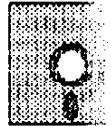


EDITOR'S EDICTS



BI PHIL TOWNSEND

VISITORS & VISITING

I have a real surprise for you, if all things go well Bob Boone from the Ottawa User's Group and the owner of Computer Download will be at the October meeting! Bob will be bringing with him a full range of TI related hardware and software. If you have been considering that "special purchase" to make your computer that much more useful or easier to use this will be your best opportunity! Those of us who have previously met and dealt with Bob can vouch for his fine products and terrific service, his prices are competitive and often better than those found in Toronto. Let's all show up at the meeting (with our checkbooks) and make Bob's visit worthwhile.

There is also a possibility that Jane LaFlamme from the Ottawa User's Group may also be with us to demonstrate the Myarc Geneve 9640 Family Computer (which is the upgrade computer for the TI99/4A). If all goes according to plan it could be a very exciting meeting.

At the September meeting Our president, Janet McIntyre, announced that our group has a reservation for a booth at Lansdowne Place shopping centre on January 23rd., 1988. The format for the day will be the same as in previous visits.

More details will be decided upon by the membership as the time approaches. Be sure to keep that date open, we need YOU there.

Also at the last meeting, Mike Dunn gave an introductory workshop on the COMPANION wordprocessing program. Mike did an excellent job of sharing his knowledge of the program with the rest of us, answering most of our questions. Thank you Mike!

Earlier at the same meeting, Glen Daniels demonstrated the Banner Maker portion of the graphics program, CSGD. Once the printer bugs were eliminated Glen gave a very thorough explanation and demo of this utility program. Thank you, Glen for your time and effort in sharing what you have learned.

On Sept. 19th., Glen, Jan and I made our way to the COMPUTERFEST 87 at the CNE grounds in Toronto. As soon we arrived in the building we made our way to the Toronto 99'ERS booth where we met up with Randy Rossetto, Gary Bowser and company. The group had a 9640 computer running, and was demonstrating Gary's updated TASS 2001 utility program along with the touch pad rewired to run the 99/4A. More about that later.

(continued)

KAWARTHA 99ers USER'S GROUP
FOR USERS OF THE TEXAS INSTRUMENT 99/4A HOME COMPUTER

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Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at the Queen Alexandra Community Centre. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

Membership fees are collected on an annual basis of \$18.00 per annum or a portion thereof at the rate of \$1.50 per month. Memberships are on an individual basis and run annually from the first Wednesday in March.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily of the KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP.

Advertisements and contributing articles for this newsletter may be given to the newsletter editor or mailed to the group's P.O. box.

The KAWARTHA 99ers would like to thank those groups who exchange information and newsletters regarding the TEXAS INSTRUMENT HOME COMPUTER with us. We endeavour to recognize original authors and sources of articles of information which we reprint or make available to our membership.

The KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP are a non-profit group who welcome any individuals who have an interest in the TEXAS INSTRUMENT HOME COMPUTER.

WANT ADS

BITS & PIECES

VISITORS & VISITING (cont'd)

Apart from the Toronto group, there was only one dealer that had any TI cartridge software (games) and he had very little. Numerous other vendors had computer related products of which we all made purchases (Jan outshopped Glen and I easily!) The show was somewhat disappointing, however and it certainly didn't have the excitement of last year. There were certainly better bargains at the '86 COMPUTERFEST. After leaving the CNE Glen and I introduced Jan to the wonderful world of Active Surplus (an electronic supply store) on Queen St. We picked up several keyboards, power supplies and RF modulators. I also picked up a number of the resistors which are necessary for the video modification which I submitted in last month's newsletter. My neighbour, who happens to be an electronic engineer did the soldering for me. It was a twenty minute fix from start to finish and the text on the screen has shown more clarity. If someone in the group has the soldering equipment and expertise, we can provide this same fix to other members' machines. The group or individual providing the service cannot take any responsibility should a difficulty occur...the modification is performed at the owner's risk.

Gary Bowser's slide show program, which is disk based has been revised and is now called TASS 2001. The documentation, which is on the program disk has been added to. A couple of features appeared not to work when Glen and I first attempted to use the program with the touch pad.

After a phone call to Gary the problem was resolved, because the touch pad is connected via the joystick port the ALPHA LOCK MUST BE UP in order for all of the functions to operate. The other feature of the program that Glen and I found by accident was the ability of the program to generate random geometric patterns. By choosing drive 0 (zero) from the first menu the patterns will appear. This feature is mentioned in the new documentation.

Last weekend I found time to access the Ottawa User Group bulletin board via my modem. I downloaded some interesting text files without any difficulty, however when I tried to download a program I ran into problems, if anyone out there can offer some simplified instruction to this novice I would appreciate any help. I am using MASS TRANSFER ver. 2.0, I should say trying to use!

