

**Southwest
Ninety-Niners
Newsletter**
contributed by
- Tom Wills -
compliments of



**TI99ers
On-Line
User Group**

www.ti99ers.org

MARCH 1986

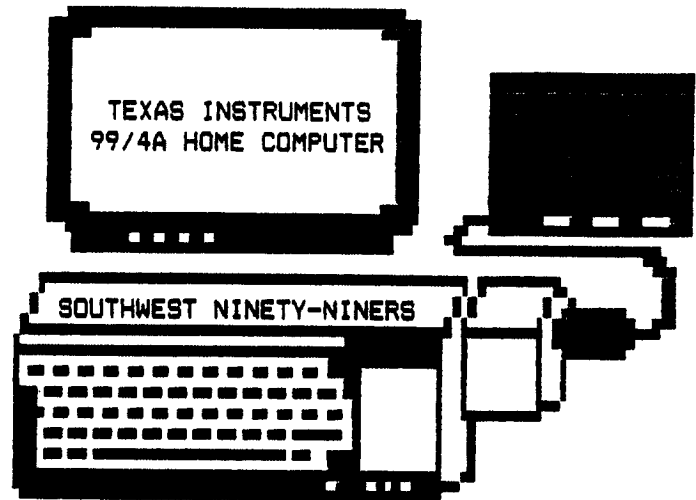
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Officers

John McCleary - President
Ed Hallett - Vice President
Wesley Eng - Secretary
BJ Mathis - Treasurer

Newsletter

John McCleary - Editor
BJ Mathis - Assoc. Editor



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ATTENTION MEMBERS
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NEXT MEETING: March 4, 1986 at 7:30pm. Location-Tucson Fire Department Training Center on Ajo Way just west of Park.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER
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At the last meeting we took the names of those interested in participating in Special Interest Groups. At this point we are looking to establish three separate SIG's 1) a basic group which would offer members a chance to better understand the TI and would then move to basic programming 2) Forth & Assembly language for those who really want to know more about these powerful programming tools 3) TI Writer & Multiplan for people interested in using th TI as a word processor and spread sheet tool. What has yet to be decided is how to handle the meetings of these groups. One way is to meet following our regular meeting each month at the Training center another is to meet at some other time during the month at someone's home for each of the SIG's. Since many people expressed interest in more than one SIG the latter approach would appear to be the best. We will decide when and where to meet for each of the SIG's at our March meeting. Hope to see you there.

John McCleary
296-8198

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NEW AQUISITION

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We recently came across an excellent opportunity for our Users Group to obtain an expanded system. The group now owns an Expansion Box w/RS232, 32K Memory, Double-Sided Full Height Disk Drive, and TI Disk Controller. We also added several books and '99er Magazines to the Group library.

This system came with a lot of extras which therefore increased the price we had to pay. We are offering to our members the chance to buy any of these items at less than the current lowest price on the market. If you are interested please contact me (BJ Mathis). I will need to know which items you are interested in purchasing, and what you are willing to pay. After we have given everyone in the group a chance to respond, we will contact the person with the highest bid, if he is no longer interested we will move on down the list. All items have a minimum bid of 50% of the prices listed here. Ed Hallett will be manning the phone at our home this weekend, as Jack and I will be in LA. You can leave a message with him or call John (296-8198). The list of items follows. I have included the current lowest price each rounded to the nearest dollar (shipping is not included in the price.) to give you an idea what they are worth new.

MODULES

\$7	1ea. Return To Pirates Isle	\$3	2ea. Household Budget Mgmt.
\$7	1ea. Yahtzee	\$5	2ea. Home Financial Decisions
\$5	1ea. Football	\$5	2ea. Personal Record Keeping
\$3	1ea. The Attack	\$5	1ea. Personal Real Estate
\$4	1ea. Adventure (Cassette)	\$5	1ea. Personal Report Generator
\$3	1ea. Munchman	\$10	1ea. Terminal Emulator II
\$50	1ea. Extended Basic	\$30	1ea. Microsoft Multiplan
\$30	1ea. TI-Writer	\$20	1ea. Editor
\$39	1ea. Mini Memory w/Line by Line Assembler		

HARDWARE

\$80 2ea. TI-99/4A Consoles

\$60 1ea. Stand Alone Disk Box w/Power Supply (Computer Peripheral Resources tm)

\$40 1ea. Speech Synthesizer

\$200 1ea. TI Color Monitor PHA 4100

\$90 1ea. Zenith Monochrome Monitor, Amber

\$75 1ea. Signalman Mark III Modem

\$337 1ea. TEC Pro-Writer Printer (price listed is original purchase price)

Note: If you think some of these items should be placed in the Group library for check out please let us know.

