MID SOUTH 99/4A
USERS GROUP

MEMPHIS TENNESSEE

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 38522, Germantown, Tn 38183-0522

USA 22

UG
EDMONTON 99'ERS USER SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 11983
ALBERTA, CAN. T5J-3L1

TIDBITS

PRESIDENTS BIT

Well it's that time again. Another newsletter is getting ready to go to press. I was finally able to make a complete meeting except when duty called and I had to cut my time with the group short. I really enjoyed meeting Pierre's new wife. She doesn't know him like we know him... does she?

Last months meeting was a big success. Everyone came away with new knowledge and that's the reason for these meetings. The program was very well presented and there was something there for everyone's appetite. I was very definitely impressed with Mac's inventions. We really do have a lot of people in the group who are very knowledgable. If you like to dabble around with communications then Mac's dialer is just the thing for you.

I don't know about everybody else but this summer heat is about to kill me. What did we use to do before there was air conditioning? We can be thankful for a place like the RED CROSS to meet.

My travels have kept me in a little bit cooler climate but I think that is about to change. NOT the travel just the cooler climate. My company is going through growing pains and that is causing me much grief. Every time I get someone trained to help, they go and find another job for more money.

If you haven't tried our BULLETIN BOARD lately, BOY are you in for a suprise. The old Pres got the scare of his life when he signed on after a long absence. I WAS LOST... Everything on the BOARD is new. I am going to have to get with someone and be re-trained. The new format of the BOARD is really fabulous and the transfer to XMODEM protocol has opened up the download capabilities by about 300 percent.
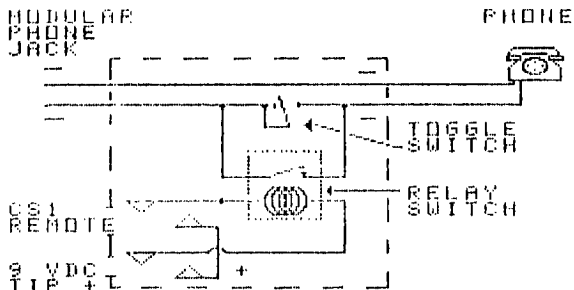
I am still waiting for my SUPER EXTENDED BASIC to arrive and am starting to get a little concerned about the time. The only thing that I can remember that took longer was Gary's cooling fan. Speaking of Gary, I think that he has received many disks full of new programs. Ask him about these new programs at the next meeting. ...Gerald Smith

EDITORS NOTE...Members who did not attend the last Workshop at my
house missed one terrific meeting. Actually we were packed in
like sardines but the meeting was a very informative one. Those
present were introduced to the latest Funlwriter Vn 3.3-D dated 13
July 86, As you know, this is from Funnelweb Farn in Australia and
we had the program in the club the 20th of July. Gary said he
would review it in next months newsletter. We also were treated
to a demonstration of Disk Master I which is written-up in this
newsletter and will be demonstrated at the next meeting.

We recently received a letter from Ronald G. Albright, Jr. who
is the TI Forum Editor at Computer Shopper. It said-"Thanks for
continuing to send your group's excellent newsletter to the
Computer Shopper. In the October issue (the one I am working on
right now), I plan to mention that folks can get a years
subscription to your newsletter for $10. I hope I am reading the
newsletter information correctly on the price, I think it is
absolutely one of the best I have seen. Again, I appreciate your
support of the TI forum column at the Compuer Shopper, Sincerely,
Ron"

Below is a replacement for last months Schematic of Mac Swopes
Auto Dialer. If you wish more information about it or the program
to run the dialer, contact Mac Swope, 3880 Warrington Cove,
Memphis, Tennessee 38118 (901)363-3880. ...Al Doss

AUTO-DIALER-SCHEMATIC
MID-SOUTH USERS GROUP

Computer system requirements:
Editor Assembler cartridge
32 k memory expansion
‡ RS-232 card
‡ Acoustic modem
‡may be req'rd depending on program‡

Directions for building AUTODIALER
Hardware available from Radio Shack
Required components
 Modular jack casing:
  R/S # 279-355 $2.19
Reed relay, 5 or 12 vdc
  Normally Open contacts
  R/S # 275-233 $1.49
Toggle switch (micro mini SPST)
  R/S # 275-624 $1.49
Subminiature phone jacks (2)
  R/S # 274-292 $1.19/pr
Male modular telephone plug w/ wire
  R/S #279-390 (or longer) $ .99
5 or 9 VDC power supply
  Tip MUST be POSITIVE
  R/S # 60-3053 or equiv. $5.95

