K-TOWN 99'ER

MARCH 1991

THE K-TOWN 99'ER IS A JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP AND THE ATHENS COMPUTER CLUB. EACH ARE NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS. ORGANIZED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF GATHERING AND DISSEMINATING INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THE USE AND OPERATION OF THE TEXAS INSTRUMENTS' TI-99/4A HOME COMPUTER. WE ARE IN NO WAY AFFILIATED WITH TEXAS INSTRUMENTS OR ANY OTHER COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION.

COMMENT

The K-Town 99er is published monthly for the benefit of the K-Town 99/4A Users Group membership specifically and the TI Community in general. The Articles in this mewsletter to the best of our knowledge are factual but neverless the views expressed are the views of the author and are not necesarily the views of the K-Town Users Group. Any article, unless stated otherwise, may be copied by other users groups and published in their newsletter providing credit is given to the author and the K-Town 99er.

K-TOWN MARCH MEETING

The K-TOWN 99/4A Users Group will meet at the home of E. M. Smith. We no longer meet in the MLB building due to change of policy which requires us to pay $10.00 per hour for use of the building. We will continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. March 14th is our next meeting date. See "PRESIDENT'S FORUM" for updates regarding this change and information relative to "whats cooking" for the future of the K-Town 99ers, with suggestions on different options available to us. Bob Buehler will favor us with a DEMO of the latest version of PLUS!.

DUES / MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the K-Town 99/4A Users Group is open to any owner or user of the TI-99/4A Home Computer. Dues are TEN DOLLARS per year and subject to our fiscal year which begins April 1 and ends March 31 or each year. Dues are clasified as family memberships. New memberships are prorated at the rate of ONE dollar per month if less than a full year, except for the last three months of our fiscal year. There is a minimum fee of five dollars. Memberships are not prorated for current or former members. We welcome visitors.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM
A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

So soon, the end of our fiscal years looms on the horizon. My mind ponders the many facets of K-Town survival in a new fiscal year. Some perspectives give cause for sadness. Other thoughts give cause for hope and optimism.

The down side is nurtured with uncertainity. Additional loss in membership is certain to come with the time for renewal of dues. Faces that have been absent or voices that have been silent for the past year are not likely to renew their membership. Lower membership increases the burden on the "survivors" to carry the workload which is already burdensome for some of us.

Lower membership translates into lower revenues.

Lower revenues and increased postal rates translates into a termination of our newsletter exchange. It is anyones guess as to what item(s) of interest will be lost for us to garner and possibly enhance our computer literacy. The tangents of the downside will remain as unexplored journeys that will suffer for the lack of our participation.

On the up side is the few remaining members who are loyal to the TI cause. They continue to prove to themselves and others that our little orphan still holds vestige to yet undiscovered power and mysteries. We hold forth to a belief that the 99/4A will continue to serve our computer needs and more for many more years.

A CALCULATED PROGNOSIS
By E. M. Smith

When one is dealing with potentially changing variables, one can not be certain about coming events. As things stand at the present the K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP will continue to meet and try to be a viable Users Group in the TI Community. The tide of change dictates the direction we must pursue. Of course the views expressed here are primarily mine and not necessarily a consensus of our membership at large but would appear to be the opinions of the active membership.

For the ensuing fiscal year you can expect that our monthly newsletter will be distributed to only the members in good standing. We will no longer be able to exchange

newsletters with other user groups. The size of the newsletter may vary in size depending on the volume of material submitted.

Our success in maintaining an active role in the TI Community at large will depend in large part on the success of the proposed central database with Irwin Hott of CONNI in command. Final details for this operation are yet to be announced. The latest information available expresses optimisim that the Database BBS will be up and running by early May.

CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP DUES

At our February Business session a motion was made and passed to reduce our annual membership dues to ten dollars. This came about because of an earlier decission that reduced membership left us no option but to terminate our newsletter exchange with other user groups. With the reduction of local dues comes the recommendation that each of us join another Users Group. It is anticipated that our members will coordinate their subscriptions in a manner so as to afford us a broad perspective of what other Users Group members are doing that might be of

interest to us locally. Since some of these newsletters are likely to be available via the Central Database some discretion will need to be exercised to avoid duplication. If you will avail me of your individual preferences in Newsletter subscriptions I will try to seve as coordinator for the group.

