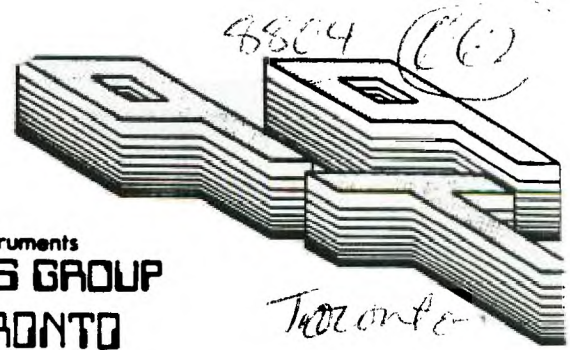


# NEWSLETTER

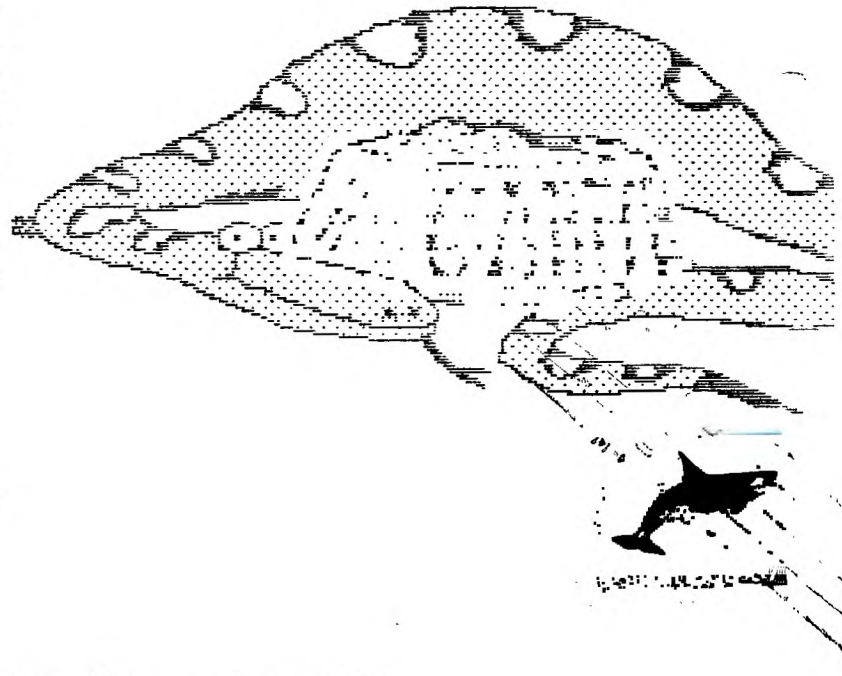
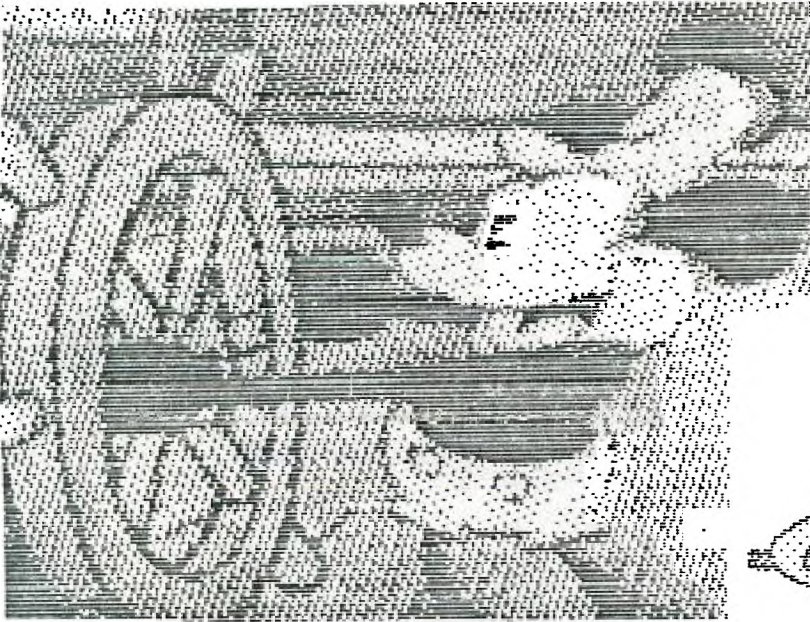
# 9T9



Texas Instruments  
**USERS GROUP**  
**TORONTO**

**FOR THE TI-99/4A COMPUTER**  
**and compatibles**

# APRIL 1988 ISSUE



**FROM:**

**9T9 USERS GROUP**  
**109-2356 Gerrard St.E.**  
**Toronto, Ont., M4E-2E2**  
**CANADA**

**TO:**

Edmonton 99'er Users Soc  
P. O. Box 11983  
Edmonton, AL T5J 3L1







## TId Bits #18

-By Steve Mickelson, President 9T9 Users Group, Toronto  
Compuserve 76545,1255; Delphi SMICKELSON; GENIE S.MICKELSON

OOPS!

Last issue of the newsletter, I mentioned that two events, a club swap-meet and a visit from Bob Boone, were planned for the near future. Unfortunately, the flu kept me away from the last executive meeting and I proceeded to invite Bob to our May meeting, based on dates put forth a couple of meetings ago; that our swap meet would be in April and Bob, the month following. Since I missed the exec. meeting, I take full responsibility for this fumble. I should have contacted another exec., to see if the earlier dates, which were tentative, had been changed. Luckily, I phoned Randy just before this newsletter was published. I, then, proceeded to call Gary, who also missed the exec. meeting, fortunately I got ahold of him before he called several other groups, who might like to attend and before he posted a message on his BBS.

It seems, since I called him, Bob has been away from the phone, and I'm not sure whether he will end-up at the May meeting. He may end up showing at April's meeting if he gets the message on his machine and can make it here. If not, we should know, in time for the next newsletter, whether he plans to come May, June or not until fall. Sorry, folks, about the mix-up!

Another error has been the wrong postal code for the clubs postal box, return mailing address, as it appeared in the last few issues of the newsletter. It should be M4E-2E2. Other newsletter editors/club secretaries please note.

### Z-80 Update:

Jim Ballentine's Z-80 simulator has been much improved to run on the Geneve. I understand that there is about twice as much RAM available after the utility is loaded. The Geneve, having a Zero-wait state, allows the software loaded into the simulator to run very close to the way it runs in the Adam.

Gary Bowser ran the Antarctic Adventure on my system, the other day. The graphics aren't that bad! This is encouraging, as the Geneve has, by TI Standards, a super word processor utility, in Myword, and both Myart and GIF2 are good graphic utilities. This aspect has been great for those of us who frequently rely on the TI system for word processing or graphic applications.