DISK MASTER I REVIEW

Disk Master I is a disk managing program distributed by DataBioTics
California. In reviewing the product I found it to be with out a
doubt the BEST disk manager program written for the TI today and
even better than DM1000 and the CorComp disk manager.   DMI
operates with the minimum of one SS/SD drive, 32K and either XB,
E/A, Mini-Memory or TI Writer as well as it is compatible with the
TI, Corcomp and Myarc disk controler cards.

Below is the first menu that is displayed when DMI is booted up.

1 For File Commands
2 For Disk Commands
3 To Configure DISK MASTER I
4 To Copy All Files on Disk
5 To Protect All Files on Disk
6 To Unprotect All Files on Disk
7 To Restore a Deleted File
8 For Sector Editor
Function = To Exit DISK MASTER I

Selecting 1 for File Commands will then display the most powerful
menu and a disk catalog of which an example is listed below.

```
      DSK2.GENERIC          Page 1 of 1
        8 Files   Free= 444 Used= 276
    CMD  Filename  Size    Type      P
    ---  --------- ----  ----------  -
    n    BOMERGE      25 Program
    n    BREAKOUTE    20 Dis/Fix   80
    n    NEWS         20 Dis/Var   80
    n    NEWSLETTER   43 Dis/Var   80
    n    ROBOT-RUN    48 Program
    n    TOCALIA      28 Program
    n    X-FORCE      42 Program
    n    ZERO-ZONE    48 Program
```

The above menu is not only a catalog of your disk but an action
menu where you can select any number of commands that you may wish
to execute. Most of the commands are placed in the left most
column. Valid commands are as follows:

F - Find file, jumps to the Sector Editor.

L - Load and Run, if the file is DIS/FIX 80 or Program Image it is
loaded and ran. Will load and run most programs that require the
E/A cartridge!

M - Move file, the file is moved to the selected diskette.

n - Do nothing. (default beside each file.)

O - Output file, if the file is DIS/VAR or DIS/FIXED 80 it is
printed to an output defice thus eleminating having to load TI
Writer to do it.

C - Copy file, the file is copied to the selected diskette.

U - Unprotect file.

T - Temporary, the file is unprotected, and another specified command is performed, then the file is reprotected.

V - View File, the file is displayed on the screen and scrolled. FCTN 0 will print the current screen. This will allow you to read DIS/VAR 80 (TI Writer format) files and have it displayed on the screen so there is no need to load TI Writer to do so. The entire file is displayed in 40 columns on the screen unlike DM1000 which just displays the middle portion.

R - Rename File. To rename a file put an R in the command field beside the file name you wish to change and move the cursor over and change it to the name you want to to be changed to.

D - Delete file, If unprotected - then the file is deleted.

P - Protect File, the file is protected.

There is room for three commands to be placed beside each file name so several actions can be preformed on a file all at once! Commands are executed by hitting FCTN proceed (FCTN 6). The above disk catalog can also be send to printer by hitting FCTN 7 and any screen on DMI can be printed to the printer or any valid output device by hitting FCTN 0! Delete, Insert, Erase and auto repeat on the keys are also active just like normal.

Below is the menu displayed when disk commands are selected from the main menu. From here you can change the disk name, initialize a disk, mass copy (quick copy) an entire disk, test a disk for bad sectors, format a bunch of disks quickly and return back to the main menu. When initializing a disk you have the standard choice of SS/SD, DS/SD, SS/DD and DS/DD and you can select if you wish to verify the diskette. By selecting not to verify the disk sectors ititializing a diskette takes MUCH less time!

1 To Change Disk Name
2 To Initialize Diskette
3 To Copy Diskette
4 To Test Diskette
5 To Format a Bunch of Disks
6 To Return to Main Menu

The next selection on the main menu is configuring DMI. By configuring DMI you can set the default selections throught out the program such as making a default of double sided single density appear when you initialize a diskette thus saving you time in having to type it in yourself... Below is the configure screen that once configured it is save to disk so it always remembers it! Most of it is self explanatory.