NOTICE: Memberships must be renewed by end of our March Meeting, March 14th to receive our April Newsletter.

MARCH MEETING

Bob Buehler has volunteered to hold forth the monthly demonstration at the March meeting. He will favor us with a partial demonstration of PLUS!. I say partial because PLUS! ia multiple faceted program which can't be fully covered in a one hour DEMO. At best, one can only cover the highlights of PLUS! in a one hour demo. PLUS! is conglomeration of Utility Files, templates, programs, and

etc., that serve as enhancements in the use of word processing programs such as FUNELWEB and TI-WRITER. This FAIRWARE software is a product of Jack Sughrue. Jack also writes some well publicized articles under the title of NEW-AGE/99. Many of the exchange newsletters publish his articles.

MY CROWNING MOMENT OF ACHIEVEMENT
By E. M. Smith

Speaking of Jack Sughrue, this month some of the newsletters are publishing his NEW-AGE-99 Article #13 which is largely devoted to the work of Dr. Charles Good and the Lima Users Group. Jack goes into detail about the numerous video tapes that Charles has recorded and distributes to the TI Community. It was my crowning moment of achievement when I wrote an article for the K-Town 99er which discussed the interfacing of our computers with VCR's. Charles acknowledged that my article sowed the seeds that "harvested" the tapes he is producing. Please be careful with my halo. It is extremely fragile.

My name was not mentioned in the article, and there is no reason that it should have been mentioned. But, when I read the article I was filled with a measure of pride just in the knowledge that I had through the K-Town 99er sown some seeds that have brought forth such a bountiful harvest.

TO NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE EDITORS

With the publication of this issue of the K-Town 99er we will no longer be in a position to exchange newsletters via mail. If and when the CENTRAL NEWSLETTER DATABASE starts operating it is our hope that we will be able to exchange articles of general interest through that forum. I hope your respective Users Group has already subscribed to the Central Database Service. It should prove to be more cost effective to both garner and disseminate newsletter articles.

If your Users Group has not yet subscribed to the Central Newsletter Database you may do so by sendint thirty dollars to Bob DeVilbiss, 200 Attebury Avenue, Columbus, OH 43229. Make checks payable to COMMI.

We experience a large measure of sadness in our departure from the newsletter exchange. We appreciate having shared in the exchange with each of you through the past seven years. It is said that all good things sooner or later must come to an end. Thus, as we depart from the exchange we convey to you a message of much appreciation for the past experience and our gratitude to those who can see fit to keep us on their mailing list. If you can't, we will try to understand.

We will continue to publish a newsletter and distribute it to our membership. In the near future we hope to again share with you via the CENTRAL NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE DATABASE.

POTPOURRI
by Bill Sheridan

In the December issue of the MID SOUTH 99 USERS GROUP newsletter, I read the following Hints, Tips and Answers on using Funnelweb. Some of the following may be familiar, some new or forgotten. The article was edited by Bill Sponchia of the Ottawa TI99/4a Users Group. Tips from various authors.

1). Outdenting - This is the reverse of "indenting". It will allow the first line of a paragraph to start farther to the left then the remaining lines in the paragraph. ".LM12;IN7;RM71" causes the first line to start at column 7 and subsequent lines to begin at column 12.

2). When using REPLACE STRING, you must be in the same MODE (Word Wrap or Block) that the original document was produced in.

3). This is for use in Funnelweb Text Editor mode (note: it may work for regular TI-Writer but I'm not sure). Want to convert the character case (Upper to Lower; Lower to Upper)? a) Upper to Lower - depress CTRL and "." (period)
   b) Lower to Upper - depress CTRL and ";" (semi-colon)
   By keeping the keys depressed, the autorepeat function

over will be converted.

4). To save part of a document, insert in front of the filename the first line number you wished saved, then either a comma or a space, and then the last line number you wished saved. eg - "5,30 DSK1.TEXT or 5 30 DSK1.TEXT - will save lines 5 to 30, inclusive, onto disk drive #1 under the name TEXT.

