

The Sierra Chest



The Sierra Chest Newsletter: Issue 7, October 2011

The Sierra Chest turns 3!

Sierra Chest Newsletter #7?! Where are the other 6? Well, unlike Larry 4 of which the floppies were eaten by Al Lowe's dog (or at least so he says sometimes), the first six newsletters do exist (highly collectable, of course... lol). It's just been a while since I made them. After number 6, which was released early January 2010, I simply decided to fully focus on site content and perhaps one day, continue with the newsletters when there was more stuff to present. Well, I guess now is that day, exactly on the third anniversary of the Sierra Chest! What are the odds!

But, let's start with the new stuff first! Since it's the Chest's anniversary, We've prepared a little surprise for you. You probably already noticed the picture on the right. Yep, that's right, Classic Sierra Hits, a downloadable CD with 28 classic Sierra hits, ranging from King's Quest to Gabriel Knight, from Phantasmagoria to Lighthouse, tracks from 1988 to 1999! The CD's front and back cover have been designed by artist Chris Ushko. Just go to the main page of the Sierra Chest site and you can download it, burn it on CD or keep it as mp3, whichever you like. Enjoy!



I can also announce that the Sierra Chest is about to have its brand new music player installed. Over 500 Sierra songs just a click away with many more to come! Our programmer, Britton, is fully working on it and it should be completed shortly! Britton and I are also currently designing Sierra Chest version 2.0. This means that the site will get a whole new look (instead of the 90-ies style it has now) but, more importantly, that site membership will finally be activated, as well as many new features, including online games, new forums and lots lots more. YES! Expected release date of this major upgrade: summer 2012.

So, let's see what else has all been done. Many many games have been added of course and, since the game page structure on the site has become more detailed, several of the games, which were inserted during the first year of the Chest's existence, have gotten considerably upgraded. The Sierra Chest also started working together with Eli's software Encyclopedia earlier this year. Eli is a major seller of classic Sierra games, as well as other publishers, on eBay and also has his own online store. For now Eli's store can be directly accessed through the Chest, but further development is planned where Sierra Chest visitors will be able to easily purchase genuine classic Sierra games through direct links on the game pages. We also established cooperation with YCBS.com (You Can't Be Seriously?), who from time to time publishes unboxing videos of classic Sierra games. In the mean while, many more Sierra alumni have joined the Sierra Chest Facebook profile, so feel free to join there as well, and we've started a Twitter account too.

Anyway, without further delay (and considering I'm reaching the bottom of the page here), enjoy the read!

Rudy

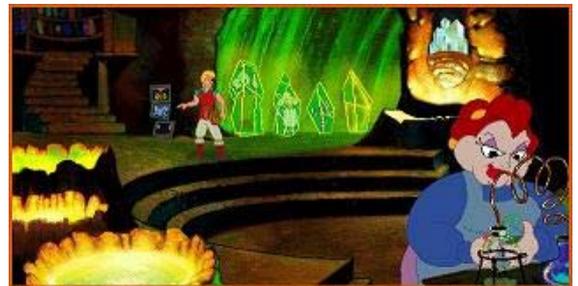
Sierra Chest admin



Completed games

Torin's Passage

In the Lands Above, on the planet Strata, a young man by the name Torin witnesses from afar how his parents are the victims of a magic spell. An old man, who saw the event from close by, tells Torin that his parents are kidnapped by an evil sorceress, Lycentia, who was expelled to the Lands Below many years ago. Determined to free his parents, Torin travels through the nested world of Strata through the use of Phenocrysts, meeting many interesting characters on the way, such as the snails Slim and Slime, the inhabitants of Escarpa, and the beautiful Leenah with whom Torin falls in love. Torin also has his loyal sidekick, Boogle. Boogle is a shape-shifting creature who can take forms of any item he encounters, and is therefore, in addition to a loyal friend, crucial for Torin to accomplish his adventure. What Torin however does not know, is that he is in fact the son of the king and queen of the Lands Above. His parents were viciously murdered shortly after his birth and Lycentia was in fact his nanny who saved Torin from death. Why was she banned from the Lands Above, why did she kidnap Torin's foster parents, and who was the old man who witnessed it?