          Configure Disk Master I

     Drive 1   : 1000   Drive 2   : 1000
     Tracks   : 40   Tracks   : 40
     No. Sides : 2   No. Sides : 2
     Density   : S   Density   : S

```
    Drive 3    :  1000     Drive 4    :  1000
    Tracks     :  40       Tracks     :  40
    No. Sides  :  1        No. Sides  :  1
    Density    :  S        Density    :  S

    Drive 5    :  1000     Drive 6    :  1000
    Tracks     :  40       Tracks     :  40
    No. Sides  :  2        No. Sides  :  1
    Density    :  S        Density    :  S

  Last Drive : 2    Master Drive : 1
  Copy Drive : 2    Module Memory: N

  Text Color : 16   Screen Color : 5

  Output File : PIO
```

DMI also includes a powerful sector editor like DISKO and DISK+AID
in which I can Edit, Read, Write, Thread or find data at any
sector on a disk.   Sector editors are particularly useful in
repairing a bad disk etc...   With a sectory editor you can also
change wording in a protected program etc...   Below is an example
the editors screen looking directly at sector number 025.

```
  Edit Read Write Find Thread Quit
  Drive No. : 2
  Sector    : >025        37 dec
  Offset    : >00          0 dec
    0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F

0 8 0 M E R G E   U T I L I T Y     0
1 V ( 3 )             1 0       2   1
2         D O   Y O U   W A N T     2
3 I N S T R U C T I O N S ?         3
4   C A L L   S A Y ( " D O   Y O   4
5 U   W A N T   I N S T R U C T I   5
6 O     V ( 3 )     A $   A 1 $     6
7                   2       L N $   7
8     1       1 6 2             0   8
9     A     C       2 5 6     D     9
A     1   A $       A           -   A
B   -                               B
C 3       C         D               C
D 3 2         C o n t .   f r o m   D
E   L i n e   A       1     - >     E
F       L N $         1 6 3   F     F

    0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F
```

In conclusion I do not think you can beat DMI with the features
which I have only briefly explored in this article. After using
this program you will without a doubt NEVER use your disk manager
2 cartridge again. DMI far exceeds the capabilities and speed of
the disk manager 2 cartridge and even exceeds the capabilities of
the CorComp manager and DM1000 not to mention it is simple to use!
DMI encorporates all of the good features of these managers into
one plus includes more utilites to work with. If you are still
using the Disk Manager 2 cartridge by TI using DMI   will

                              6

~~~~~~

drastically reduce the time and trouble experienced when a disk
manager program is needed. How did I ever live without it? I
highly recommend Disk Master I for everyone! I will demonstrate it
at the meeting so you can see for yourself why I am so excited
about it. Disk Master I (order # DBDODM) sells for $19.95 + $3 SH
from: ...Gary Cox

DataBioTics
P.O. Box 1194
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274.

4A/TALK FIX

I recently encountered a minor problem with 4A/Talks XMODEM file
transfers when trying to transfer a file with Ralph Fowlers TIBBS
which now has XMODEM protocal as well as TE2 protocal. For some
reason 4A/Talk did not want to download although it worked great
on any other system. It is my understanding that TIBBS is
expecting you to be in a protocal of ODD PARITY and 7 BIT in order
for TIBBS to be able to recognize you as a TI user when you log
on... Therefore, before you call TIBBS set 4A/Talk's
configuration to ODD PARITY, 7 BIT. After you log on (or you can
wait until you get to the file transfers section) you need to
change to NO PARITY, 8 BITS if you plan on downloading a program
using XMODEM protocal. If you are not planning on downloading a
program in XMODEM protocal you do not need to change to NO PARITY,
8 BIT as you may stay with ODD PARITY, 7 BIT and it will work fine
for everything else. If you use FAST-TERM, the TE2 cartridge or
if you are calling a system other than a "TIBBS" with 4A/Talk
forget that you read this article as it does not apply to you. I
would like to say THANK YOU to Bill Moseid of DataBioTics who was
nice enough to call me to solve my problem! ....Gary Cox
WARNING FROM AMNION HELPLINE!

"After checking with various sources, there is no doubt that a
mail order company, 'NATIONAL ASSISTANCE GROUP' is a fraud
operation a la the former IUG. It is NOT a Users group yet for a
'membership fee', you get the PRIVILEGE to buy items at prices no
lower than those of reputable mail order house like Tenex. They
appear to be a one or two person operation deceiving the public
with fanciful claims. The program packages they SELL are ALL
Public Domain ware or Public Domain items, etc. For example, what
they list as 'Super Colossal Graphics' is really the Apesoft demo;
their 'Super Disk' is Version 1 of Lawless' Shareware Mass Copy
program. Many have filed mail fraud complaints with the Post
Office. NAG is selling BIZWARE programs ($60.00). According to
Bizware owners, these copies are illegal! This is the same type of
scam used by the former IUG (recently reappearing as LAFARA
COMPUTER SERVICE) and still used by the Software Exchange AKA the
International Software Club (another scam). AVOID any items from
MENTOR Computer Systems SELLING deceptively advertised 'Poser-Pak'
disks, sold by Triton (who promised to stop last November). They
are Public Domain right from this library or updates to TI-Writer
Multiplan that TI released FREE. If you bought these disks,
DEMAND your money back. Don't help crooks to flourish by allowing
them to masquerade as Clubs, etc. and SELL Public Domain. You
are urged to shun them, complain to postal authorities and DEMAND
your money back if you've been cheated."

7