However, one aspect of the 9640/Geneve has been the lack of new gameware of any significance. The Z-80 simulator, has the potential to make available to Geneve users a library of dozens of new games and utilities released for the Adam. This will do more to boost sales for the TI-upgrade than any of the software available either now or in the near future!

### Loose Ends Dept.:

Last January, I wrote an editorial about the 9640, **9460, Who Cares?**, which was reprinted in several other newsletters. There were a couple of negative comments re: this commentary, which is the ok, to each his own. I read one criticism, however, which insinuated that the only way I could come to the conclusions I did, would be because I was: (a) either at one time, or another, on the payroll of Myarc; or (b) involved in a commercial enterprise selling Myarc or Geneve hardware, software or peripherals; or (c) like some of the earlier promoters and software developers, given a 9640/Geneve, gratis. All I can say is **wrong** on all accounts! I paid cash for my 9640, and never have received any special consideration either financially or otherwise from Myarc or any dealership. My main concern was/is the split in the community, based upon many beliefs re: Myarc and/or the 9640, which I feel are misconceptions or faulty reasoning.

To further illustrate the point that I don't get any special treatment, like a dozen or so other Geneve owners, I have a Myarc RAMdisk card sitting on a shelf, awaiting modification to be able to be used on the 9640. I pre-paid for the upgrade and sent the unit in last August, and like all the others am still waiting for my card. I do understand the company has priorities, and trust that I should get the card back around the time Myarc starts selling the 1.5MEGabyte RAMdisks, if not before.



Last month, I mentioned CY Leonard's BBS, which is a sister board to our TI Tower(416-921-2731). For those of you interested, the number for Cy's Swap Shop, in Safety Harbour, near Tampa, is (813)-725-4568. Another, sister board is TI Heaven,(813)-654-8484. Both the Swap Shop and TI Heaven, which operate at 300,1200, and 2400 BPS, are sister boards to our TI Tower Board, in that the BBS program they use was written by our own Gary Bowser. To those used to our TI Tower, they should feel right at home using the other boards. TI Heaven can be reached through PC Pursuit, for our readers in the U.S.A.

The NEC digitizer, also mentioned last month, was set-up in the South wing of Communicore West of EPCOT, at Disney World. I understand another such system was on display at a trade show in L.A., California, a couple of month's ago.

#### Toronto Computes:

Club secretary, Randy Rossetto, has an interview in April's issue of **Toronto Computes**. The interview gives our club good exposure, though the interviewer, Murray Soupcoff has no qualms of interchanging the 99/4 and 99/4A, as well as dropping the T from 9T9 in our newsletter name. The interview, also, described the 9640, but failed to mention the expanded keyboard or USCD (Version 4.22 run time) Pascal Software available for same. Also, the interview seems to indicate that Myarc's new fixed/floppie controller card is the first and only controller for the TI, no mention of Atronics, Percom, Corcomp or Myarc. Hopefully, we will be allowed to read/revise a rough draft of any future interviews, to correct major omissions/errors, though any sort of publicity, however erroneous, is better than none!

#### This Issue:

I am happy to report that all submissions to **Newsletter 9T9**, were printed in order they were received. This takes a great load off the Editor, that's me, and helps make the Newsletter more personal to our fellow members. Keep those articles coming!

The front cover shows a couple of new RLE print-outs, which will soon be available through our library. In the near future, you can expect to see a Dutch utility,(with English Doc's), to permit you to dump to printer, Logo screens,(not the procedures) and an autoloader for Logo Screens.

Well that's it for this issue, hope to see you this meeting!

At the last meeting I was given a disk containing the following report cum reviews, from member Tom Jakabfy. Tom is also president of the Oshawa Users Group. Thanks, Tom! -Ed.

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### OTTAWA TI FEST 88

-By Tom Jakabfy

Yours truly and Doug Burleigh set off on Mar.4th to Ottawa to attend the 3rd annual TI fest put on by the Ottawa TI user's group. Fortunately the weather was extremely cooperative ...sunny but cold. I got to the Talesman Hotel about 10 pm and went up to the TI hospitality suite for a few hours of 'relaxation'. I met a lot of old friends, Gary Bowser from Toronto, Bob Boone from Ottawa and of course Phil Townsend and the boys from Peterboro and some new ones from the Ottawa club and from the USA as well. You might think that we 'talked shop' (TI's) and of course we did along with munching away at the nibblies, downing a cold one and watching the 9640 Myarc Geneve put some 'pretty' amazing graphics on screen. It was a 'real eye-full' for us guys, even though there was mixed company. I just don't know who would download any of those pictures...where can I get them?

At about 11:30 I decided it was time to find Doug, he and Ann were staying with his sister in Kemptville. Well, I eventually did find there place by about 1:00 am Sat. morning.

After a nice breakfast Doug and I headed out for the TI FEST and quickly made our way to the USED EQUIPMENT SHOP. We had set out to get some new used equipment and I quickly spotted a complete system and managed to get it before it went for sale. Bernie Bishop in Whitby is now the proud owner of that system. Doug picked up a used disk drive and some other goodies. Then we went over to the RETAIL section and tried to keep from overspending. Well, that proved to be too much for me, I even had to borrow \$10 from Doug to stop me from buying everything. Doug didn't do badly either and between us the faire must have been a financial success. We met Jim McLaren from the Sudbury Club there and exchange newsletter disks.



We had a chance to sit in on a lecture as well. This one was given by J.Peter Hoddie, one of the hottest programmers the TI community has. J.Peter is only about 18... But 'boy' can he programme. He demonstrated his newest creation, **FIRST BASE** a powerful NEW data base for the TI 99/4A and the Geneve. It is to say the least quite awesome. It makes the data base most users have, PR BASE look quite inadequate... although it isn't. He also told us to keep an eye out for a hot new programmer named Mike Dodd, he is only just turning 16 and is putting out some pretty incredible programmes. J.Peter also hinted at what we might expect in the future in the TI community.

Although he didn't come out and say it, it was pretty obvious that he thinks that the **GENEVE 9640 IS THE COMPUTER** of the future. He said that it was obvious that there are two groups in the TI community, those who are using the TI 99/4A and those that are using the Geneve. He said that there is no love lost between the two groups and sometimes there is even warfare. Hopefully, the Geneve owners and TI 99/4A owners will reconcile...but I doubt it.

It was quite a successful TI FEST but it was apparent that there is a big demand for RS232 cards and no one willing to part with theirs at the moment. This told me what I had long suspected...the future of all computing is **HOOKED TO THE PHONE** (no pun intended). **TELECOMMUNICATIONS** is the wave of the future. It gives us the instant access to much information (oops, should I say **MUCH MUSIC?**) and the ability to span the continent for answers to questions.