3-D Ultra Radio Control Racers

Little cars, huge fun! Select one of four car models, upgrade it and paint it to your desire. Then head for the eight hilarious tracks and make your opponents eat your dust! But beware, objects in the mirror are closer than they appear, so you just might get eaten by the dog! Play some practice rounds against the computer, against a friend in split-screen or go full career against 15 opponents and earn money on a circuit! Jump over the baby pool in the backyard, dodge a sea monster on the mini-golf track, or swirl between the tombs of a haunted graveyard! Catch a lot of air with the buggy or push your opponents off the road with the heavy Monster Truck. And if that isn't enough yet, why not power-up the cars with firecrackers, bottle rockets, electro shocks and other gadgets for some real insane action? The possibilities are endless in this addictive racing game of Dynamix' 3-D Ultra series.

Radio Control Racers, designed by Richard Tunnell and directed by Randy Thompson, was later re-released in the expanded RC Racers Deluxe: Traxxas Edition, featuring more tracks and additional mini-games.





Police Quest II: The Vengeance

One year has passed since Detective Sonny Bonds successfully brought Jessie Bains to justice in [Police Quest 1: In Pursuit of the Death Angel](#). Bains' world of rampant drugs and open violence has been silenced. As the memory of this animal slowly fades, the city of Lytton once again lives in peace and serenity. But Bains has plans on his own... Using a makeshift knife, he overwhelms a correctional officer and escapes the prison with his hostage. Sonny, who has been promoted to homicide detective, is immediately put into action to find the criminal back. It doesn't take long for Bains to kill the prison guard and dispose his body in the river. At the same time he now has a revolver and stole another car to try and erase his tracks. Fleeing is however not Jessie Bains' only plan - he wants revenge on those who put him in jail. As Sonny follows leads and finds the bodies of murdered key witnesses, he realizes the Death Angel is closing in on him. In addition, Marie, his high school love, gets kidnapped by Bains. Along the tracks, Sonny also has to deal with other criminals, such as a mugger in a park and even terrorists on an airplane! Will Sonny be able to free Marie and take the Death Angel down once and for all, or will he be the next target himself?



Phantasmagoria 2: A Puzzle of Flesh

A year after being released from the mental hospital, Curtis Craig works at Wyntech, a pharmaceutical company where his late father used to work. He has been able to build a somewhat normal life, owning an apartment, having an open relationship with the attractive co-worker Jocilyn, good friendship with the openly homosexual Trevor, and cherishing his pet rat, Blob. One day, Curtis starts having hallucinations about his mother having committed suicide by hanging and begins experiencing things which aren't actually there. As a result, Curtis is beginning to question his own sanity. Then the gruesome murders begin... The first victim is the jerk among the employees, someone which Curtis considered murdering himself, but did he? Who is that obscure bloodied man only Curtis seems to notice on the crime scene and where does that mysterious voice come from that keeps haunting him? As the hallucinations become more frequent and gruesome, and Curtis becomes the prime suspect of the killings, he decides to seek counseling with psychologist Dr. Harburg. As the sessions progress, Curtis discovers he is not who he always thought he was.

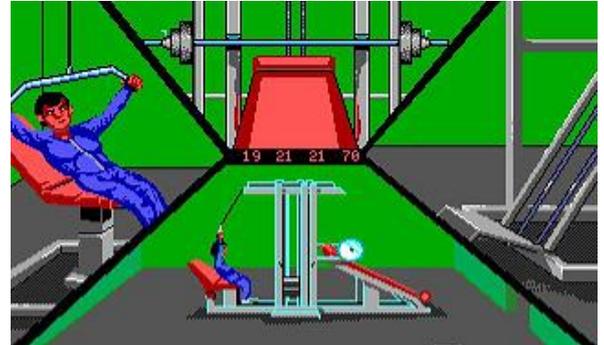




Leisure Suit Larry III: Passionate Patti in Pursuit of the Pulsating Pectorals

After having saved Nontoonyt island from the evil Dr Nonooke, becoming the local hero of the tribal inhabitants and marrying the beautiful Kalalau in [Leisure Suit Larry 2](#), the island has evolved into a tourist trap with hotels, health spas and casinos. One day when Larry comes home, Kalalau announces she has arranged a divorce from him. In addition, Larry loses his job at Natives Inc, managed by Kalalau's father, chief Kennywawa. Larry decides to become the good old swinger again. This time however, he will improve his chances at the ladies by bulking up completely, so watch out, ladies, the incredible dork is on the hunt!

First Larry meets the beautiful blonde, Tawni, on the beach. Her hunger for souvenirs and buying fever are easily bypassed with Larry's worthless credit card. It will take more wits to get some action from the dancer Cherri Tart and lawyer Suzi Cheatem though. And then there's still of course Bambi, the aerobics teacher in Fat City who'd do anything to sell her video tape. The ultimate babe however is the piano lounge player, Passionate Patti. Once they spend the night together, it is pure love. Unfortunately Patti made one big mistake - she murmured the name of another man... When Patti discovers that Larry has left, she goes for a search for the man of her life. The first Larry game where you play two characters!