~~~~~~

GLEANINGS FROM OTHER USER GROUPS!

COOLER CONSOLES! Credit for this article goes to the AACC
Newsletter, Airport Area Computer Club in Coraopolis, PN. By: Joe
Spiegel. Also credit to the Bayou 99 Users Group in Lake Charles,
LA where I found this article. Whew!

It seems that you can make your old black and silver console run
cooler by replacing the power supply that came in it with one of
the power supplies that Radio Shack is dumping for TI.

Most of you know if you have the hot power supply or not, if you
can cook a late night snak on top of your cartridge slot right
above the red ON light then you have the hot version. You can
also tell by placing your hand on this spot and holding it there
for a few minutes. If, when you try and remove it, part of your
hide stays behind baked onto the computer then, once again, you
know you have the hot one.

The sure fire way to tell is to look at the back of the computer
where the power cord plugs in. If there are 4 pins in the
connector then you have the old hot supply. The new ones have
only two! The newer power supplies are the "switching type" which
does not mean that they switch on and off whenever the mood hits.
Run to Radio Shack and pick up one of the two pin power supplies
if they have any. (More than likely, they won't.) Nevertheless,
you might get lucky. The rest is easy IF you know how to
disassemble your computer! If you do not know how then get Help by
all means. You can destroy your console if you don't remove the
ON/OFF switch just right. Simply remove the old supply, put in
the new one carefully plugging in all wires, drop the rear
connector in place and line up the switch with the plastic ON/OFF
switch. Put the console back together and your ready to enjoy a
cooler machine!

If you have any problems in doing this then feel free to call Gary
Cox any hour of the day or night. He won't mind.

One other note, the new supply does not have a red indicator
light. You can add one if you feel up to it. Call Mac Swope any
hour of the day or night for help in this area.....Rick Glisson

MORE GLEANINGS

MYSTERIOUS NUMBERS! Credit for this article goes to the Bayou 99
Users Group in Lake Charles, LA who found it in CIM 99 published
by the Club Informatique Montreal 99. Credit also goes to me for
finding this in the Bayou 99 group's newsletter and for being so
humble.
Object of this mind game (which leaves out most of the club) is to
discover the hidden number that this program will generate. If if
takes you more than 8 trys to find the correct answer then you win
an all expense trip to Frog Jump, TN., population 3. In honor of
your arrival the townspeople will rush out and change the
population sign, put up a fresh role of toliet paper in the
outhouse and break out a six pack of Orange Crush sodas!

~~~~~~

I think a Valley Girl got a hold of this somewhere along the line!
(snicker)