5). To "get rid" of the line numbers on the left of the screen, press FCTN 0 (zero). To get them back, press FCTN 0 again.

6). If you erase a line in error, press CTRL 1 (known as "OOPS!") and your line will be restored. Note: This will work ONLY if no other keys were pressed betweeen the erasing and "OOPS!".

7). When using the "SearcH" command, remember that the search is only from the point that the cursor is located. Therefore, to search the total document, the cursor must be on line 1 before you go to the Command mode.

8). To backspace beyond the left margin, press CTRL

will take affect and every character the cursor passes Y. This will temporarily disable the left margin. There is no right margin release.

9). When using the Header or Footer command with the page number, it is possible to have NO value printed (such as for the introduction, etc) by using the .PA format command with a value of zero. The page numbering will begin on the following page.

10). TI-Writer can save a file in other than the normal D/V80 format by using the PF command and either putting a "F" in front of the filename (ie F DSK1.MYFILE), or by putting a "C" in front of the filename. "F" causes a file to be created in a Display/Fixed 80 format. "C" strips any control characters from the file as it is sent.

11). TI-Writer can be used as a database. Each line must be a record and set up exactly the same. For example, if the data was names, addresses and phone numbers, then all names must start in the same column; all addresses must start in the same column; and all phone numbers must start in the same column. There can be no lines which are blank or have other type of information on them (ie - titles). Then using the program SORT UTILITY (by D R Romer J Clulow), you can sort this file. Once sorted, which is done very quickly, titles can be added if you are printing it out.

12). There are CTRL keys equivalents to most FCTN keys, plus a few others. For example, to tab to the right you go FCTN 7 or CTRL W; to tab back (to the left), you can go CTRL T (there is no equivalent FCTN key).

13). If you must go to the bottom of your text (and it is very long), instead of paging down simply go to the Command Line and press "S" for "show line" and at the prompt "enter line number" just type "E" and press ENTER. "E" is a valid line number for the last line (end) of a document. This feature is active in all the commands requiring you to enter a line number.

14). If you wish to prevent the form feed at the end of printing when using the Formatter, then make the last line of your text ".PL 1". This will suppress the form feed, but note: do not forget to reset PL if you have another document to print.

15). You can string the formatter commands on the same line separated with a semicolon. eg - LM 10;RM 70;IN+5;FI;AD

16). If you are having problems with formatter commands, make sure they are UPPERCASE letters.

17). To avoid a BUFFER FULL notice, you just save the files as it gets larger, then use the SD command to see the file size. The BUFFER is full at 92 sectors.

18). When using the .CE command, you MUST also use the .LM and .RM commands because .CE centers the text between the SET margins, not necessarily the middle of your paper.

19). The Formatter also ensures that you have two spaces after each period. To control this when you are typing such things as "Mrs. E Smith" or "1023 N. Queen Street", then use SHIFT 6 (a circumflex) in place of a space after the period. eg - Mrs. E Smith; 1023 N. Queen Street.

20). If you must have a dot in column one of your text, you must transliterate it or the Formatter will think it is a command and will not print the line. ".TL 124:46" will allow FCTN A to print out a period.

21). To create a file with out line feeds yet Formatted, do the following:
   a). Use the Formatter to print the text to disk
   b). Go back to the EDITOR and do a Print File (PF) replacing PIO with C DSKn.filename.

22). If you wish to include a program listing in your document instead of retyping it into TI-Writer, just LIST the program to the diskette using the following command LIST "DSKn.filename". This will save the program in DISPLAY/80 format which allows it to be read by TI-Writer. You can now load this file into TI-Writer and place the carriage return character at the end of each program line.

23). If you wish to place a Carriage Return at the end of a line of text (a line without the return will usually occur when you have inserted blank lines in the text and then put text on them), then place the cursor at the end of the text and press CTRL 8. This will place a Carriage Return where you want it and insert a blank line below. If this line is not wanted, you can delete it with FCTN 3.

24). You can get a print out of your file WITH LINE NUMBERS when printing out of Editor mode by placing an "L" and a space before the printer name in the command instruction.
   (eg - L PIO). This will eliminate the last 6 characters at the end of each line (#75 to #80). Therefore, keep your line lengths to a maximum of 74.

