Kings U.G. Nov 85

KINGS 99ers USERS GROUP
299 West Birch Ave.
Hanford, Ca. 93230

Bill Mills, Pres.

November Meeting:

Happy Thanksgiving! Our November meeting will be next Monday, November 25. We will continue our October attempt at solving Scott Adam's Adventureland. Plus more discussion on the adventure use of computers.

KINGS 99ers USERS GROUP
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1985
* * * * 7:00 PM * * * *
Special Education Center
1255 Beulah Street, Hanford

October Minutes:

If you missed the October meeting, you really missed a good time. After our general meeting, with two fantastic prises in our raffle, we all put our heads together and tried to jointly match our wits against Scott Adam's Adventureland. Thanks to Ray Graf for this great idea! Boy were there some people who got some bargins, Jeani reduced the price of all her modules in stock to only $5.00!

New Product:

The word is out about the new fantastic (sounding) fully TI compatable computer by Myarc. Rather than my attempting to rewrite what several others have written please refer to the enclosed reprint of page 18 of the LA Topics newsletter. Further information is available in the current issue of Micropendium and several of the other newsletters received this month. Also, according to the Pittsburg newsletter, the suggested retail price will be $499.

Ugly Cables-go away!

For those of you interested in getting rid of that ugly flat cable between your expansion box and the computer may I refer you to page 5 of the November issue of LA Topics (the same article has been reprinted in several other newsletters). Imagine no more ugly cable and for only $12.86!

Library Suprise:

Boy did we get a suprise last week. Out of the clear blue (well really it was an overcast day) our front door bell rang. The stranger said he was a member of an Arizona users group and he had copies of their entire library and wanted to know if our users group was interested in trading some programs. To make a long and wonderful story short Jeani now has about 20 new disks. It will be a while before we can get them all sorted out (actually probably several months-plus the club dosen't have enough blank disks)-but ask Jeani if you are interested> Many, many assembly language programs (boy are they fast) some of such fantastic quality that you can hardly beleive they aren't coming off the most expensive cartridge TI ever made.

Library:

Speaking of the library, If you are a member, don't forget to use it. We still need more people to join and use the library. We still owe Ray several more payments (yes, he extended the loan so we no longer face that crises). But unless we get some more people to join the library or to donate money to it we will not be able to make the payments without taking regular club funds, which will mean no newsletter! One origional library member has already stated she will donate $20.00 this month when her first years membership expires, if several of us would do that our loan would be paid off and all equiptment would belong to the club. Give it some thought, especially when your first year in the library runs out.

Another catalog:

For those of you who already have the Triton (free) catalog 1-800 227-6900 and would like to add another free catalog to your library call 1-800 858-4580 and request the current Unisource catalog. Not as big or as colorful as Tritons, but well worth the phone call. We have a copy in our binder. Remember, before you order from any of these mail order catalogs, please check prices with Jeani, she can almost always beat them!

Humming:

Does you computer have trouble with unwanted background noise such as humming and or buzzing? See the reprinted article on page 11 of the November issue of the Spirit of 99 (this same article also appears in several other newsletters, but this one is the easiest to read).

Freeware Revisited:

Again I refer our members to the concept of freeware. Pages 12 & [illegible] of the November issue of the Spirit of 99 has a great reprint of the [illegible] of freeware available. Please take advantage (also remember to donate copies to our library, this is how we can share and help the authors).

Raffle:

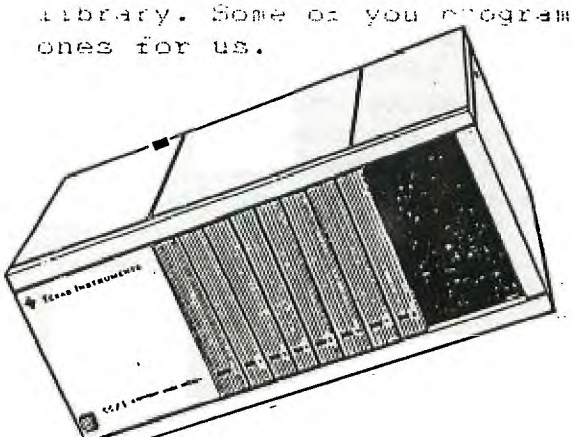
Remember to bring something to donate to the monthly raffle. These can be programs you have written, modules you no longer need, etc.