```
10 CALL CLEAR
20 INPUT "SEED DIGIT; ";N
30 IF N>7 THEN PRINT "GAG ME WITH A SPOON STUPID. I GOTTA HAVE A
NUMBER BETWEEN 1 AND 7! :: GOTO 10
33 REM REMOVE THE PRINT STATEMENT IF YOU HAVE ONLY BASIC
40 RANDOMIZE
50 X=INT(RND N+1)
60 J=1
70 PRINT: : "LIKE, YOU KNOW. ROUND NUMBER ";J;: :
80 INPUT "LIKE.. WHAT'S YOUR GRODY GUESS? ";M
90 IF M=X THEN 160
100 IF M>X THEN 130
110 PRINT: "LIKE TOTALLY TOO SMALL"
120 GOTO 140
130 PRINT: "TOO LARGE I'M SURE"
140 J=J+1
150 GOTO 70
160 CALL CLEAR
170 PRINT TAB(6); "LIKE TUBULAR, YOU FOUND  ";X:  TAB(6);  "IN";J;
"TRIES!: :
180 PRINT: "TRY AGAIN? Y/N? ";R$
190 IF R$="Y" THEN 10
200 PRINT :"WANNA GO TO THE MALL?"
```

I hope you enjoy this great mind game for hours on end since it
took me that long to type it in!
I bet they don't beg for help at the next club meeting! It won't
do them any good. I will expect to get paid for this from now on!
.....Rick Glisson

LIBRARY UPDATE

Funlwriter version 3.3-D has just arrived directly from Tony
Mcgovern the author of the program in Australia. I would like to
thank Tony for sending up the update and would like to encourage
everyone to send in a personal donation as this is probably the
best utility disk ever made! Those who received the prevous
version will want to get a copy of the new one. So much has been
added to the new version that is now requires 2 SS/SD diskettes or
one DS/SD diskette. Many improvements were made and many minor
bugs have been corrected. I have spent the last 30 minutes
printing the documentation. Among it's features is a greatly
improved version of TI Writer. I have not touched my TI Writer
cartridge in over a year now! With Funlwriter you can leave you XB
in most of the time as all the utilities you will need are right
on the disk such as TI Writer, Editor/Assembler, C-99, A sector
editor and much more too numerous to mention and it is all
FAIRWARE (same as FREEWARE). If the program was actually sold
commercially it would cost over $100 and it is available free of
charge through our library. Come to the meeting and pick up a
copy!

I would like to say THANK YOU to Chris Bobbitt of Asgard Software.
He has been a tremendous support to TI owners with his high
quality software with very reasonable prices. He is also offering

9

to copy 8 disks worth of pictures readable with GRAPHX and TI-Artist free of charge. Some of the pictures are very impressive including some digitized pictures like you might have seen on other computers. I should have the disks by meeting time and they are all Public Domain. Chris has gone out of the way to support us and I think we should in turn support him as well as many of the other companies dedicated totally to TI owners. Chris even took out an ad in our newsletter which you may see elsewhere in this months newsletter. We are by far not alone in the TI world.

I have some more Public Domain and FREEWARE software on the way such as Music Preprocessor which is a very sophisticated music generating utility...Gary Cox

IN THE NEWS

I would like to first start off by saying THANK YOU for the demonstrations done by Dicko Vandenberg and John Craig last month as well as a THANK YOU David Monzingo and Jonathan Leslie for bringing equipment to the meeting and all others who helped... For the first time in almost two years I did not have to bring anything but the printed materials we have out. Since no one volunteered to be Program Chairman it looks like I am still it for the time being, at least until elections at the end of this year where I plan on running for Secretary. Program Chairman will not be so bad if people continue to volunteer to bring equipment and do demonstrations etc... We even had a few articles from someone besides myself last month. However, more support and help is still needed so speak up! While I am thanking people I would like to say, THANKS to Ron Albright author of the TI Forum in The Computer Shopper for his very nice mention of our group in his article! All the officers in our group are doing their best to make our group the best one possible.

Recently we have been talking about being unsure of being able to continue meeting at the Red Cross. I am happy to say that the Red Cross is going to allow us to continue there indefinately and has put us on the calendar for the third Thursday of each month for the rest of the year. THANKS Red Cross, they support us so lets support them!

I have been hearing a lot of good things about JoyPaint 99 by Great Lakes Software. If anyone in the group has it please let me know as I would like a demonstration and review!

The word is out that a true sophisticated flight simulator is in the works which will take advantage of the 32K memory. A cartridge form of a flight simulator is already marketed by Triton.

Millers Graphics is working on a new utility disk for owners of the Gram Kracker. Everyone that bought one will be notified by mail when it is completed. Millers Graphics also has some more projects in the works! I just received their book called "Orphan Chronicles" and I will have a review of it next month. However, I must say that you absolutely should buy it as it is very good as

