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EDMONTON, ALBERTA  
CANADA T5J 3L1

99'er on line... is the newsletter of the Edmonton 99'er Computer User's Society published ten times a year. Unless otherwise stated, all articles may be republished in other Newsletters provided that source and author are identified. We will in turn credit authors quoted in 99'er ON LINE.

NEWSLETTER CORRESPONDENCE: Editor: John Harbour, 10637-114st, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. T5X 4A1 (403) 486-0862.

OFFICERS: President Yves Chevalier; Vice President Bill Ince; Treasurer Dennis Miller; Secretary Andrew Webster.

OFFICERS AT LARGE: Paul Heiwig Newsletter Library; Gordon Braslee Book Library; Win Appelt Disk Library; Ron Honmann Module & Cassette Library; Jim Mulligan Sysop, T.I. Bulletin Board 464-4167, 300/12008aud.

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REGULAR MEETINGS: of the Edmonton 99'er Computer User's Society are held on the second Tuesday of each month in room 849 of the General Service Building of the University of Alberta from 7:00 till 10:00PM, and are open to all members in good standing. Non-members may attend their first meeting free of charge.

ADVERTISEMENTS: Commercial space is available in this Newsletter at the following rates: Full page \$20.00, Half page \$15.00, 1/4 page \$10.00. Discuss your needs with John, at (403) 486-0862, or the next meeting, alternatively send "photo ready" copies to him. Members may advertise their personal computer related items for free but are asked to limit their ads to about 50 words. Mail your ads. to the Editors address or hand it to him at the General Meeting; Newsletter deadline 3'rd Monday of the month.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Family; 12 months \$20.00, 6 months \$15.00. Students; 12 months \$15.00, 6 months \$10.00. New member initiation: \$20.00.

------(News Letter)-----

NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting will be  
November 8th. At 7:15 PM.  
General Service Building U of A  
Campus room 849.

------(News Letter)-----

LETTERS.

by: Yves Chevalier.

The results of the General Election are in. I would like to welcome Bill Ince, Dennis Miller and Andrew Webster to the Executive positions that were vacated by Ken Godbeer, Jim Mulligan and Roxanne Aspell. A sincere THANK YOU to the departing members. I am sure we can count on them for assistance in the future as they will remain active members of the group.

The schedule of coming events reads as follows:

Nov 8th. is the November General Meeting.

Nov 15. is tentatively selected for the Executive meeting and

Nov 25. is the final date for submission of articles for publication in the December NEWSLETTER. Your articles can be uploaded to the BBS, downloaded directly to the Editor's home or hand carried, on disk to the General Meeting and handed over to the Editor.

At the November meeting the demonstration will be on the use of the BBS. We will set up two systems and will communicate between them. One will act as the BBS so you can see what the Sysop sees and the other will be your home end. If we can get access to a telephone line, we might try to get to the actual BBS. This promises to be quite an interesting evening.

Those who have extra modems, (whatever the speed), it may be a good idea to bring them along. Someone may be interested in buying them after this demo.

Should everything go well, I will be at the meeting, bringing along my system, in its new carrying box, hopefully! At the present time it is still under construction at the Carpenters.  
See you there....Yves.

------(News Letter)-----

LAST MEETING.

by: Andrew Webster.

OCTOBER 11, 1988

-20 Members present.

-Yves Chevalier (President) opened the meeting at 7:20pm. He turned the floor over to Jim Mulligan (Nomination Chairman). As of yet there were no nominations for the offices of Vice President and Secretary.

The Nomination for the Executive were as follows for 88/89:

- PRESIDENT. Wayne Gruenwald
- VICE/PRES. Bill Ince  
Shane Aucoin
- SECRETARY. Andrew Webster  
Sandy Aucoin

Voted in were the following:

New Officers:

Vice President: Bill Ince

Secretary: Andrew Webster

RETAINED OFFICERS:

Dennis Miller, who was appointed Treasurer by the Executive last year, has retained his position for another year.