As we headed back, I left at about 3 pm from Kemptville (every one is very kempt there), I couldn't wait to get my prized possession into my computer and up and running. The weather was gorgeous and the drive back uneventful, except for the guy behind me that got caught in a speed trap. I got home exhausted from travelling some 1000 km in 24 h but I still had time to try out my new stuff. I knew there would still be that longer trip on Monday. The one to the bank. Oh well, that's another story.

Tom

P.S. And what is my prized possession you may ask ? READ ON .

!A PRIZED POSSESSION AND CHAOS:~

I went to the Ottawa TI FEST with a list of goodies to pick up. Some for me and some for others. I wanted to get 2 slim line double sided disk drives to give me more disk space. However, after talking to several enthusiasts, I was convinced that for about the same price I could get a **HORIZON RAM DISK** with 256K of memory. Well I got the last one that Bob Boone (COMPUTER DOWNLOAD unlimited) had and some software to run it. I was confident in my new purchase and when I got home I read through all the instructions and plopped it into my machine. Well, no go. It didn't do what it was supposed to do. It looked OK but something was definitely wrong. ARGGGH ...YECHHH and other words of derision...what the h... was the matter. Since I was tired I decided that a sleep was more important... after all, 10000...oops 1000 km in 24 h was a lot. Maybe a good nites sleep was what we both needed.

In the morning after church I drove the family to Dundas for my son's 13th birthday (unlucky you say?)...400 more km passed by. I didn't get to try out the **RAMDISK** (oops, almost called it a **DAMRICHARD**) out until about tuesday. Finally, I got it up and going. Very impressive too.

Success is often a fleeting thing. When I went to my machine again (Thursday now), the **RAMDISK** was not working. You know this, by the way, when you issue the **CALL MENU** directive and the computer answers back by saying 'bad name ?'. That wasn't the only bad name I could say at that moment. Friday morning I was on the phone to Bob Boone in Ottawa with the bad news. He agreed with me that it was a hardware problem and was going to send me a new 256 K **HORIZON RAMDISK** with newer version software. I felt instant relief. I trust Bob and he has always come through.

In the next week I downloaded some new software for the ram disk and got it working but it still had some internal problems and it lost its memory 20 minutes after turning the computer off. However, when it worked, the speed was impressive.

In Friday's mail I received my new ram disk with the software as promised; **THANK YOU BOB**. I dropped the ram disk into a slot in the **PEBOX** and turned on the computer. **WELL I'LL BE D...ED** it was already formatted and up and going in a flash. This was amazing since it had been though the mails and was still cold from being outside. I did not have to do a blessed thing except to put the programmes that I wanted onto the **RAMDISK**. **HALLALUYHA**. Life today (computer-wise) is much more pleasant thanks to this amazing device. I am super impressed with what this little baby can do. Not only is it the **RAMDISK** that performs, it is the fantastic software developed by the **MIAMI USERS GROUP** (**MUG** for short) and other nifty programmers. I hope to give demonstrations of some of its power at the **NEXT OSHAWA TI USERS MEETING**.



You can, if you have the money, get RAMDISKS up to 1 MEGA BYTE (listed at \$435.00 US). Of course you need a PEBOX and disk drive.

!NEW SOFTWARE : XB:BUG~

J.Peter Hoddie wrote this utility programme for people who like to write programmes in extended basic. It does all the things that a programme 'debugger' should do and more.

First off you need a disk drive and 32K system and of course extended basic. You run the 'BUG' programme first and then either load in or type in your XBasic programme. Then the fun starts. When you run your programme you can stop it at any time by pressing the <CTRL and SHIFT> keys at the same time. You then enter the 'BEBUG' programme. You can LIST your programme, I know, you say, no big deal. But what is nice is that you can find any occurrence of any symbol or symbol sequence for any range of lines you have.

For example, suppose you suspect that you have the word 'JOE' in your programme and want to find what lines it is on. Press the 'L' for list answer the prompts 'FROM' to 'TO' with the line range you wish to search, then type in \*JOE at the prompt 'MATCH' and the BEBUG will list all lines with the word JOE in it. The programme can be used to find all the variables that you have used. Just type 'V' and press <enter> at the prompt 'MATCH' and you will see all the variables listed with their current values. The letter 'S' lists all the subprogrammes and CALLS. These two things can be used to add a 'PRESCAN' routine to your programme so that it runs without the long prescan time. Very useful.

At anytime in the DEBUG programme you can reenter your programme at the point you left. And you can even change the variable BEFORE you go back to see the effect. In fact, you can even change the entry point you go back to. There is also a routine in the DEBUG which analyses the graphics symbols, reads their values and displays what they look like. Sprites can also be analysed from within the DEBUG programme.

To reenter your 'RUNNING' programme just press Q(quit) and you are right back where you left off or redirected the programme to go. For programme DESIGNERS and for people that like to CHANGE a programme, this is a fascinating tool. There is also an excellent manual and 5 demonstration programmes to analyse using the manual. Very well written and easy to follow.

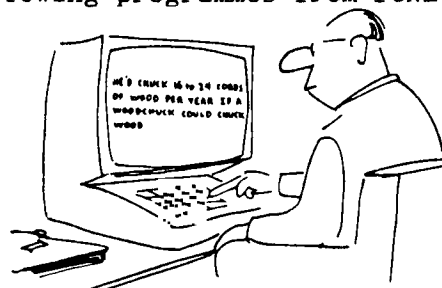
COST.....\$20 Canadian(US price \$15)  
GENIAL COMPUTERWARE, BOX 183, GRAFTON MA, USA 01519

#### FUNLWEB6VERSION 4.0 HAS LANDED:

After I just finished distributing the 3.4 version of FUNLWEB, I am happy to say that you can throw that one out and get the 4.0 version. Yes, there is a world of difference. I know this because as I type this I can see the difference in the size of the characters and in their legibility. Also there are some nifty new features that you will be impressed by.

For those who don't know about FUNLWEB a brief explanation is needed. FUNLWEB or FW was developed by Tony and Will McGovern in Kotara NSW Australia mainly because of overpricing of TI-WRITER and the TI-EDITOR ASSEMBLER down under. They set about to rectify the situation and in addition put the two modules together and ran them off the TI EXTENDED BASIC module. So that means that you have 'WEBBED' together several very important programmes and only have to have X BASIC. Well they progressed through several stages and now have a series of MENU driven screens which have an almost unlimited number of programmes that can be strung together. For example, I run the following programmes from FUNLWEB:

TI WRITER  
TI WRITER FORMATTER  
EDITOR FOR THE ASSEMBLER  
ASSEMBLER for machine language assembly  
LOADERS for E/A 3 and 5 and GPL  
DM-1000 (Ottawa's disk manager)  
MYARC DISK MANAGER  
ARCHIVER a squeeze and unsequezer  
MAX RLE  
PR BASE  
QUAD LISTER  
DISK UTILITY  
MASS TRANSFER(telecommunications)  
ENVELOPE MAKE



MIKE THOMY IN AUSTRON

And these all can be run from the FUNLWEB programme. Actually the list is only limited by the amount of software you have or invent. Here is the feature that I think you will just love. When you look at a directory of what's on your disk you can do a variety of CHORES or HOUSEKEEPING, without leaving the directory screen. You can:

<V>iew a d/v 80 file  
<D>elete any file  
<0-9> by number select a d/v 80 file  
<P>rints the directory in 2 column format  
or <O>ld restore a previously named work file.