BJ Mathis * 747-5046

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Bytes & Jots

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On March 1st and 2nd Los Angeles Users Group is hosting a '99 FEST-WEST '86. There will be speakers from many of the companies now developing software and hardware that is TI-99/4A compatible. Several of our members are on their way to this event or have already arrived even as you read this. We will have a report at the next meeting and in the next newsletter.

I recently read a newsletter that suggested that Myarc's 128K Ram disk might not work with a Gemini printer. Well, Ed has the upgraded version a Myarc 512K Ram disk and a Gemini SG-10. He found that the CorComp RS232 was incompatible with the printer buffer portion of the Ram Disk. Once he traded that for a TI RS232 he had no problem with the 512K card.

Ed got his GramCracker a couple weeks ago, but he is in the process of moving and hasn't had much chance to work with it. He said he'll demonstrate it sometime soon at a meeting but probably not at the March meeting.

Ed, also, received a Forti Music card this week. It is a card that goes into the PEB. It has 12 voices and three percussions, it uses Forth as an operating code and outputs to two or four channel stereo. Ed borrowed a friend's mini stereo to try it out on, and we all listened to it. Didn't seem possible for the TI-99/4A to be putting out that kind of sounds but it did. Since we don't have the proper type of system readily available the demonstration of the music card will probably have to wait until Ed gets settled, also.

We have received several new Freeware programs including BA-Writer (better than TI-Writer, but you still need TI-Writer manual), Sprite Builder, and several Utilities Disks that I haven't had a chance to check out.

BJ * 747-5046

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TI-WRITER

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Published by Bayou Byte - February 1986
Hint By Dave Renkenberger - Wabash, IN of Miami County Area 99/4A HCUG

There is a way to see what your document will look like after formatting without printing it. This may not seem like a very important thing until you try to print up a long document. In this case you will soon see that the page breaks are not always in good places. The margins may be too small or too large. The position of the page number is not right, etc. When using this method you can correct many problems without wasting so much paper.

- 1) Save Editor version of your document to disk.
- 2) Quit the Editor and load the Formatter.
- 3) Then load your document into the Formatter.
- 4) "Print" your document to disk instead of the printer. (Be sure to use a different name than the original document.)
- 5) Reload Editor, then load the new file created by Formatter.
- 6) You can now look at the file to see how Formatter will print it to the printer. You will see the margins, the page breaks, the .CE's will be centered, etc.
- 7) This will print from the Editor if you wish (using PF F10 but if editing is required, be careful! It is tricky.

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Data Base Comparisons
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By BJ Mathis

A Data Base is a program that can be used to store information. It can be used for inventory, mailing lists, stamp collections, membership lists, etc. At our February meeting we looked at the advantages and disadvantages of several different Data Base programs. We did not look at all the Data Base programs available for the TI-99/4A, but we covered quite a group. Following is a list of some of the features of each of the programs we looked at.

Personal Record Keeping is a module from TI that can be obtained for less the \$5 plus shipping. The features listed are directly available with the module. There are two other ways to access and use the information generated by PRK. One of them is TI's Personal Report Generator, the other is a program written by one of our members and his brother that is currently in our Group Library.

Advantages

Arithmetic options
Screen Display - fair
Search Options
Sort Options

Disadvantages

Number of records is limited by the amount of information you choose to put into each record. In order to change input fields or make mailing labels you have to use the other items listed above.

NAME-IT is available through mail order companies for about \$30. It loads from Extended Basic.

Advantages

Mailing labels
any field
available own files.
Columnar reports
pre-formatted or
a programmer can change
format within the program
Screen display fair
Sorts on any field

Disadvantages

Files may write over each other must use a Sorts on separate disk for each file (Can destroy its Cassette version
Slow sorting routine
Sort is not always accurate
Saves information in three item format causes constant delays in work
Arithmetic options not available
No search option
Does not really delete a file

CREATIVE FILING SYSTEMS is a Freeware program that loads from Extended Basic and is available through our Group library. The biggest disadvantage here was the screen display and the documentation seemed to indicate that it could only be printed one way other than as mailing labels.