Yves Chevalier kept his position as President for another year.

I would like, on behalf of the membership, to thank both Roxanne Appelt and Ken Godbeer for the dedicated service they have provided during their term of office, and also welcome our new Executive members into the fold.

The President then discussed our membership counts, compared with other Canadian Clubs. A membership drive was suggested in the form of posted adverts, which could be fixed around the City at various locations, it was stated that the membership should decide on the required advert.

He also mentioned the fluctuating cost of certain chips required for the Ramdisk, there was also a discussion regarding Demo's and Special interest items that would be of interest to the members.

-Club BBS phone number was given again for those who did not know it:

464 4167.

-Meeting closed at 10.15pm.

------(News Letter)-----

THINK ABOUT IT.

by: JOHN.

I think one should consider the using of these cheap discs that are available in the city, although I don't want to name any particular place, the ones that I have bought over this last year, a fair percentage have ended up in the "Check this disc" file.

We buy and use these in the club for the convenience of the members and financial economy, you virtually use these on a regular basis at your own risk, I personally would transfer the data to a better disc.

On requesting if these disc's hold a "Lifetime Warranty" you are usually told, "What do you expect for .32 cents." in that case it would not be prudent, to attempt to download several programs from say the Ottawa User's Group, involving an expensive telephone bill only to find out after, that the program does not work owing to several sectors on the disk mis-formatted, as quoted in a previous Newsletter, Feb '88, these discs can usually be "Fixed up". But is this so called fix-up lasting, for instance, could this fault re-develop? Is it possible that these faults are inherent within these discs, if that is the case, it would be better to go to the next price say .60c. so claiming this so called "Lifetime Warranty".

Some of the problems I have encountered have even developed after the disc has been used for a while, not particularly a long time either. If for instance, you were downloading from some board on to a disc you felt through previous experience was good, and your time was running short, imagine your disappointment on finding nothing on the disc after you had signed off.

Just a thought to ponder, a tip that was brought to my attention the other day may be of value to some of you, especially you who switch all your equipment together, open your drives, or remove your discs, before you switch off your system, seemingly you can loose data otherwise, perhaps we have somebody who can explain this better, all I can think is that the arc generated with the switch operation could cause this, but this is only my theory not a proven fact.

I should also like to welcome to the fold Mr. Bill Ince and Mr Andrew Webster, in taking the key to the Executive Washroom along with your portfolio sometimes involves you in a little more than you possibly anticipated, but I am sure that you will be able to handle whatever comes along, good luck.

After doing a two year stretch as Treasurer, Mr. James Mulligan stepped down, not to quit, but to run our needed TI Bulletin Board, that's right, after giving us two years of excellent help as Treasurer, he has funnelled his exuberant talents into not only running, but practically re-writing our Bulletin program to suit our personal needs. this effort is well appreciated by the membership, the last BBS member count was 19, this far exceeds our previous TIBBS, as our thanks go to Jim for all the effort and time he has freely donated, I personally would like to thank all the members who have and are still supporting our FULLY TI-BULLETIN BOARD, as with your Newsletter, everything possible is considered in making these an all TI System, but we still need your support and a larger membership can be attained, check out the Modems in the Ad. Section for those who still require one.

Mr. Dennis Miller volunteered and was appointed by the Executive last year, as the Newsletter Printer, Dennis can now combine, Treasurer, Printer, and Newsletter Mailing. We hope, by this combination, to be able to economize these functions and provide a more efficient service in the future, I would hereby like to officially welcome you to the Executive and thank you on behalf of the members, good luck.

I would like to thank Mr. Kenneth Godbeer for his services to the club over this last two years as Vice President (El Duo Presidente), his written articles to the Newsletter were very much appreciated and always well done along with his Executive duties, I hope that the purchase of an IBM will not take your interest away from the club, (as we still have the best machine, no prejudice, just a fact eh Yves?) we would still appreciate your input, thankyou Ken.