Rama

Four years ago a gigantic cylindrical spaceship of unknown origin was discovered, hurtling towards our sun. The International Space Agency decided to launch an expedition to explore this enigmatic messenger from another world. Twelve carefully selected astronauts trained for years for this rendezvous with the alien ship, named Rama. Two days ago, after the crew had completed its initial sortie into the dark and hollow interior of Rama, astronaut-commander Valeriy Borzov mysteriously died, following a routine medical procedure. You are to replace Borzov. The mission commander, Dr. David Brown, will give you specific assignments, but your general mission is straightforward - explore Rama. Discover as much as you can about the origin and purpose of this intruder from the stars.

Rama consists of two main areas: the vast Central Plains, where biots (biological robots) fulfill their work duties, and New York, an enormous mechanical city where the Ramans and Octospiders reside. Unfortunately, during your exploring of the Central Plains, a tragedy occurs. Some crew members tried to capture a dangerous crab biot with a helicopter for analysis on earth. The hunt fails and someone is killed. Moments later, Rama makes a course correction, direction earth!.





King's Quest VII: The Princeless Bride

As they are walking together, Queen Valanice is lecturing her daughter, princess Rosella, about marriage. Rosella prefers dreaming of adventure rather than marriage. While listening to this lecture, Rosella sits down next to a pond and sees a beautiful castle in the water. Rosella jumps in, determined to find the castle. Valanice jumps into the pool after her and they both find themselves in a whirlwind of colors, spiraling down. Just before they can reach other, a troll's arm pops out from the side and pulls Rosella out of the whirlwind. Valanice lands in a desert in the land of Eldritch, while Rosella finds herself transformed into a troll and engaged to be married to the King of the Trolls. As the two characters attempt to find each other, they discover that all of Eldritch is in danger. The evil fairy Malicia has attacked or imprisoned the leaders of the different kingdoms of Eldritch, and plots to destroy the land by blowing up the volcano.



Other inserted or upgraded game pages over the past year

- Laura Bow: The Colonel's Bequest
- Space Quest III: The Pirates of Pestulon
- King's Quest VI
- King's Quest V
- King's Quest IV
- King's Quest III
- King's Quest II
- Conquests of Camelot: The Search for the Grail
- Gabriel Knight 2: The Beast Within
- Police Quest 1 (AGI) In Pursuit of the Death Angel
- Space Quest II: Vohaul's Revenge
- SWAT 4
- King's Quest 1 (AGI): The Quest for the Crown
- Ecoquest: The Search for Cetus
- Leisure Suit Larry II: Looking for Love (in Several Wrong Places)
- Leisure Suit Larry 1 (AGI): In the Land of the Lounge Lizards
- Gabriel Knight: Sins of the Fathers
- Oil's Well
- The Black Cauldron
- Space Quest I (AGI): The Sarien Encounter

Aaaand... that's it, I think. Lots more to come of course ☺





More to come

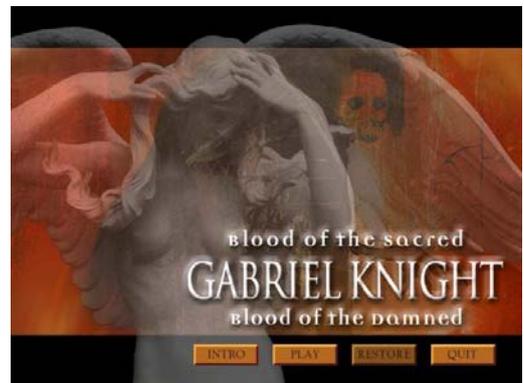
Lords of the Realm II upgrade

The year is 1268. The king of England is dead and now 5 rulers want to claim the throne. You are one of those rulers. In this turn-based strategy game with real-time combat, made by Impressions, you have to manage and conquer counties, feed your people, raise armies and build castles, use diplomacy, raise taxes and sometimes deal with plague and other hazards, while conquering the entire land and claim the throne.



Gabriel Knight III upgrade

Gabriel, who has taken on the job of a Schattenjager full-time, is hired by Prince James of Albany to protect his infant son, Charlie, from a group of vampires called "The Night Visitors". Charlie however is kidnapped, but Gabriel follows the kidnappers to a train where he is knocked out, waking up at the Couiza station and making his way to Rennes-le-Chateau where he begins to investigate the area and tour-group staying at the Rennes Hotel.



November: Quest for Glory month!