The number selecting of files puts a '-' bar beside the file chosen and when you go back to a situation where you are going to 'LOAD' a file or 'SAVE' a file, the one with the '-' beside it is written in for you. NO MORE TYPO ERRORS: when you go back to the main programme. THIS IS GREAT! A right margin WARNING BEEP has been added and the bottom line of the editor shows the number instead of End of File as TI WRITER did for years. Now you know where you are typing as you go to the left screen. <CTRL ;> changes lowercase letters to UPPERCASE and you can hold it down and it will DO A WHOLE LINE.

You can toggle thru the SCREEN COLOR table on a menu by pressing the number 0 instead of the next highest number as before. There is a programme called CONFIG which will configure FW 4.0 for your system and save it to disk. You don't have to go into the LOAD programme and change it, the CONFIG programme does it for you. And as always the documentation covers 25 standard sized pages.

If there is ONE PROGRAMME that you MUST HAVE it is FUNLWEB 4.0.

#### NEWSLET OF THE NEW:

**CALENDAR MAKER 99** This is the newest programme from CHRIS BOBBITT and ED JOHNSON of ASGARD SOFTWARE. The best way to show what the programme can do is to give you a sample of the MONTHLY CALENDAR that you can print out with this programme(SEE SAMPLE). The programme is easy to use and the price was reasonable (about \$22 Canadian at the OTTAWA TI FEST). Since I already use a programme like this one but on another computer system, I was anxious to see the differences and the benefits. The main benefit that this programme has over others is that it allows graphics to be used for any date instead of words. The number of characters allowed per day is 89...this is quite high compared to the one I used before. Also the editing of the words used on a date is excellent, deletions, insertions are as usual in TI console basic. Moving about the monthly calendar is controlled by the letters <E,X,S,D> and days that have graphics or text are marked for easy reference. New graphics can be made BUT you must purchase their utility programme at an additional cost.

The routines are all menu driven and require little reference to the manual. This is fortunate since the manual is not super explanatory. The other advantages of this programme come when you design the TOP and BOTTOM of monthly calendars. You can use PICASSO ART(another ART programme available elsewhere) from their programme to design the TOP picture of the calendar(see THEIR sample print-out).

The BOTTOM of the calendar can have up to 13 lines of print added. This is a nice feature but I can see you using this unless you want to leave a bunch of reminders for the month for yourself. In the UTILITIES programme(which I don't have), you will be able to convert TI ARTIST graphics and use them for daily pictures. This will expand the somewhat limited pictures which are available on the disk.

Another minor problem occurs when you try to save your monthly calendar and go on to do another. You see there is only ONE MONTHLY (or one YEARLY) calendar saved on your work disk. It is called TEMP. Thus you would have to have a separate disk for each calendar that you produce. I think they will rectify this in future releases since this set up is not convenient for the heavy user, as I would be. In all fairness, you have to realize that this programme is REALLY NEW. A month before the TI FEST in OTTAWA, there was no finished programme. So a lot of work was done in haste just to make it to the FEST. The version released was 0.99.

The programme works well and is really easy to use. It does what it's supposed to do (PS there are some minor BUGS) and it does it well. Thanks to CHRIS for his hard efforts at the FEST and thanks to ASGARD for their continued support of the 99.

!REQUIREMENTS: 32 K, DISK DRIVE, PRINTER  
also handy but not essential: PICASSO ART programme, UTILITIES to Calendar Maker  
PRICE: about \$25 Canadian \$19.95 US, from:  
ASGARD SOFTWARE  
P.O. BOX 10306  
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

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### HARDCOPY

BY STEVE FINDLAY

The first thing I'd like to do this month is thank Neil Allen and Keith Hoffer for the absolutely fantastic job they did in constructing a mobile HARDCOPY library case. My wife thinks these two should build her one too! Anyway, I really appreciate your efforts guys. I no longer have to carry a large box of books and a heap of binders from the car to the meeting room and vice versa. Saves wear and tear on the ol' arms and back.

I would also like to thank Bernie Roche for his kind donation of 3 (three) books to the library. The three books are INTRODUCTION TO TI BASIC, PROGRAMMING BASIC WITH THE TI HOME COMPUTER and USING AND PROGRAMMING THE TI-99/4A. They will be available from the library at the next meeting of the 9T9ers.

This month I will start the reviews of the different newsletter binders that I promised in a previous column. I have subscribed to a number of newsletters myself and so I hope to give a general view on the quality of the layouts, content and originality. The reviews are a forum to give our membership an idea of what is available in the TI community in terms of tutorials, program listings and reviews of hardware and software. I will not try to be overly critical as I feel that no matter how small a newsletter is, the editor invested a lot of time and energy to put it together for his local users. There is bound to be repetition from newsletter to newsletter as the TI community tends to share articles and reviews for the good of all Tiers worldwide. Enough already! (He hears everyone mumble) Get on with it!

#### BINDER #1

This binder contains a scattered assortment of the NORTHWEST OHIO 99ER NEWS. According to the facesheet, this publication was the joint effort of the NEW HORIZONS and the OH-MI-TI user groups. Perhaps the executives of each group had a falling out or maybe they in turn, grew to the point where they needed their own newsletters.

I would rate the layout as fair. It did improve in the later editions (the newest one in our library is dated Summer '85) but in general the presentation was a little rough around the edges.

The following is a list of things that caught my eye:

1. A group of assembly language routines to be used from Extended BASIC to save and recall screens using CALL LOADS and CALL LINKS. They are called SAVSCR (save screen), RECSCR (recall screen) and DSRLNK (DSR link). I typed in these A/L routines and they worked fine within a short demo program I made up. A small error dealing with A/L references and equates was found and corrected with no major headaches.
2. An article on building a real-time clock for a Corcomp 9900 Micro Expansion System. The assembly listing for the software to run said clock is also included. I know of only 1 person in the 9T9ers that owns one of these systems (HI Bernie!) and as far as I can tell, the only use for this hardware is for running a BBS.
3. An article on how to build a light pen for the TI using the joystick port. A BASIC demo program is also included.
4. Articles on disk input/output concepts as well as mapping a disk.
5. A TI BASIC program listing that is very similar to C. Regina's "BULL" picture program. This one draws Mickey Mouse on the screen.
6. Assorted Extended BASIC program listings that include BALLOON POP, SPACE DODGE and HITCHCOCK'S THEME music. I typed in BALLOON POP and HITCHCOCK'S THEME myself. I chose to delete BALLOON POP but I kept the later.
7. A tutorial on using speech in the Extended BASIC environment. At the end of the article there is a short program to display hexadecimal speech data on the screen.
8. A software review of a set of utilities for assembly language programmers called PULSAR. They are kind of like a set of macro routines to be used within a program when you don't want to write them yourself. (I have just ordered a copy of these utilities from the BOSTON COMPUTER SOCIETY, so if they turn out to be of interest I will submit them to our club's Fairware Library)

There is more in the newsletters but, as I said, these are the ones that caught MY eye. Other articles may catch yours! There is a fair amount of original works here so check it out.