Last but by no means least, our now past Secretary, (El Scrivo) Mrs. Roxanne Appelt, what can I say, at least you were better looking than our present Secretary (although there are possibly some of us who appreciate these hairy legged individuals). What I remember is that you seem to have been on our Executive from almost the first meeting you attended, since you took over from Rodger Loten two years ago? How time flies, the club salutes you for your efforts and the input at the various meetings you always managed to attend, I very much appreciated your Newsletter article and hope, when you have more time available that you will not forget your dedicated Newsletter Editor. We have had many excuses for vacating the Exec. positions in the past, but I hear that you are expecting a happy event in January, yes, .....en? could that be a new computer? don't forget to press the reset button!

Good luck and thank you Roxanne from us all.

GAME SECTION.

by: Yves Chevalier.

I would like to see a new section in the NEWSLETTER that would cover top scorers at the TI Arcades. Any member of the family would qualify to see their name and top scores in writing. Any member of the family would qualify to run this section.

Obstacle:

Someone to run this. Submit your name to Bill Ince at the next General Meeting.

!-----{News Letter}-----!

ABOUT OUR NEW LOGO.

Although we have used the Club TI Logo for several years now, it is probably time for us to have a change, Andrew, has been experimenting with the Transliterate command in TI-Writer and has come up with the Logo printed on this new sample of the Newsletter front page, the advantage being, this can be printed along with the regular Newsletter through the TI-Formatter, another stage in creating a fully TI. Edit and Print Newsletter, this is possibly the only Newsletter printed using only TI. equipment.

If there is any suggestions, either for or against this new format, please either contact the Newsletter Editor, or place it on the BBS. Thankyou. Ed.

by: Andrew Webster.

The New Logo is entirely done with TI. The initial layout was done with TI-Artist and Saved as an Instance D/V-80 file. I then used a small 9 sector X/Basic program, which took the Instance file and converted it to a TI-Writer D/V-80 file. This new file is then loaded through the Text Formatter of TI-Writer and printed as a graphics file.

-TW II\_MCF-3

Transliterate command (.TL) used in the Text Formatter is indeed a powerful one and mostly overlooked by those who use TI-Writer. But used to its full extent, .TL will give you the ability of printing graphics along with your text file giving your document that "look" you've been looking for!

The transliterate command has to do with the ASCII character codes. Any character can be changed or transliterated to represent any other character or characters. So the .TL is used to firstly turn on the graphics capability of a modern printer.

Printer graphics consist of one or more columns of dots. For the TI printer there is a total of 480 such columns across a line. Each column is 8 positions high and a dot can appear in any one of the 8 positions. Each position has a number associated with it.

To start with, let's draw a standard single character that matches the text characters in size. A normal printer character is 6 columns wide including the right hand column, which is left vacant so that characters will not run together. Except for lower case decenders, the bottom positions are not used either.

Designing standard size characters will allow you to use them quite freely within your text, even with such commands as adjust and center. The easiest way to design something is by using graph paper:

128:	-	-	-	-	-	-
64:	-	+	-	-	-	-
32:	-	+	-	-	-	-
16:	+	+	+	+	+	+
8:	+	+	+	+	+	+
4:	+	+	+	+	+	+
2:	-	+	-	-	-	-
1:	-	-	-	-	-	-

The sum of the first column is 24, and the second, 4. The used positions in the third column all add up to 120, and the next two columns are 4 and 24. The last column is 0. To send the data the printer must be switched from text mode to graphics. The normal density graphics mode is entered with the ASCII codes 27 and 75. The 75 must be followed by two numbers which tell the printer how many columns of graphics to print on a line. Unless you are going to send more than 255 columns of data values (which is unlikely), the first number must be the EXACT number of columns you want to print and the second number zero; for our example, 6. The graphic data immediately follows the second number. Our string of numbers now looks like this:



1200 Baud modem Pack/Bell w/cable, new, \$130 455-5600

1200 Baud modem Concord \$120 921-2280

------(News Letter)-----

DISK-CATALOGUE.

by: Win Appetit.