TigerCub:

Not only did Jim Peterson send us his useual two well written pages, but this month he sent us a copy of his current catalog. Tigercub hints #28, enclosed in this issue (except exchange copies) and catalog #6 in the blue binder with all the other Tigercub items. Thanks Jim! Don't forget to take a look, and order something. When you order, let him know how you heard of his products.

December Note:

At our December meeting we will demonstrate all of our Christmas programs in the library plus several others that should be in the library. Some of you programmers why don't you start writing some new ones for us.



THE NEW COMPATIBLE COMPUTER by George F. Steffen

The most well attended seminar at the TI Faire in Chicago on November 2nd was the presentation by Lou Philips, President of MYARC, Inc. Unfortunately, he was unable to demonstrate the new computer since one part of the program had been left behind in New Jersey and they had apparently damaged the CPU during testing.

Mr. Philips started with a history of MYARC, from the time they first designed the hard disk system and then, after withdrawal of TI, added the floppy disk controller, RS232 card and the 32-512K memory card.

He discussed the Extended Basic IV which should be available shortly. This is upward compatible with TI Extended Basic and, because it makes full use of the additional memory in the MYARC card, is much faster. Also, it has many new commands, the largest number of which support high resolution graphics. There is also a 40 column display mode and integer variables.

The final part of his presentation was the item which, he stated, was probably the cause of the overflow attendance in the lecture room. This remark drew a round of applause. The as yet unnamed computer will come with 256K bytes of CPU RAM compared to the TI 99/4(A) which has only 256 bytes. In addition, it will have 64K bytes of VDP RAM. Memory will be expandable to 2 Megabytes. It will have a mouse and light pen. The display will include all the modes of the 99/4 and, in addition will display up to 26 lines of 80 characters. Pixel displays are 512 x 424 bits. There are up to 512 colors available. VDP memory may be paged so that rapid changes may be made in the whole screen which will provide spectacular illusions of motion. Sprites may have more than one color and there may be up to eight on one horizontal line.

The Basic provided will be very similar to MYARC's Extended Basic IV. Because the interpreter will be assembly language in CPU memory, it will average about 70% faster than TI Extended Basic. (Of course, input and output speeds are limited by the speed of the peripherals.) There will be a 99/4 emulation mode in which 99% of Basic programs and 95% of all programs for the 99/4 will run. As with the 99/4, programs which take shortcuts rather than implementing TI operating protocols will cause difficulties.

The display of the keyboard, even though it was not operating, caused near chaos as all attendees who had cameras attempted to take photographs of it. Order was restored only when it was promised that picture taking time would be allowed after the seminar. The keyboard appeared quite similar to that of an IBM PC and its clones with a separate numeric pad and function keys. The keyboard will connect to the current peripheral box with a flexible round cable and the computer will occupy two slots in the box.

Planned future developments are a card which will allow the computer to act as a clone of the IBM PC and another configuration of the computer itself so that it may be used by those who do not have the TI 99/4 Peripheral Expansion Box. Mr. Philips stated that he felt that he would have a running computer to demonstrate at the January Computer Electronics show in Las Vegas. Since production will not be started until the prototype is running and debugged, a delivery date has not been established. The first production run has been targeted at 50,000 units.

The Chicago TI Users Group made video tapes of all the seminars and intends to have the tapes available. We plan to purchase a tape and show the seminars at some of our meetings.

A NEW RAMDISK by George F. Steffen (Continued)

>1700. It will come with complete software, including source code and documentation explaining how to add your own CALL routines to enhance Basic. It has a NICAD battery so the card may be removed and carried to another computer, just like a floppy disk or Command Module. Prototype devices have been running for six months, but the first (proof) copy of the circuit board had been received the day before the Faire. I expect to have one board for testing in the next month and will report on price at that time.

KINGS 99ers USERS GROUP
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1985
* * * * * 7:00 PM * * * * *
Special Education Center
1255 Beulah Street, Hanford

KINGS 99er USERS GROUP
299 West Birch Ave.
Hanford, Ca. 93230

99'er Online
Edmonton 99ers
P.O. Box 11983
Edmonton, Albert Canada
T5J 3L1