'TIL NEXT MONTH... CALL LOAD(-31962,32)

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#### 9T9 LIBRARY NOTES

9T9 LIBRARY listing and notes if any. Compiled by Gary Bowser on Apr. 05 1988

Incase you want more info on a disk/program before buying a copy, please don't hesitate to talk to me at one of the meetings, or even drop me a line to the club's address, or in rush cases phone me. (Number in on first page of newsletter).



You can also order advance before a meeting, and pay for the readymade copies at the meeting, this is helpful if you can't wait at the meeting for a copy to be maded.

If you know of or have a good Freeware program you would like to see in the Library yet me know, and I will try to include it. Also if you have written a nice program in any Lang. and want to share it with other club members, I am going to be opening a new section of the Library for member written software, which will be cheaper than the other disks.

If you know of a good idea for the club Library let me know too.

Well that is all I can think of for the moment, so until next month, have a great time computing on your TI! --<(Gary Bowser)>--

=====  
 Library disks are \$2 each. DOM's 'Disk of the month' are \$3. Prices are a buck less if you supply the disk. All disks DOMs are available the following ways:  
 1: All club meetings. 2: By mail with a list of disks and a cheque/money order/  
 3: By calling Gary Bowser at 960-0925 arranging to pick them up at his place.  
 =====

DISK CODE: A)rtist S)peech util's U)tilities C)atalogs soft/hard  
 G)ames J)unk misc. I)nstructions H)ome finance P)rogram langs/help  
 M)usic E)ducation D)isk manips W)ord manips T)erm ems/help/BBS's

TYPE CODE : TEXT-Dis/Var 80 EA -Editor/Assembler and 32K  
 MP -Multiplan FRTH-Forth lang. EAXB- (E/A or Extended Basic) and 32K  
 MM -Mini Memory TE2 -Term Em. II IB -Extended Basic  
 ART -pictures 9640-MYARC 9640 IB32-Extended Basic with 32K  
 SIZE is the number of disks needed. VER. is the version of the program. DATE is when this VER. was added to the library. Ones marked OLD are ready for deletion on next update of library.

DISK	PROGRAM	SIZE	TYPE	VER.	DATE	
A001	RLEARTIST	>>>	ART	>>>	02/11/88	B/W TI-ARTIST pictures (24 disks so far)
A002	COLORPICS	>>>	ART	>>>	04/05/88	Color Pictures (02 disks so far)
A009	AUTO CAD	1	EA			Computer assisted drawing
A010	GRPHJACKET	1	IB			Prints a disk jacket using a GRAPHY
A011	JET SPRITE	2	IB			Sprite builder program
A015	TASS 2001	1	IB32	3.00	03/14/88	Tri Artist Slide Show 2001 (Gary Bowser)
A020	PICASSO	1	EAXB		11/16/87	Desktop Publisher
A025	PIX-SHOW	1	IB32		02/11/88	Picture show from PB (8 color pictures)
C002	FREWARE	1	TEXT		OLD	A freeware catalog
D005	DISKU	1	EAXB	4.0a	12/09/87	Disk manager/editor/reporter
D	SUPERCAT	-	EAXB			Disk cataloger program
D	ARCHIVER	-	EAXB	2.4	02/11/88	Archiver II with CMP a small manager
D006	MISCUTIL-A	1	EAXB	----	03/14/88	BT-LOAD,DISK,CATLIB,DCOPY all with docs
D007	MISCUTIL-B	1	EAXB	----	04/05/88	DCLP,LABELER,GR EDITOR,GR VIEWER; + docs
G001	CHINACHESS	1	IB			A new game using icon control!
G002	CRAPS	1	IB32			Crap Game (very good game)
G003	FRENZY	1	EAXB		OLD	Space game very well done
G004	MONOPOLY	1	IB			Plays like the board game
G005	MS ADVEN	1	IB32			Text adventure game
G006	OIL INVAS	1	FRTH		OLD	Oil Invasion (a game in forth)
G007	TI99'OPOLY	1	IB32		OLD	A well done version of Monopoly
G008	TRIVIA99er	1	IB32			Trivia Game
G009	WIT GAMES	3	IB			Scrabble type games
G010	WORD WIZ	1	IB32			A word game with text to speech
G011	IC-SAMPLER	2	EAXB		02/11/88	Infocom sampler of their adventure games
G012	TOD*BASES	2	EAXB		02/11/88	Tunnels of Doom with 10 games so far
G013	FROG	1	IB32		02/11/88	Frog jump type game from MicroPendium
G014	CHAINLINK5	1	IB32	5.0	02/11/88	Solitaire type game by Walt Howe
H001	CHECK BOOK	1			OLD	Cheque Book and Budget Management
H002	PAST TRANS	2				Checkbook Recapper/planner
H003	MP-BUDGET	1	MP		09/29/87	Budget template for Multiplan
H004	PR BASE	3		2.1	11/16/87	A good personal data base program
H005	VCR-DB	1				A Database for your VCR Tapes
H006	RECORDS/+	1	IB32		12/09/87	Data Base type program (Records Plus)
H007	AMORTIZAT	1	IB		08/16/87	AMORTIZAT by Jiri Svoboda (9T9 UG)
H008	CFS	3	IB32	5.0	02/11/88	Creative Filing System by Mark Beck
H009	TI-LEDGER	1	IB32	1.2	02/11/88	Same as AUTOMATIC ACCOUNT on the IBM PC
H010	99-MAIL	1	EAXB		03/14/88	A forth mail list (710 records per SSSD)
H011	TAX87CFM:	1	MP		03/14/88	87 Canadian Tax forms with docs
H012	PERECOLFE	2	IB32		04/05/88	Personal Records Filing System
H013	CHEQUEWRTE	1	IB32		04/05/88	Cheque Writer with docs
I001	FORTH DOCS	5	TEXT		OLD	Forth Manual on disk (incomplete)
I002	TI REWRITE	1	TEXT			Helper file for TI-WRITER commands.
I003	TYPBTE	1			04/05/88	A Basic course in Beginners Typing
J>>>	C99PROGS	1	EA		04/05/88	C99 Programs Disk A (temp disk number)
M001	4+hMUSIC	1	FRTH			Music or Graphics Demo in Forth