25). Did you know that you can type anything you want after a carriage return ON THE SAME LINE and it won't print out; but it will SAVE. This is great for text notes for screen reading.

26). When typing up a document which uses long words or phrases frequently then a time saver (and also added insurance against typing errors) is to type the words in shortform or initials (ie - TI-ARTIST could become TIA; Ottawa TI-99/4A Users Group could become OTIUG). When you are finished with the document, use Replace String

function (RS) to change the words back to the full spelling (eg - /TIA/TI-ARTIST/). Care must be taken in three forms when using this:

a). The search only begins from the spot that the cursor is on, so to do the whole document, insure that
the cursor is on line 1 before starting.

b). The search will locate all occurrences of the string. Therefore, if the string searched for is "at"
it will find word "at" and also the "at" in cat and "that", etc. So, before telling the machine to "Change
all occurrences automatically, be sure this problem can't arise. If you are not confident of this, it is best to walk through and change each separately as it is found.

c). As a reformatting will be done wherever a change is made, it would be wise to review the document after
to be sure that it is still formatted correctly.

27). When using the FIND STRING command, you can specify which column range to search. eg - 5 15 /text/ will look for the string "text" in columns 5 through 15 inclusive.

28). If your printer does not have a slashed zero and you want to print it out that way use the following Transliteration: printed; then a backspace (8); and then a printing of a slash (47).

29). Two files can be loaded into the Editor (assuming the total size is not too large for memory) by loading in the first file then doing a LF and entering E DSKn.YYY (where n=disk # and YYY=second file). This will load the second file after the end of the first file.

30). If you don't like the windowing when using 80 column format, then set the margins for 0 and 40 and turn off the line numbers (FCTN 0). When you are finished reset the left and right margins to what you desire and reformat each paragraph.

31). You can merge sections of a second file into the current document by the following entry using the LF command: 25 7 12 DSK1.YYY - This will load lines 7 to 12 (inclusive) from file YYY to the current document after line 25.

32). If you are using FUNNELWEB 4.1 or greater, then after you have the directory on the screen (using the SD command), you will be able to see how many lines are in a file by marking the file and then requesting (V)iew. The line count will be shown at the bottom of the screen.

HOW DO YOU LIKE OUR NEW LOOK?

Friday morning, February 22nd, I received a surprise telephone call from Art Gibson proclaiming his new newsletter print program. He took time to explain the new features which permits one to mix graphics and text. The graphics will be on a seperate line(s) and can be printed in one column format. The graphics can be centered in the column or justify to the left or right margins. I told him that it sounds great and he promised to mail me a copy which I received in the mail Saturday.

Regrettably, I did not follow my own best council by making a back-up copy. Possibly the program is not compatable with either SXB or my GRAM KRACKER. Whatever, I was unable to get the program to run. All I could get when I tried to auto load was a blank screen and a computer lock-up. I called Art and he tried to guide me through the program but to no avail. On cataloging the program disk it was learned that several sectors of the program are missing. He is coming to Knoxville on the 28th with a new copy and offers to help Bill Sheridan and myself publish the newsletter.

As I write this article I am not sure that you will see it published. If you are reading this then the newsletter should have a new look. If there is no new look you know that I failed to edit this article out and also it means that we were unable to master his program in time to print the newsletter. Too bad this comes at a time when we are publishing our last edition which will be distributed to our newsletter exchange.

If we are successful and you like what you see you might contact Art for a copy. Art does not as a rule charge for his programs but I am sure that he would not object to your sending some monetary consideration to help defray his costs. His address is as follows:

Art Gibson
439 W. Rockwood Street
Rockwood, TN 37854
Phone: (615) 354-1931

CHATTER BOX—1
Formerly KINDER KORNER
By Bob Buehler

To friends of dead K-KORNER, here I lie.
Some surely may laugh. Others may cry.
It's K-Town purpose was nothing but good:
To help wOnderding members the best way it could.
'cause wOndering members soon wAnder away,
A thing that we noticed on each meeting day!

The earliest programs were so simple and plain
That even beginners could learn without pain.
Then slowly but surely programs got harder
'till right usefull things stuffed the Kinder-K
larder. But this hopeless effort came too little too
late.
Last month K-K died. 'twas KK-38.