Advantages

Makes use of 128K
Makes use of DSDD
Mailing labels
Sorts on any field
of records depends
on size of each record
files separately
Search option
Quick scroll available

Disadvantages

Screen display
Prints only one way besides mailing labels
Arithmetic options not available
Uses only the first two digits to sort on
Uses one disk per file
Must load each function of the program Can have sub

PRBASE is also Freeware available through our Group library. It is an Assembly Language Program. You must have Editor Assembler or Mini-Memory module and a disk drive.

Advantages

Set up your own screens
Set up your own report forms
Choose screen colors
Recognizes 2 disk drives
Sort on any field
Sort very fast
Search option fast
Quick scroll available
Help feature easily accessed
and easily understood

Disadvantages

Uses one disk per file
Difficult to set up report forms at first
Can only print up to 80 columns wide and
currently only prints 1 line for each record
Uses only SSSD allows up to 350 records per disk
Arithmetic options not available

Microsoft MULTIPLAN is a module original designed as a spread sheet, is available for about \$30 plus shipping. Both disk drive and at least 32K memory are required.

Advantages

Multiple Arithmetic functions
Sort quickly on any field
Records depends on # formulas
and info in records
Can use same disk for many
files
Can print as little as three
characters from any column
Can print as wide as your
printer will allow
Help feature
Choose screen colors

Disadvantages

Mailing labels possible but very tedious to
achieve
Special commands to printer difficult to
achieve
(These are much easier with a file Jack has
developed. Explained at a later meeting if
enough interest is expressed.)
Can be hard to set up formulas
Help feature not always helpful

If you would like further information on any of the above Data Base programs contact me, I will try to put you into contact with the right person to help you.

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MONEY FOR NOTHIN'

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From Mid-America Cursor - February 1986

As I'm sure you're all aware, the International Users Group filed for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy on June 14, 1985 and for several months the trustee of the Bankruptcy Court continued its operation, filling orders placed by former IUG members.

On October 24, an auction of the assets of the Iug was held to satisfy creditors demands, and discharge the former shareholders of the corporation of any future liability.

Several complete copies of the *public domain* programs in the former IUG library were sold to bidders wishing to own, resell, or distribute these programs.

LAFARA COMPUTING SERVICE has obtained a copy of these programs and, acting as a sole proprietorship, is offereing these programs for sale.

LCS will continue to offer for sale the majority of programs that were offered by the IUG Software Exchange Library. There are over 1500 program listings in the exchange catalog for the TI.

Ol' Charlie is selling these programs for a minimum of \$3 each either on disk or cassette or \$1.50 for a hardcopy listing. He's also selling an IUG Exchange Catalog for \$4.50 in case you've trashed yours.

I guess some people just never get the message. After the service he gave 99'ers a couple years ago, who does he think he can fool this time? Who's gonna buy this stuff anyway?

Charlie, may the sands of the Great Sahara infest your disk drives!

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BUYER'S GUIDE

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The following information is provided as a service to our members. The items listed are for sale by the individuals indicated and are subject to prior sale. The group assumes no responsibility for items listed and makes no claims as to their condition or interface capability with the TI-994A computer. Only computer related items will be accepted for publication in this newsletter.

Internal Disk Drive & External Disk Drive w/own power supply, Disk Manager II with documentation. All for \$225 Call John Karsh 883-1613

3 TI-99/4A Consoles (Missing 1 RF Modulator), 3 Cassette Cables, 1 Speech Synthesizer, pair of TI Joysticks, Video Chess, Munchman, Teach Yourself Basic, manuals and late edition catalogs. All for \$175. Call Ike Eigenbrod 294-1993.

15" Sharp Color TV (2yrs. old, like new) \$125, 2 TI-99/4A Consoles one \$40 the other \$35, Epson MX70 printer \$100, Paraprint 18A (plugs into side of console to communicate with parallel printers) \$50, Super Sketch (6 months old) \$25. Call Tim Walrath 623-0100(W) or 622-3347(H).

Hunt the Wumpus command module \$3. TI Program Cassette Recorder w/cable \$25. Call Mike 722-8620 evenings and weekends.

Volksmodem 300 Baud with 9 volt power supply \$50, Flip 'N' File 50 with lock \$15. Parallel RS232 printer cable \$15. Call George 742-3091.