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M003 MUSIC#01      1  EA          OLD Selection of EA Music
M004 SORGAN        1  EA          Makes Keyboard an organ
M " AXLE F         -  EA          Music (Beverly Hills Cop)
M005 XBMUSIC#-- >>> YB >>> 12/09/87 YB music disks (5 disks so far) <
M010 MUSIC-MAN     1  YB32      02/11/88 The MUSIC MAN album
M011 S-PACIFIC     1  YB32      03/14/88 The SOUTH PACIFIC album (volume I)
M012 WIZARD/OZ     1  YB32      04/05/88 The WIZARD OF OZ album
M013 PATSYCLINE    1  YB32      04/05/88 The best of PATSY CLINE album
P001 BEAYS         2  YB32      Editor Assembler on Disk Version
P002 STAR          1  YB32      Super TI Assembly Routines for YB
P003 TI FORTH      1  EA          TI FORTH programming language
P004 TI PILOT      2  EA          TI PILOT programming language
P005 TOOL KIT      1  YB32      A set of programming utilities
P006 cBASIC        2  EA          OLD cBasic Language Compiler
P007 P-SAMPLER     1          11/16/87 Sample of different languages for the TI
P008 XB*TOOLS      1  YB32      11/16/87 Tools to assist the Extended Basic
P009 BDP 2.1       1  YB32 2.1 03/14/88 Enhanced Display Package
P010 UTILDISK-B    1  YB32      04/05/88 ACE,COLIST,DISK HACKER,DV>PGM,TEXT-BASIC
S001 SPEECH/01     1  TE2      09/29/87 Selection of speech programs (singing)
S002 TEXT=SPEECH  1  YB32      02/11/88 Text-To-Speech
T001 FT/OM/MT      2  EAYB ---- 12/09/87 Fast-Term, Omega, Mass-Transfer term-progs
T002 TELCO         2  EAYB 1.3 03/14/88 The best term program YET! with ANS1!
T004 DELPHI/AID    1  YB32      12/09/87 Explains the DELPHI system with YMODEM.
U001 CALENDARS     1  YB          A set of different calendars progs.
U002 FACTAL        1  EA 2.1 03/14/88 Great new version of Fractal Explorer
U003 LABELER       1  YB          11/16/87 Prints labels with over 100 logos
U005 SCREENDUMP    1          OLD Screen dump to printer
U006 SYSTEMTEST    1  YBMM      OLD 99/4A system test for YB or MM by TI!
U007 UTILDISK-A    1  EAYB --- 02/11/88 Selection of Util's in YB and EA
W001 BA WRITER     2  EAYB 1.3 11/16/87 TI Writer on Disk Version and more!
W002 CRUNCH        1          OLD Crunches Dis/Var 80 files
W003 FUNNELWEB     2  EAYB 4.0b 02/11/88 TI Writer, E/A, Disk manager in one.
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## RANDY'S RAMBLINGS OF THE BIG GUY SPEAK'S

-By Randy Rossetto

I don't know about all you guy's and gal's but there are some day's (and day's and day's) on end that my computer is seldom turned on because of work, family activities, house renovations and/or traveling. A number of things have happened that need mentioning to the TI community as general information and/or interest.

ONE. MAY 28, 1988. Keep this date open for the 9T9 USER GROUP SWAP MEETING. Open to anyone who has TI-99/4A hardware and/or software for sale or trade. Software in original packaging only please.

TWO. While working on TI-Writer I ran into a little quirk regarding REPLACE STRING, namely that you must be in the same MODE ie either WORD WRAP or BLOCK that the original document was produced in to allow REPLACE STRING to find the string in question. If you already know this, OK great, but it took me a few moments to figure this one out. Add this to your TI Writer info for future reference.

THREE. One of the ways I use my TI-99/4A is to programme my X-10 HOME CONTROL SYSTEM. One unique application I use is to set back my home heating system at night and during the daytime. This does save money on heating costs for the home and if scheduled properly does not affect comfort. I also control a ceiling fan located in the second floor hallway, on and off, to circulate the air during the warm-up period while my heating system starts warming the house. Note that I have Hot Water heating with a circulating pump and old cast-iron radiators.

FOUR. For all you Horizon Ram Disk users, make note that if you haven't upgraded to Version 7.3 of the John Johnson Menu programme it is available through the club library.

FIVE. For those who need more of the 256k (32kx8) Static Ram Chip for the Horizon HRD+ (1 meg) Ram Disk, I have them now at \$18.50 each. The prices on this chip have gone up quite a bit since I last bought them in Dec./87 but is still alot better than the Active Components price of \$22.69 + pst.

SIX. At the last meeting I mentioned that to maintain our community feeling within our TI-99/4A community we should attempt to get together with other TI user groups in the area by going to their meetings with software, hardware or just to be sociable and exchange computer related information. Some of the groups in our area (Ontario) and the information I have on them is as follows:

THE THEORY OF DARK SUCKERS

by Paul Holgren  
Condensed by Rick Alston

(Reprinted from MADHUG Newsletter,  
Sept. 1986)

For years it was believed that light was emitted from an electric bulb, recent information has proven otherwise - dark is sucked into the bulb therefore, the bulb is a dark sucker. This theory also proves dark is heavier than light, and dark is faster than light. A few examples follow.

**ELECTRIC BULBS:** There is less dark near an electric bulb than at a distance of 100 feet when it is operating, therefore, it is sucking dark. The larger the electric bulb the more dark it is able to suck, this is easily proven. Also note that when an electric bulb becomes full of dark it ceases to suck dark and is itself dark, indicating it is full of dark. This phenomena can also be observed in fluorescent bulbs, the end of these bulbs indicate when they are becoming full of dark.

**CANDLES:** These are primitive dark suckers, the center core is a dark sucker protected by a soft insulator to extend its life expectancy and maintain rigidity. Proof of its dark sucking ability is relatively simple. Examine a new, unused candle. Notice that the center core is not dark. Ignite the center core and allow it to burn for 5 minutes. Notice the lack of dark around the candle. Now extinguish the candle and observe the center core. It is now dark, proving the candle has sucked dark. Moving a pencil through the flame further illustrates the dark sucking capacity of the candle. When this is done, the pencil blocks the flow of dark and dark is deposited on the pencil.

**DARK IS HEAVIER THAN LIGHT:** Dark always settles to the bottom of lakes and rivers. This can be proven by descending into a lake or river, the deeper you go the more dark there is. This phenomena can be observed when looking into deep holes where dark has fallen, proving dark is heavier than light.