(I'd feel lots worse if I hadn't learned so durn much
doing the Korner. Hope CHATTER BOX will help me as much!
BB)

WHAT'S LEFT

I'm in a HECK/UV/A/FIX!! My one Meg Horizon is in.
It's running. It's only one-fifth full of handy
utilities. They are available from MENU with handy
Key-Press convenience. My P-Gram+ Card is in. It's
holding and running XBASIC only, so far. What's left to
want? Surely not hardware. I've got all I need and want.
Well, I can think of one more necessity. SMARTS!! Oh, and
one more. TIME!! I've said for years and years that given
enough time a guy could do just about any thing. Still
true, but now there is years and years less time
available. Hope there's enough left to get those SMARTS!

Without really knowing what I was doing I had XBASIC
running on P-GRAM+ without knowing why. That let me clear
a widget and three cartridges out of the console slot.
Then I tackled Horizon. By just "following the numbers"
ROS (Ram Operating System) got loaded. Then I had to call
on EM Smith for help. (Yes, I told you that last month in
KINDER KORNER, but now that's dead: so here's a new
telling.) With EM's help Horizon got divided into five
drives with 720 sectors assigned to each, plus one more
with 400 sectors of Horizon's remaining memory.   Numbers
are 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and A. DISK names are "UTILITIES," and
FILE-1, -2, -3, -4, -5, and -A. Five times 720 plus 488 =
4088 sectors. At 256 characters per sector that's
1,046,528 characters. That's close enough to one Meg to
suit me.

CONFIGURING AWAY FROM DRIVE #1

It's been mighty handy growing up in the TI 99/4A
world with lots of useful software that is "self loading."
Just put the disk in drive one, push for XBASIC, and away
it goes. This took no SMARTS and got me going faster and

earlier than otherwise. RAM DSKS, though are not in DRIVE
ONE, and I wanted the ever useful Funnelweb on RAM for
fast loading. I had my 512 RAM a long time before Charlie
Good, by telephone, talked me smartly through configuring
Funnelweb to quick load from RAM as DSK3. The McGoverns
incorporate a Configure program in the package. So before
EM got away we put Funnelweb for self loading from "Drive
5" of my new one Meg. And another self loader also on
"Drive 5." That was all for a couple of weeks.

Yes, yes I well know that I'm saying the simplest
things to a sophistigated audience. Can't help it.
I just feel so good with my new one MEG I can't
help it. And when I get it all loaded it will
hold the stuff by battery bck-up. My 512 did well
with an adapter, but KUB power goes off sometimes.
Also, in a lightning storm I often upplug my entire
computer system. Hurray for battery backed
Horizon!

By now I'd discovered that the many self loaders I'd
been using, had loaders that are called up in DSK1.   So
when I wanted to put "Rediskit" by James Schroeder, on my
One MEG I had to search Rediskit's sectors for String
DSK1. and change them all to DSK6. I'd already just
about filled DSK5 by adding ARCHIVER and DISK UTILITIES to
FUNNELWEB, leaving only 50 sectors free. DISK MANAGER is
also on DSK6, leaving 557 sectors for much more.

In searching for String DSK1. in all these so as to
change them to DSK5. or DSK6. dozens upon dozens were
found. This makes me think that I changed many that were
not really needed to achieve self loading. Lacking smarts
to know the difference I changed all that were found. AND
BLESS PAT IT WORKED!!!

With these triumphs behind, I put PLUS!, V2, on MYARC
512, the better to learn how to use it. With luck, this
could be the theme of CHATTER-BOX-2, in next month's
Newsletter. Or some future distribution to K-Towners.

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?.

Right here I saved the above, turned things off, and
went to watch a war briefing. Then came back and turned
the console on FIRST. Went back and started over with the
correct routine but my precious MENU with all its options
was gone. I was in XBASIC, though, and could load Fweb
with RUN"DSK5.LOAD". Then in Fweb I could show directory
to learn that all my loads on the Horizon were still good.
So with my limited SMARTS I figure I'd lost ROS. Reloaded
ROS with the DSK that came with Horizon and back I was in
business. I'd read long ago that things needed to be
turned on a correct order. Now I believe!!!