Mike & Jackie Mcveigh were given a fond farewell by many of their friends from the TI group. We wait in anticipation for Mike's reports from the world's most northerly TI user group in Inuvik. My rec room was well decorated with CSGD banners, including the official sign of the INUVIK 99'ERS.

Personal notes...Best wishes to Jim Foster's wife who is recovering from surgery. Also playing the role of housekeeper is Lindsay whose wife is on the west coast due to her mother's illness, we wish you all the best. Jim Lloyd has a new address and phone number (944-5676). If you go out to visit be prepared to be put to work as the house is only half finished. John, hope the leg is feeling better, the stairs at Central must be quite a challenge!

That's about it for now,
happy hackin'.

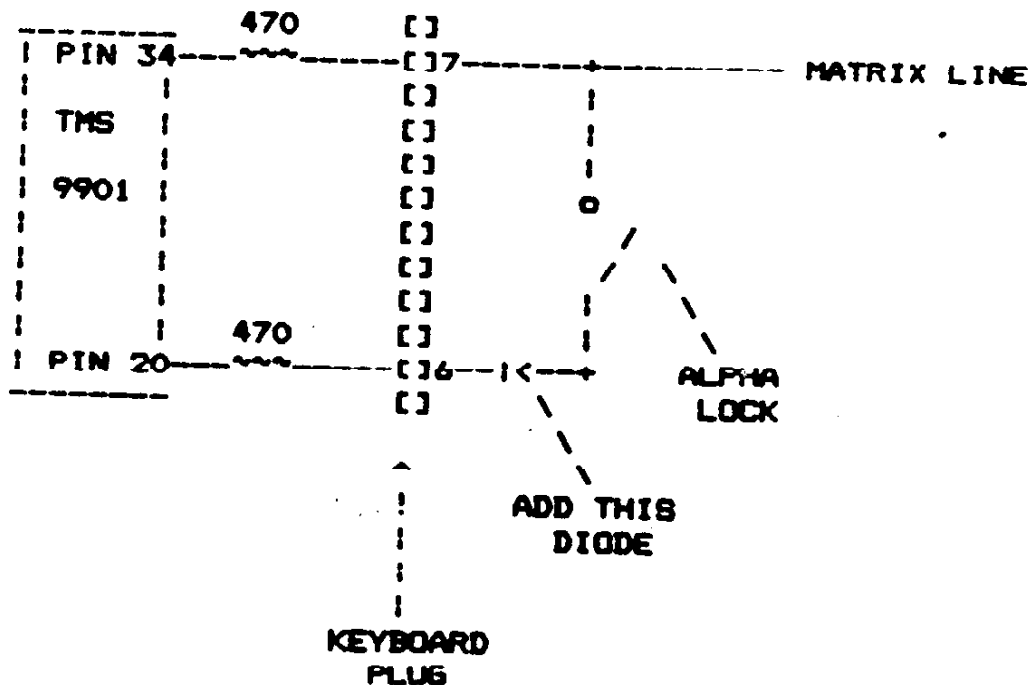
Phil

 "CONSOLE-ING THE ORPHAN"

by ALPHA LOCK
 MARK MCCORMICK

(Micropendium, March, 1987)

I've had many folks ask why the alpha lock key must be up to use the joystick. This is due to the way the TI99 decodes the keyboard matrix. If you'll add a simple 1N4148 diode as shown in the drawing below you'll never have to worry which position your alpha lock key is in. This modification involves opening the console and soldering the diode into keyboard line 6 which connects to pin 20 of the 9901 IC chip. Be careful, polarity of the diode is important.



IEWS AND REVIEWS

STRANGE FIGURES reprinted from
MANKERS NEWSLETTER, FEB. 1987

STRANGE FIGURES
by Keith G. Koch

So how accurate is it? Huh?? When all is said and done computers are really nothing more than elaborate, expensive, number manipulators. All of our programming and visual results on the screen are nothing more than the results of "number crunching"--the very fast switching of ones and zeroes.

One of the tests for a computer, therefore, is its accuracy in handling and manipulating numbers. CREATIVE COMPUTING Magazine (vol. 10, #4) gave the results of 170 tests of a benchmark program involving 140 different computers: mainframes, mini's, micros and one TI SR-50 calculator. These tests were designed to determine the speed, accuracy and ability of the random number generator.

The results are "strange figures":

speed: fastest was the Cray 1 in 0.1 second, the slowest was the TI SR-50 in 12.7 days. Five computers were under 1 sec., 58 under 1 min., 39 between 1-2. min., 15 in 2-4 min., and 23 over 4 min. The TI 99 4/A finished in 3 min., 46 sec.

accuracy: the best (DEC 11/24) came in at .000000000160298 and the worst (OSI Challenger 1P) was .32959. The 99 4/A had an error of only .00000011 (only 22 computers were better and none were the large mainframe types.)

random: the TI 99 4/A ranked 5th with a 2.7--remember these rankings are against 140 different computers, including the Cray 1, IBM mainframes, DEC Vax's, etc.