**DARK IS FASTER THAN LIGHT:** If you were to open a drawer very slowly, you would notice light going into the drawer. (You can see this happen.) You cannot see the dark leave the drawer. Go into a closet, close the door and turn off the dark sucker. Now have a friend open the door about 1 inch, neither you or your friend will see any dark leave the closet. Now open the door until the closet is half dark. Since 2 objects cannot occupy the same space at the same time, you will not feel any change in pressure by compressing the dark. So it is logical to assume that dark is faster than light.

OSHAWA TI 99/4A USERS GROUP

c/o Tom Jakabfy  
RR#5 Given Road  
Oshawa, Ontario L1H 8L7  
(416) 725-7298  
Meeting held between 7:30 and 9:30 pm, call for dates and places.

KAWARtha 99'ers USERS GROUP

P.O. BOX 373  
Peterborough, Ontario K9J 6Z3  
Meet the 1st WED of the month at the Queen Alexandra Community Centre on Bernardo Ave. in Peterborough 7:30 pm.  
Call Phil Townsend for more info (705) 745-3757

CHANNEL 99 USER GROUP

c/o Tom Arnold  
77 Lavina Crescent  
Hamilton, Ontario L9C 5S8  
(416) 385-5576  
Meet th 2nd FRI of the month in the Hamilton Spectator building between 7 and 10 pm.

NIAGARA REGION TI USERS GROUP

I had a line on these guys but it has dried up, if anyone knows if there is any activity in this area of the golden horseshoe please let the writer know. I have a vested interest in this area CAUSE ST. KITTS IS MY HOME TOWN!!!

WESTIG (WINDSOR-ESSEY TI USERS GROUP

2920 St. Patricks St.  
Windsor, Ontario N9E 3G7  
c/o Chris Kale, Secretary  
(519) 966-6977  
Meets 4th TUES of the month at Windsor Public Library, Seminole branch, 4285 Seminole St.

CAMBRIDGE, KITCHENER, WATERLOO TI USERS GROUP

John Van Wheelie of our UG has been trying to get a group going in this area, perhaps if enough people were interested in travelling to this area a meet could be set up.  
Call John at (519) 623-4526  
or write to: 58 Lowrey Avenue North  
Cambridge, Ontario N1R 5A3

OTTAWA TI 99/4A USERS GROUP

P.O. BOX 2144, Station D  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5W5  
Meets the 1st TUES of the month at Merrivale High School in Nepean, a suburb of Ottawa at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria.

NORTH BAY 99ERS USERS GROUP

c/o Pat Graham, Editor/Secretary  
159 Donald Drive  
North Bay, Ontario P1A 3H2  
Meets 2nd Thursday and last Monday each month of the school year.

SUDBURY 99ERS

c/o Jim McLaren  
Site 1 Box 7  
Whitefish, Ontario P0M 3E0  
(705) 866-2668  
Call Jim to verify when and where they meet as it moves around to different guys homes.

OWEN SOUND TI USERS GROUP

I put this one in because there is a group of fellows up this way who meet as a mixed users group.  
Call Walter Illman (he is a 9T9 club member) at (519) 794-3153  
Or write to: P.O. box 196  
Chatsworth, Ontario N0H 1G0





This list may not be complete or perfect, corrections encouraged!!

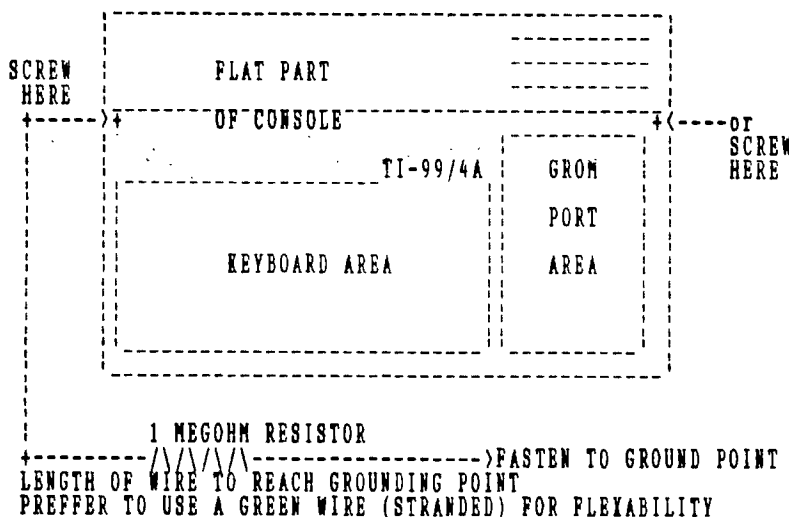
SEVEN. I do have a MS.DOS clone and I use a file transfer programme to move ASCII (TI-Writer, DV-80, print to disk) type files back and forth between computers, BUT, I still prefer to use my TI before my clone.

EIGHT. I do get a number of calls about equipment availability from people with hardware failures. Please be reminded that TEXAS INSTRUMENTS at 41 Shelley Road, Richmond Hill, Ontario, phone (416)-884-9181 still maintains a repair centre whereby they exchange TI-99/4A hardware for an appropriate exchange cost. Call them with the part number and they will give you the exchange cost and availability of the part.

NINE. R.T.F.M. If you don't know what this stands for then: \* READ \* THE \* FRIGGIN \* MANUAL \*!

TEN. !!STATIC!! This can be a problem during the winter months in the colder climates and/or when your computer area has synthetic materials and carpeting. I deal with this in two ways. One, for cleaning the keyboard, desk and monitor screen I use a J-cloth that has been soaked in FABRIC SOFTENER, then squeezed till damp to wipe down the equipment. This helps to reduce dust buildup on the computer equipment AND helps to reduce static buildup. You could also spray a light mist of fabric softener onto your carpet to reduce static buildup.

Two, to provide for a convenient place to discharge a potential static buildup I have put a ground connection onto the aluminum trim piece that is around the keyboard on the console. This was done by drilling a small pilot hole for a #8 x 3/4 self tapping screw in either the upper left hand or right had side of the trim piece, then making up a ground wire with a crimp-on spade lug to go under the #8 screw and a length of wire suitable to reach a good ground location, like a radiator or the cover screw of a duplex outlet plate, with a 1 megohm resistor soldered at the other end, with an aligator clip or another spade lug to fasten to the ground point. Use the trim piece as a "touch me first" to discharge any static buildup you have generated. A location sketch follows.



ELEVEN. I get a stack of current issues of TORONTO COMPUTES! delivered to my house every month and I usually bring them to the meeting for distribution. If you need to have one (or a whole bunch) before hand call me (459-3468) and come on over to pick them up.

TWELVE. I haven't done this for quite awhile so I'm out of breath, GOOD-BYE!!

FOR SALE

Call Randy Rossetto (416) 469-3468 between 7 and 10 p.m.  
or leave message!!