Too long have I delayed this. Three years and not a single Quest for Glory game has been covered yet in the Sierra Chest. Shame on me... Time to make up for that, so entire November will be dedicated to the Quest for Glory series!

Quest for Glory 1: So You Want to Be a Hero? The town of Spielberg is surrounded by forests and mountains, where all kinds of weird creatures dwell. The town has everything it needs, even a Thieves Guild, except a strong, brave hero that would protect it. Are you interested? Develop your skills as a fighter, a mage, or a thief. The choice of class will influence many events in the game.

And we expand the horizons in the game's sequels:

- Quest for Glory II: Trial by Fire
- Quest for Glory III: Wages of War
- Quest for Glory IV: Shadows of Darkness

That's going to be one busy month!



The Sierra Chest



Sierra fan-made games and other projects

[The Silver Lining](#)

Since the release of Episode 1 of The Silver Lining May last year, the people at Phoenix On-Line Studios have been working non-stop to bring the next couple of episodes to the fans. In the mean while they have also released:

Episode 2: Two Households

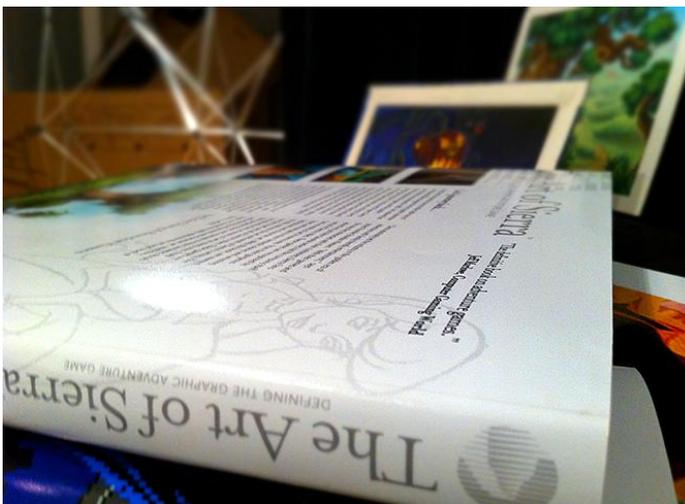
Episode 3: My Only Love Sprung from my Only Hate

And, yes, "Episode 4: 'T Is in my Memory Locked and You Yourself Shall Hold the Key of It" is just around the corner! So, keep an eye out on their website, folks! If you haven't tried the Silver Lining yet, then you're missing out on a great game, for free and endorsed by Roberta Williams herself!



[The Art of Sierra](#)

By now you have probably all heard about the Art of Sierra project by Eriq Chang and Brandon Klassen. Eriq and Brandon have in the past shown lots of material and glimpses inside the book which will cover Sierra's graphic history in the utmost detail. From the information we have received, there are also lots of interviews, both of Sierra alumni and dedicated fans, and Sierra history in it and who knows what more treasures will be covered in it. Although it has been a while since the latest update on the project, I had a recent chat with Eriq who assured me that the project is definitely still going on. They are very occupied with work but we can expect to see updates in a matter of months. Personally, I can't wait to find out more about it and obtain a copy of that book!





Odd Manor

From Ken Williams

Dear Friends,

Some time back I mentioned to you that Roberta and I are involved with our first game project since leaving Sierra. Our son, Chris, is the lead engineer on the project and Roberta has lent some of her design wisdom to the creative team at KingX Studios. We are pleased to announce that the game is now live and available for free on Facebook and Wild Tangent. I invite you to take a little time out of your day to play Odd Manor. We appreciate your support of this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Ken

Facebook: [Oddmanor](#)



In memoriam...

Unfortunately some Sierra alumni and people related to Sierra have passed away recently. We would like to express our deepest condolences to their family and friends. To us, fans, their memory lives on forever through the immortal games they helped create.

Carlos Escobar (1962-2011)

Carlos programmed many Sierra titles, ranging from Codename: Iceman to Roberta Williams' Phantasmagoria. He was also Al Lowe's right hand, programming several of the Leisure Suit Larry games as well as Freddy Pharkas Frontier Pharmacist.



Takeshi Miyaji (1965-2011)

Takeshi was, at the age of 19, co-founder of the Japanese company Game Arts, which developed titles such as Silpheed, Thexder and Zeliard, published in the USA through Sierra On-Line.



Douglas Wheeler (1927-2011)

Douglas, a 1945 Navy veteran, worked in the quality assurance department of Sierra throughout the nineties, testing games ranging from Ecoquest all the way to Quest for Glory V and SWAT 2.