TRIBUTES TO JOHN BIRDWELL AND TONY McGOVERN.

I chose to contribute personally and with a letter. For John I was too late, but his widow may appreciate my words. And you can be sure I thought and thought about John's great DISK UTILITIES program as I searched hours on end for those DSK1.'s to change for loading my one MEG. Tony already knew how I appreciated Fnlweb, but I still wanted to tell him again!

K/TOWN 99ers IN 1991.

I have my check written for 1991 dues. And I'm ready to join another User Group to get its Newsletter and library privilege. I'm also willing to glean therefrom and contribute in CHATTER BOX-? the best for some form of distribution to dues paying K-Town 99ers.
2/10/91

FOR NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE EDITORS

With this issue of the K-Town 99er we will no longer be in a position to exchange newsletters via mail. If and when the CENTRAL NEWSLETTER DATABASE starts operating it is our hope that we will be able to exchange general articles of interest through this forum. I hope your users group has already signed up to participate in the central database. It should prove to be more cost effective to both garner and disseminate newsletter articles.

If you have not subscribed to the database you may do so by sending thirty dollars to Bob DeVilbiss, 200 Attebury Avenue, Columbus, OH 43229. Make your checks payable to CONNI.

We experience a large measure of sadness in our departure from the monthly newsletter exchange. We appreciate having shared this experience with each of you through the past seven years, but it seems that all good things must come to an end sooner or later. If you can continue to keep us on your mailing list we will be very grateful. If you can't, we will try to understand.

We will continue to publish a newsletter and distribute it to our membership and in the near future we hope to visit with you again via the CENTRAL NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE DATABASE.

A POSSIBLE NOTE OF INTEREST
FROM E. M. Smith
TO TELECOMMUNICATION USERS

Using ARCHIVER III V 3.03 the eight pages of text contained on the front, back, and inside, the February Edition of this newsletter compacted to eighty sectors. Everything except the front page LOGO was archieved and prior to archieving it required 161 sectors in single density format.

This notice reflects the prospect of transmitting more than eight 8 page newsletters on one DSSD disk. Eight newsletters delivered for fifty-two cents in postage, the cost of a disk ($0.17) and a disk mailer ($0.??) sounds like a real bargain to me. How much would you pay for such a service?

Just thought I might sow one last crop of "SEEDS for THOUGHT!" Will there be a harvest?

STUMBLINGS
by
Joe N. Simmons

Have you ever stumbled on to a new technique either at the computer or in another club's newsletter? If so, this column is for you. The geniuses will be so deep in thought that they will never know that they missed these stumbles! Enough gibberish.

After having just lost the stumblings which I had just composed for this months contribution to the K-town newsletter makes one to want to throw the computer over the top of the Smokies!

After many trial and tribulations I finally was successful in gaining access to the VCR via a cable hook up provided by Charles Good of the Lima Group. I have sent him about two hours of a rough tutorial using Jimmie Gordon's church budget program in conjunction with Irving Crowley's Checkbook Manager III. I also sent him a

viewing of John Bull's Rubber Bridge and Duplicate Bridge programs.

If you have not recently heard your recorded voice, you may be surprised. I certainly was! My College speech teacher was correct. I have a lazy tounge.

After reading Jack Sughrue's article lauding the benefits of the McGovern's Funnelweb programs, I dispatched a letter to Tony McGovern and my Check to Jack Sughrue for the $10.00 he requested for his PLUS! 2.0. How often do we forget the *Programmer - Authors* who provide us with the software toys which we all enjoy?

Due to the lateness of the hour, my stumblings will be short.

* Our troops in the Middle East *

Let each of us ask our *FATHER* in heaven to watch over the coalition forces and those of Iraq inorder to cease the occupation of Kuwait and disolution of Saddam Hussein's unholy grip on his people and on the world's oil supplies. Although he has kept his angels from passing earthly judgement since the passing of his disciples, it would save a lot of lives if Saddam and his cohorts would pass on to *JUDGEMENT* before the ground war is commenced.