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

- PROGRAMMING BASIC WITH THE TI HOME COMPUTER  
by HERBERT D. PECKHAM ----- \$ 3.00
- TI-99/4A GAME PROGRAMS  
by FREDERICK HOLTZ ----- \$ 3.00
- 99 er HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE BACK ISSUES  
JUNE, JULY, AUG, OCT, NOV '83 \$ 0.25 EACH
- HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE  
VOL.4 NO.1,2,4,5
- VOL.5 NO.1 TO 6 ----- \$ 0.25 EACH

TI MODULES

- EXTENDED BASIC ----- \$35.00
- TERMINAL EMULATOR II ----- \$10.00
- HOUSEHOLD BUDGET MANAGER --- \$10.00
- DISK MANGER ----- \$ 3.00
- TOMBSTONE CITY ----- \$ 3.00
- MUNCH MAN ----- \$ 3.00

HARDWARE

- STAND ALONE DISK CONTROLLER - \$50.00
- STAND ALONE DISK DRIVE ----- \$80.00
- TI JOY STICKS ----- \$ 3.00
- ATARI->TI JOYSTICK ADAPTER - \$10.00
- HORIZON RAM DISK 180K ----- \$200.00
- HORIZON RAM DISK 256K ----- \$250.00
- HORIZON RAM DISK 384K ----- \$385.00
- MODULE PORT EXTENDER ----- \$25.00
- I/O PORT EXTENDER ----- \$25.00

PRESS RELEASE

TI INTERNATIONAL USERS NETWORK  
TI NET

The Texas Instruments International Users Network (TI NET) has announced a special online sign up offer for all members of the TI Community. TI NET is a service of General Videotex Corporation, better known as Delphi. To introduce you to the finest telecommunications network and TI Sig, Delphi has set up an immediate online membership registration.

TI NET Users can now save \$20.00 when they join Delphi. As a special offer to the TI community you can join TI NET tonight for \$29.95. That's \$20.00 off the regular price. The membership package includes a copy of Simon & Schuster's newly released, 500 page "Delphi: The Official Guide" (retail \$19.95), a handy command card, and a credit for one hour of use at Delphi's low standard connect rates.

With Delphi's no risk policy, the membership can be cancelled and the handbook returned within 30 days of the date the account was established, and Delphi will return the membership fee. Billing is only for the time used in excess of the initial one hour credit.

Some items of interest in the TI NET include:

Representatives from all the major online services participated in a landmark conference held in December, 1987. The purpose was to determine a standard protocol for the compression and archiving of files for the 99/4A and the Geneve 9640. TI NET took the lead in setting this standard.

Ever wish you received your money from Fairware programs? TI NET now makes that possible with surcharge software. This special service allows you to collect the money you rightfully deserve. This feature is not available on any other TI SIG.

The TI NET Shopping area brings you the best in 99/4A and 9640 software and hardware. Order from quality vendors like Disk Only Software, ASGARD, Genial Computerware, Horizon RAM Disk, MICROPendium magazine and more. This feature is not available on any other TI SIG.

The Great Software contest is currently underway with the entries due by August 1, 1988.

Standard Delphi usage rates include all communication charges and there are no premium charges for access at 1200 or 2400 bps! Home time is weekday evenings from 6:00 PM until 7:00 am, and all day weekends with a basic rate of \$0.12 per minute or \$7.20 per hour.

To sign up online to Delphi and TI NET --

Dial 800-365-4636 or 617-576-2981, (In Toronto, dial 365-7630, 300,1200, or 2400 BPS, then hit uppercase a, A, then enter. Then type DELPHI and enter to get password prompt-Ed.).

Once connected, press return twice.

At PASSWORD prompt, type TINET and press return.

A brief tour of Delphi and prompts for the information needed to establish a Delphi billing account will appear. Delphi memberships can be charged to Visa, MasterCard or American Express.

Delphi is accessible via Tymnet and Telenet in the U.S. In Canada Delphi is accessible via Datapac and Tymnet in major cities.

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Contact: Jeff Guide, System Manager, TI NET, P.O. Box 244, Lorton, VA 22079.

PRESS RELEASE

TI INTERNATIONAL USERS NETWORK  
TI NET

The First Annual TI NET Programming Contest has been announced by Jeff Guide, System Manager of TI NET.

According to Guide "The programming contest is open to all users of the TI 99/4A and Myarc 9640 computers. The programs must be an original work and be written in any language available for the 99/4A and Geneve computers."

First and Second place awards will be given in the following categories:

- Best Basic Program
- Best Extended Basic Program
- Best Assembly language Program
- Best Compiled Program
- Best Music Program
- Best Use of Graphics In A Program
- Best Picture
- Best Utility Program
- Best Communications Program
- Best Game
- Best Overall Program

Awards will be given by Disk Only Software, Asgard Software, Genial Computerware and others. The winners may be offered a commercial software contract by one of the companies.

The contest closes August 1, 1988 and winners will be announced September 15, 1988.

Official contest rules and information may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to TI NET Programming Contest, P.O. Box 244, Lorton, Virginia 22079. Up to date information may be obtained by visiting the TI NET on Delphi.

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## OHIO FEST

The Lima Ohio User Group is organizing a MULTI USER GROUP CONFERENCE AND SWAP MEET on the Lima Campus of Ohio State University. The event is scheduled for Saturday May 21. We have space reserved from 8AM to 6PM. There will be NO ADMISSION CHARGE or EXHIBITION CHARGE for those who attend or give demonstrations. Setup time is to be 8-10 AM.

We already have commitments from the following:

- A DEMONSTRATION OF THE GENEVE
- JIM PETERSON SELLING TIGERCUB SOFTWARE AND DEMO OF HIS NUTSBOLTS PROGRAMS
- BUD MILLS SERVICES SELLING HOPI7ON RAMPDISF KITS AND 32K IN THE CONSOLE KITS.
- IRWIN HOLT FROM C.O.N.N.I. DEMONSTRATING HOW THE BLIND CAN USE THE 99/4A.
- MORE HAVE ALREADY PLANNED WRITE FOR UPDATE!!

Even if your group is not yet ready to commit itself to be an exhibitor, do you want to be put on the mailing list for further updates of this event? We will be publishing lists of exhibitors/groups and demonstrations as they are confirmed.

We hope to have lots of fun and fellowship and let you know where we are today as User Groups. Information about motels, restaurants, and other things to do is available from the Lima User Group. Feel free to call me for more information. Please send for your registration and/or request for updates about this event to:

LIMA AREA TI 99/4A USER GROUP  
 c/o DAVE SZIPPL (president)  
 4 Poulston Place  
 Lima, Ohio 45805  
 419-228-7109

P.S. SPREAD THE WORD TO OTHER TI GROUPS AND BOARDS OF INTEREST. THE TI LIVES. HELP KEEP IT ALIVE!!! ATTEND SATURDAY MAY 21!!!

