was made by using SQUEEZER to reduce the TI Artist picture to quarter size. SQUEEZER provides a choice of four densities and is the only really usable reducer for pictures. The small TI Artist pic was printed using Artist Photographic Vn 2, supplied with Harry Brashers Home Publishing on the 4A, Supplement #3. It is to be noted that while the TI programs could reproduce the scanned photo in the correct aspect ratios, the PC could not -- the two computers being used together was a result better than either could do on their own!"

"Our newsletter is 60 pages or longer. On average each issues of TI*MES occupies about 400 sectors, unarchived."

"I continue to spend my computing time writing, trying to establish (and maintain!) order in a very large disk collection and playing with fractal graphics (very time consuming). My chosen language now is THE MISSING LINK. Fractals are very slow of course and I do look forward to seeing the Graphics extension to Turbo Pace 99 should they ever come out. However, unlike TML, they will not have TI Artist file computability built in."

"Still get lots of pleasure from the machine and have very many more years of exploration to do, at least until the day comes when it breaks down irreparably!"

Best wishes,

Stephen Shaw

Enjoy!

THE JOYS OF BELONGING by Stan Corbin

About 7 years ago I looked into the UGOC to see what it was all about. After attending a couple of meetings and having received some help from Noel Hummel - then president of the club, I decided to join. Though I was like many others, shy and reticent, and fearful of asking questions during the meetings, I have slowly evolved. Now I realize there are others who are fearful that someone will think they are asking a stupid question. I've got news for them, they'd be stupid for not asking. The main thrust of the club is to help each other. How can one be helped, if no one knows their problem. Some years ago I solicited the help of Newt Armstrong, to teach me programming. Over the years we have progressed from programming to scrounging the thrift stores and such, for bargains. We both now have our houses and garages full of bargains. My association with Newt has led to my being more outgoing and less reticent. I have even gotten up the nerve (with Newt's encouragement), to do some demonstrations before the club. It takes a lot of guts! I am now fortunately, able to help others, as others have helped me.

There are so many knowledgeable people in the club, such as Bob August, Newt Armstrong, Earl Raguse and Adrian Robinson in programming. Siles Bazerman, Ken Hamai and Jerry Rash in hardware. Commercial program authors, Roger Merritt, Jim Swedlow and Bill Harms. I have found there is an abundance of wonderful people in the TI community. Some are no more computer knowledgeable than myself, however they provide such interesting conversations that it is such a pleasure to go to the meetings just to engage them in conversation. They consist of engineers, teachers, ex-politicians, writers etc., from all walks of life. Where else could one find so many intelligent associates.

Another of life's pleasures in the UGOC community is the UGOC bulletin board operated by Ben Hatheway. Ben has initiated so many exquisite features into the UGOC BBS system that if it isn't the best it certainly is one of the best. If you should need help on the board, Ben, can very succinctly explain, so you will understand.

Knut Erslund maintains the UGOC disk library at his home and it is usually open the next two meetings following the general meeting. His phone number in Fountain Valley is listed on the front of the ROM to allow you to call him.

The "paper" library - a collection of newsletters from around the world is

maintained by Earl Raguse, at his home in Huntington Beach. This library, which is under-used for some unknown reason, contains a wealth of information on the TI 99/4A. There are hardware articles, software articles, reviews and evaluations. Everything you always wanted to know but, were afraid to ask. Just give Earl a call, and arrange to see the library, you'll be glad you did.

These are some of the reasons belonging to the Users Group of Orange County is such a satisfying pleasure.

I'm looking forward to meeting you!

NEWSLETTER TIDBITS By Earl Raguse

The following item was found in the May 9th, Rocky Mountain TIC TOC, they credit the Nutmeg TI-99ers UG. It was also in the June 9th, newsletter of the Southwest Ninety-Niners who, got it from the West Penn newsletter. Neither gives an author. I haven't taken the time to hack-research it, but here it is.

REWARD OFFERED

A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Hopalong Capacity. This unrectified criminal escaped from a Weston Primary Cell where he had been clamped in ions awaiting the Gauss chamber.

He is charged with the induction of an 18-turn coil named Milli Henry, who was found choked and robbed of valuable Joules. He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving a DC motor over a Wheatstone Bridge and refusing to let the band pass.

If encountered he may offer series resistance. The electromotive force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where he had gone to earth. They had no success and believe he returned Ohm via a short circuit. He was last seen riding a kilocycle with his friend Eddy Current, who was playing a harmonic.

GRAPHIC SIG by Bill Nelson

Last month the demonstration was supposed to be on Form Shop, but my wife had other plans. It seems I forgot about my daughters dance recital. Shame on me, the SIG had to be canceled. Form shop will however be demoed at the regular club meeting. Follow up help will come at the SIG for special applications. See you then.

DIPS and CHIPS by Siles Bazerman

I know, I haven't been writing anything for the last few months, but here we go again. My excuse is twofold. First, I have been involved in several non-computer projects. (Yes, I have a life apart from the TI.) And, second, I haven't had much to say.

I have run out of topics about word processing so if you have any questions, or things you want explained further let me know. I will try to answer them.

I must second Jim's statements about FUNNELWEB 4.30. However, in order to take full advantage of its power, you must have the full 196k of VDP memory. If you have any open sockets on your AVPC or MEGATRONICS cards then all the features will not work. This is the reason the stock GENIEVE will not do all the 4A with 196k will. (4A>GENIEVE)

I have removed both BOOT and MENU from my RAM disk and now run with DR immediate configuration. This loads about 2 seconds slower from RAM than FW immediate, but gives you more flexibility. I don't want to go into more detail now, but will be happy to talk to you in person.

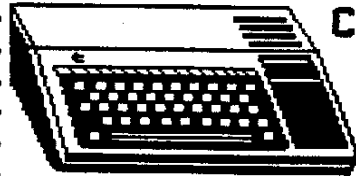
Also new, and great, is SPELL_IT! from ASCARD. I obtained mine through COMPROLINE and it has lived up to expectation. It comes with a configure program that lets you put in anywhere, in any drive, on RAM or Harddisk. I gave up on DRAGONSLAYER a long time ago due to its slowness, even from RAM. SPELL_IT! is not limited as to the size of the file it can check and runs FAST.

I checked a 106 sector file in four minutes 17 seconds, or faster than DRAGONSLAYER could read the file. I will give you further info and comparisons as time and space allow.

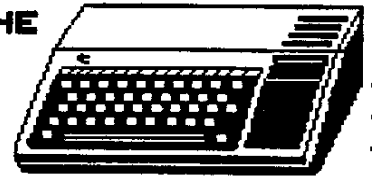
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Fest West 91



COME HELP US CELEBRATE THE
TI-99/4A'S 10TH YEAR
ANNIVERSARY



UGOC in association with the
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FEST WEST 91

THE HAPPIEST FEST ON EARTH

Across the street from Disneyland PLUS many more attractions in the area for the wife/husband and kids to enjoy while you meet inter-nationally renowned TI entrepreneurs, enthusiasts, and innovators.



PLAN YOUR THREE DAY WEEKEND NOW!

FEST DATES ARE FEB 16 & 17, 1991



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Ramada Main Gate, Anaheim
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Only 50 rooms available at this rate.
Make Reservations early.

Travel Arrangements may be made by contacting
Ruth Dickey, Travel concepts. (714) 778-5459

Stay tuned for future announcements on this
BBS, the UGOC BBS (714) 751-4332 or write to:

Fest West 91 Committee
C/O Bill Nelson
11692 Puryear Lane
Garden Grove, CA 92640



FEST WEST 91