\\..../././.-../.--.//

So far, both Bob Buehler and Star Micronics have answered my plea for assistance in repairing my Gemini Printer. As I have the opportunity, I will check with the Repair Facilities which they recommend.

~~~~~~~~~~~

MAIL BAG

CHARLES GOOD: Do you read our stumblings?

Mike Epperson: Sorry, you could not attend our meeting nor read our newsletter. Perhaps E.M. will befriend you with a copy.

I called E.M. to appologize for being late in mailing my newsletter contribution. What do you know??? I am a week early;so, I will be able to give you more trivia.

Jack Sughrue answered my letter and sent me a copy of Plus 2.0. Now, I have three copies. One from Joel, one from E.M. and one from Jack!

I also received an answer from Art Green who' I had query concerning what his latest version of MultiPlan had to offer. He replied that MP 4.00 had a bug which occurred when one was trying to get a directory listing of a disk with more than 18 files. That is, in "Transfer Load" when a filename is typed and then down arrowed; this should give a directory listing beginning at the specified file. Another bug was discovered when trying to load a non-existent spreadsheet. The error is that an empty file is created.

He sent me corrections which can be used with his RAGPATCH program to correct these two bugs to create version 4.02 of his TIMP. Keeping a correspondence with the software developers keeps ones software up todate.

I also received an answer from Chris Pratt, the new Editor of the West Penn newsletter, to whom I had written an acclamation of his fine first issue. He also sent me some flyers from ESD (Electronic Systems Development) Corp. concerning their new TI H/F Controller card and got TI to send me some brochures on their Laser Printers. Chris first issue was printed with the use of TI's Laser

printer. For those clubs fortunate to own such a printer will have superb newsletters. Of course the difference between a Laser and a Dot Matrix is only   Money!

The new controller is one on which I will be watching the reviews. It is suppose to be able to handle single, double, and quad densities as well as hard disks. It is supposed to be more compatible with the many more economical hard disks that are currently available. Their flyer indicates they are asking $225 per card and will pay for the shipping if in the continental U.S. For more information write to ESD Corporation; P.O.Box 23805; Washington, D.C. 20026-3805.

At this past month's K-town meeting, E.M. gave me a copy of McGovern's Funnelweb 4.31 which has comments and DSKU files from Charles Good of the Lima Ohio Users Group.

Off and on today as I watch ABC's Gulf War questions and answers for children and as I performed preventive maintenance on the family's station wagon (the first sunny weekend day this year), I played with the new Disk Review. It is as neat as everyone has said. I had often wondered how long Tony and Will were going to allow DM1000 to reign as they continue to upgrade its features. They along with the rest of us continue to improve our software as we think of new mountains to climb. Along this line of thought, Tony, how about placing a find string within the Inspect file routine? Also, try to allow the program to run files via a Gram Kracker module setup. As it is, I get a module error! Some of us peasants are never, completely happy.

Until today playing with Diskreview, I have not considered being an active supporter (i.e. sending new contributions each time a new update of a freeware hits the user groups) of the various updated software that each club and its members have copies. I, along with I suspect many others, have contributed to those programs which have been of benefit to us and have not contributed any funds to the various updates nor to those software programs which we all have but have not used which also fills our disk storage cases.

After all, I along with many of the software authors are just *Amateurs* practicing our hobby. We exchange software, techniques,and blunders in our attempts to enjoy our computers. We play and program for the love of (the sport) our hobby.

Now comes Jack Sughrue's article in the West Penn 99ers January 1991 issue which puts the guilt trip on us Amateurs. Granted, I feel we should not expect the software authors to have to bear the expense of diskettes and postage. And we should send an initial contribution for the software which we use and enjoy. As amateurs this is only fair and what we expect in return. However, what we as amateurs expect is not the issue. If the McGovern's are expecting monetary gain from their labors via a freeware business venture, then we amateurs are taking

advantage of the McGovern's, Crowley's, Bull's, Gibson's, Birdwell's, Ottawa User's Group, Green's, Boone's etc.

Diskreview is a neat program which I will explore as I have time; however, I can do the same utilities with DM1000 and DPatch. Surely, some of you will get incensed over the above and will reply in your newsletter. It will help to clear the issue (air) for I do not wish to take advantage of anyone.