Let's compare the TI with the "home" computers (remember, the smaller the number the more accurate the computer):

<u>COMPUTER</u>	<u>ACCURACY</u>	<u>RANDOM</u>
TI 99 4/A	.00000011	2.7
Timex Sinclair	.0041294098	8.7
Coleco Adam	.000426292419	6.2
RS Color Computer	.000596284867	7.3
Commodore 64	.0010414235	8.9
Vic 20	.0010414235	23.7
Apple //e	.0010414235	12.0
DEC Rainbow 100	.005859375	7.2
IBM PC	.01159668	6.3
Atari 400/800	.012959	23.8
TRS-80 Model III	.0338745	5.8
Heath/Zenith H-98A	.187805	7.4
TI SR-50 (12.7 days later was:)	.193704289	16.4

"CONSOLE-ING THE ORPHAN"

DARE TO COMPARE

SPECS BETWEEN - MYARC 9640, ATARI ST, and AMIGA 1000 COMPUTERS.

COURTESY: The Victoria 99'ers

	MYARC 9640	ATARI ST	AMIGA 1000
RAM(standard)	640K	512K	256K
EXPANDABLE TO:	2 MB	4 MB	8 MB
MICROPROCESSOR:	TMS9995 12MHZ	68000 8MHZ	68000 7.1MHZ
INTERFACES:	8/16 BIT RS232, PARALLEL	16/32 BIT RS232, PARALLEL	16/32 BIT RD232, PARALLEL
KEYBOARD:	95 KEYS IBM TYPE	85 KEYS	94 KEYS
SOUND:	3 VOICE, 1 NOISE	3 VOICE	4 VOICE STEREO
REAL TIME CLOCK	YES	NO	NO
JOYSTICK PORT	YES	YES	YES
MOUSE:	YES (optional)	YES	YES
VIDEO PORTS:	RGB, COMPOSITE	RGB	RGB, COMPOSITE
DISK DRIVES:	5.25 DS/DD 360K	3.5 SS/DD 360K	3.5 DS/DD 880K
# OF DRIVES(max)	4	2	3
EXPANSION BUS:	YES(PE-BOX)	NO	YES
GRAPHICS: low-res	256x212	320x200	320x200
hi-res	512x424	640x400	640x400
80 COLUMNS:	YES	YES	YES
COLOR PALETTE:	512	512	4096
ON SCREEN(max)	256 COLORS	16 COLORS	32 COLORS
HARDWARE SPRITES	32, 16 COLORS	NONE	8, 4 COLORS
SPEECH:	YES	NO	YES
HARD DRIVE PORT:	YES (optional)	YES	YES (optional)
SOFTWARE INCLUDED	MYARC M-DOS 3.0 ADVANCED BASIC TI-WRITER MULTIPLAN CART/DISK PROG PECAN USCD PASCAL	GEM DESKTOP ATARI BASIC ATARI WORD ATARI LOGO	AMIGADOS 1.1 AMIGA BASIC GRAPHICS DEMO AMIGA TUTORIAL
RETAIL PRICE:	\$499.00 (US)	\$995.00 (US)	\$1495.00 (US)



"THE PREZ SEZ"

OFF AND RUNNING

It is time to begin a new season for the Kawartha 99'ers. Hopefully this season will prove to be as eventful as the previous one.

So, Kawartha 99'ers, let's begin our new season by participating in a Computer Fair being held in Belleville on Tuesday, October 13th. If you are interested please call Janet or Phil at home or let us know at the October meeting. Hopefully, a good number of members will be willing to travel to Belleville with us to show what our computer can do in the area of education, wordpro, graphics, databases etc. Details regarding time, location etc. will be available at the upcoming meeting.

There is a possibility that we will be having a computer demonstration day at Portage Place in November along with the planned demonstration all lined up for January 23rd at Lansdowne Place. By the looks of things our group is going to have a very active few months ahead and hopefully we will be able to uncover some new members in the

process. If we are to be successful in this regard we will need the participation of EACH member. (This is a hint)

On Saturday September 19th Glenn, Phil and myself headed to Toronto to a personal computer show held at the C.N.E. grounds. Of course our first stop of the day was at the Toronto 99er's booth. We discussed the new computer, graphics and touch pad with Gary Bowser and Randy Rossetto.

For the October meeting will the following members please bring the following equipment;

- Lindsay, Jim Foster, Janet - Axiom/printer
- Steve, Phil - PE box
- Jim LLOYD, Bob, John, Judy - consoles
- Monitor cables - Phil, John, Lindsay
- cassette & cables - John, Karen

Many thanks, if you cannot bring something please phone Mike Dunn (V.P.) so other arrangements can be made

I hope to see everyone out to our October 7th meeting.

Jan