New Library Additions for November:

XMAS/SPEC & ARTISTXMAS

This floppy is another one of the disks sent to us from the Cleveland U.G. Side one is full of CSGO graphics, pictures, TI-Writer transliterate graphics and a few X/B programs such as a letterhead prog. and a Christmas crossword prog. Side 2 is full of TI-Artist instances and a few Christmas Fonts.

FTRM-OMEGA

Included on this disk is the latest Fasterm update V1.16jph. This latest update by Peter Hoddie includes many features that will make this program a lot more versatile. Omega is a terminal emulator program that will let you view Max-RE pictures online.

HCJOURNAL1,2 & 3

These 3 disks contain the programs from the now defunct Home Computer Journal.

STAR

(Super TI Assembly Routines). Star is a package containing 53 A/L routines that can be used in your X/B programs via the CALL LINK statement. For all you X/B programmers out there, this disk can be a real asset.

------(Advertisements)-----

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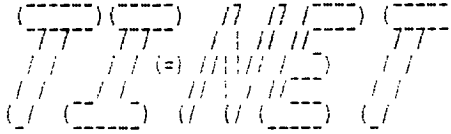
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EDMONTON 99'ERS TI-NET.

by: James Mulligan. (Sysop).



--- Edmonton, Alberta, Canada ---

--- 300 - 1200 Baud ---

---(403) 464-4167 ---

Our club board has been up and alive for over a month now, and has run faithfully for most of that time. We have had well over 400 calls in that month and a fairly good representation of club members have given the board a call at least once during that time.

In this article I would like to run through some of the basics of using the board. After you have signed on for the first time, remember to use the exact name of our computer as printed on the console (keyboard), ie. TI-99/4A when asked for your computer type, the first thing you should do is type a "?" for the main menu. It will look like this:

```

>>>> TI NET MAIN MENU <<<<
[A]dress of BBS [L]ocal BBS's
[B]ulletins [N]ews (repeat)
[C]all Sysop [O]ther TI BBS'S
[D]ownloads [R]ead mail
[E]-Mail [S]end an upload
[F]eedback [T]ext files
[G]oodbye [U]ser lists
[H]ow to use BBS [Y]our stats
[I]nfo TI-NET [ ] Not Used
-----
"OFF" or "BYE" no frills hangup

```

Although many of the options available on the main menu are self explanatory, here is a brief description of their useage.

ADDRESS AREA.

The [A] command will give you the address of the Club BBS and the mailing address of the EDMONTON 99'ER USERS SOCIETY.

BULLETIN AREA.

The [B] command will take you to the bulletin or public message area of the board. Here you can read public mail from other users on various topics and can respond to them all. In other words here you can carry on a public conversation with the other users of the BBS.

While there is not really a main Bulletin menu, here are the various bulletin options available at present:

- B General bulletins and topics
- B1 Ti-Talk about our TI
- B2 Hardware
- B3 Books/Magazines
- B4 Advertizing

These commands can be used within the Bulletin:

Supported Commands:

- H Detailed Help area
- K Kill bulletin; yours only
- L List other areas
- P Post a bulletin
- Q Quit to main menu
- R Read bulletins
- RN Read New Bulletins
- S Scan users/subjects
- ? This menu

R, S, and K can be followed by a bulletin number. Ex: R7 or K5 R may also specify forward or backward by adding a + or - .

Examples: R7+ or R7-.

ME:-- EDITOR.

The Editor is called up whenever you need to enter text. You can type up to the maximum number of lines. You will get a warning when only 4 lines are left. When finished, enter a blank line to drop to the Editor menu. Once in the menu, these single letter commands can be used:

- C)ont: Allows you to continue entering lines.
- E)dit: Lets you re-enter one line. You will be asked for a line number, and then you see the old line. Type the new line, or just press <Enter> to leave it alone.
- D)elete: Erases one line and moves all following lines up.
- I)nsert: Lets you insert one line of text between two other lines. Moves everything past it down one line.
- L)ist: Prints out the whole message, with or without line numbers.
- N)ew: Erases the whole message and lets you start over.
- Q)uit: Erases the message and quits.
- S)ave: Ends the message and saves it.