K-TOWN NEWSLETTER

At our K-town meeting it appears that we have found a new source for getting the newsletter published at a much reduced price. With fewer members, each of us will be asked to join one of the stronger clubs scattered about in our TI world. As we see articles in these newsletters which we feel would benefit our membership, we will submit them on disk in DV/80 format to our editor for inclusion in our club's newsletter. Joe Simmons is already an active member of the Cleveland Area U.G. and E.M. Smith has close contact with Charles Good of the Lima Ohio U.G.

If everyone will join in this effort, we should be able to reduce our membership dues to the K-town club and increase the funding of the stronger groups with whom we would join. This avenue would also allow us to become more literary (or perhaps reveal how ignorant we really are!). Also it would provide our membership with better coverage of the happenings in our T.I. world. As an editor who reads other groups newsletters, it is an idea which may provide our membership with better coverage than we have ever had. What do you think Jack Garrison?
Enough stumblings? ... 15:32 hours 1/27/91.

PS: The above article arrived about three hours late for press time of the February Newsletter. (Editor)

PS2: The change in printers, starting with the April edition, for the newsletter was not in the interest of cost saving per sei. Because we will no longer participate in a newsletter exchange, the printing quanity is too small to impose on our current source. (Editor)

NOTICE TO RAY NOVEY, CEDAR VALLEY 99'ER U.G.
MY FAVORITE DISK FILING SYSTEM. A GREAT DATABASE.

Ray, I notice in a recent issue of the Cedar Valley 99'er that you would like a good filing system for your floppy disks. The following is what I would do if I could find the time:

First, seperate your disks into categories such as UTILITIES, PROGRAM, GRAPHICS DATA, DV/80 FILES, and ETC. as need requires.

Second, In addition to the disk name assign a number to each disk and place that number on the disk label. Depending on the number of disks you have in any given category assign and reserve a range of numbers for each category. ie; 0-100 for UTILITIES, 100-200 for GRAPHICS, and etc. NOTE: Store your disks in numerical order and by category

Third, Using TI-Writer or FUNNELWEB develop a file for each FILENAME in an assigned category which records the FILENAME, DISKNAME, DISK NUMBER, and Description of file. Save each file to a special disk reserved for disk inventory. CAUTION! Do not save more than 125 files to a single disk.
Fourth, Catalog the inventory disk to printer. You now have an alphabetical file of all the files in that special category. Using the ".IF" feature of your word

processing program develop an ".IF File" in the desired printing format and save to disk. Run this file through the formatter for a hard copy of your disk library showing the information you recorded in step three.

This procedure has its limitations which can be easily overcome by not having more than 125 files in any category and it affords one an unlimited field for descriptive information. One could also develop his personal print program in lieu of using the formatter.

I believe you will find this procedure to be more flexible than a database program and probably less time consuming. It does require a lot of work to organize a large inventory of disks but once it is organized, new files can be added with a minimum effort and would not require the whole inventory to be printed each time it was updated.

I hope this suggestion will be useful to you and others who are troubled with organizing their disk inventories. Have fun! E. M. Smith, 2/21/91

P. S. This newsletter is being printed from a new program by Art Gibson (See page 5) and it would be an ideal program to print an inventory of your disk library.

BUSH PROCLAIMS CEASEFIRE! AIN'T PEACE WONDERFUL

K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP

OFFICERS:
        President — E.M. SMITH   687-8869
        V.President BILL SHERIDAN   970-3647
        Sec/Treas — Bob Buehler   689-5326

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:
        Epuipment — E. M. Smith   687-8869
        Publicity — John Bull   694-4750

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
        Bill Sheridan   970-3647

Athens Computer Club
Rt.#2,Box 608
Etowah, Tennessee,37331

Officers:
        President — Joe N. Simmons   263-2963
    Sec/Treasurer— Jimmie Gordon   263-9343
        Librarian — Larry Nelson   745-0648

****
*   *
* K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP   *
* 3506 Garden Drive   *
* Knoxville, TN. 37918   *
*   *
****

COUNTDOWN
TO
APRIL 1, 1991

1991 DUES ARE DUE
PLEASE COMPLY!

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER CLUB

P.O. BOX 29863
DALLAS, TX   75229