(If you type past the end of a line at any time, the word you were typing is moved to the next line).  
Ctrl.X will erase a whole line.

Call Sysop.

The [C] command will call for me if you need to talk right now. This makes a loud noise through the monitor and as I have the monitor turned off most of the time to ensure your privacy and to keep the costs down, I usually will not hear to answer your call. But, if I do I will step in quickly. You can also leave me a message in the Feedback area or call me by voice if its really urgent.

---: DAL:-- FILES.

The [D] command will take you to the download area of the BBS. Downloading is a word that means to copy programs between computers via modem. In your case, downloading sends a file to YOU. (An Upload is where YOU send a file.)

The menu works much like the Files area. You choose a category, but then instead of numbers for files, you use a 1-10 letter filename. Filenames are listed with the number of sectors, type of file, and a short memo. for each.

The only way to download programs from TI-Net is with a terminal emulator with Xmodem. (Not TE-2!) if you don't have one, I suggest you get a copy of Fast-Term from someone or send \$15, a disk, and return postage to:

=====> Paul Charlton  
1110 Pinehurst Ave.  
Charlottesville, VA 22901

Fast-Term is a freeware program and is very easy to learn.



### To DOWNLOAD with Fast-Term:

Hit Function N and type the filename to use (such as DSK1.SONG), exactly the same name TI-Net used. Then press Function Shift X, all at the same time, and press R for receive. Hit 'Yes' for CRC error checking. TI-Net will delay a minute or so if you do not correctly select CRC before switching to CHKSUM error checking, which is what you get if you hit (N)0.

**NOTE:** Files with a program name extender like ";A" and ";B" are ARCHIVED files and are to be unpacked using one of the Archiver programs which may be downloaded from this section.

Fast-Term will display a Record Number and count slowly up. Each record takes about 5 seconds if you are using 300 baud, much less if you are at a higher speed. The total number of records in a file can be found by doubling the number of sectors it contains, and subtracting one. Note that the number Fast-Term displays is in hexadecimal, so for checking purposes you will need to mentally convert it to decimal.

When the transfer finishes or is stopped for some reason, press any key and may continue using the Bulletin Board, or even continue to download more files. (if something goes wrong, and TI-NET doesn't respond correctly, press CTRL-X or FCTN-4 several times).

### ELECTRONIC MAIL.

The [E] command brings you to the Electronic or private mail section of the BBS. Here you can leave private mail for another user or read private mail sent to you. To send mail you need to know their user number. If you don't remember you can use the [U] command from the main menu, then return to send them mail.

Once you enter the user number to send to, you use the message editor (described under the Bulletin section) to enter the letter. When you finish, the letter is placed in their mail box.

### FEEDBACK AREA.

The [F] command lets you leave private mail for me about anything. Here you could explain any problems or ideas that you have relating to the operation of the board.

### GOODBYE COMMAND.

The [G] command will take you to the exit screen. Here you will be given an opportunity to leave me a message (Feedback) before you sign off. You can also exit the BBS with the command words "BYE" or "OFF" and skip the [F] option.

### HOW TO USE THE BBS.

The [H] command will give you the help messages for all sections of the BBS. That is basically this file.

### INFORMATION AREA.

The [I] command will give you the information about the TI-NET. Here you will find out about the system running the board and some information about the actual software that is the board.

### LOCAL BBS.

The [L] command will give you a listing of the various bulletin boards in the Edmonton area, not necessarily TI boards. If you know of a good board that is not listed here tell me about in with the Feedback command.

### NEWS AREA.

The [N] command will display the system news that you saw when you signed on to the board. This will repeat that information for you.

### OTHER TI-BBS's.

The [O] command will give you a listing of the other TI bulletin boards around North America. This listing is not complete, please notify me, regarding any other TI-Boards that are "up & running".