10

is all products from MG. If you are thinking of getting rid of
your TI read this book first as I think it will bring back your
loyalty as well as your interest!

The Captain's Wheel TI99/4A Specialists of 17295 Chippendale Ave,
Farmington, MN 55024 is offering several products at great prices.
The first is a standalone 32K memory (does not need PEB) for as
low as $39.00 when you buy 2 or more or $49.00 for just one. If
you would like a load interrupt switch installed add an extra $10.
Other additional options are also available for the 32K standalone
memory's. They also offer a three slot expanson box KIT for
$35.00! It includes everything needed it connect it to the console
and start it running.   The average person should be able to
assemble the kit (includes parts) in about two hours following the
"simple and easy to follow" instructions. It does not come with a
case so you will have to build something to put it in yourself and
instructions are included on building your own case as well.   If
you wish the box to power a disk drive include another $10 for the
drive connections and a larger power supply. Although you do have
assemble parts $35 is a great deal for a PEB. Any card that can
go in the TI PEB will work in this mini-PEB. (please note a disk
drive controller card is needed to operate a disk drive and I
would recommend ordering the box with the disk drive power supply
option as that is much cheaper than buying a separate power
supply.) (add $5 for shipping) For more information you can call
them at (612) 460-6348.

The Chicago Area TI Users Group is scheduled to hold its Fourth
Annual TI FAIRE November 1 at Triton College in River Grove,
Illinois.   General admission will $2. Attendance at last years
fair was over 2,000 people including from our group Mac, David,
Pierre, Gerald, Rick and myself. I am sure this faire will be
even bigger and better than ever so let's get our heads together
and make plans for a bunch of us to go to Chicago this year! The
address for the Chicago users group is: Chicago Area TI99/4A Users
Group, P.O. Box 578341, Chicago, IL. 60657.

A new service that everyone is talking about nowdays is GENIE by
General Electric. It is a modem service similar to Compuserve but
much cheaper.   Non Prime time charge is $5 an hour even at 1200
baud! Compuserve doubles their price at 1200bd. GENIE also turns
off the clock when you upload a program! A TI Sig is going strong
along with a Kracker Box sig for those with a Gram Kracker. I am
not on GENIE yet but I have heard nothing but good things about
it. For a FREE demonstration or to sign up call 1-800-638-8369
via MODEM only. Call with your terminal program in HALF DUPLEX.
When connected type "HHH" and hit ENTER.   At   UI#   type
"5JM11961,GENIE" and hit ENTER twice and you are on. The service
will be explained to you while you are on line with no obligation
to join.

Another service for modem owners is PC Pursuit by GTE. It is
available locally in many cities across the U.S.A. with more on
the way.   The service is available during the evenings and
weekends at a flat rate of $25 a month. PC Pursuit allows you to
make unlimited calls to any other city in the network to any data
communication service in that city. So lets say you want to call
a TIBBS in Los Angeles. Through PC Pursuit you can do so at a

Something for everyone
who didn't buy their TI-99/4A
so they could wait, and wait,
and wait...

PRE-SCAN IT!

Announcing a program for all those people that want fast performance from their Extended BASIC programs - and who doesn't?

What is Pre-Scan It!? Only the most remarkable utility for Extended BASIC users and programmers since the program compactor. Pre-Scan It!, simply enough, rewrites your TI, Myarc, Mechatronics, or Miller's Graphics modified Extended BASIC programs so that they not only execute fast, but nearly instantly!

At last! Now you will never again have to wait through those coffee break long pauses at the beginning of your favorite Extended BASIC programs. Finally, you can now write an Extended BASIC program any way you like, and then run it through Pre-Scan It! to get a program that starts up as fast as all those assembly and Forth programs!

If Pre-Scan It! only did this, it would be remarkable, but Asgard Software never stops at the merely remarkable. Pre-Scan It! will also make your program smaller in ways that only it's author J. Peter Hoddie, a master of Extended BASIC, knows. Pre-Scan It! will save bytes as well as time, and to top it off, it is compatible with all current versions of Extended BASIC, and all to come.

And finally, if all this isn't enough, Pre-Scan It! is available for the totally unbeatable price of only $10.00! That's right, a single saw-buck will get this fantastic program delivered right to your door as fast as the U.S. Mail can carry it.

Pre-Scan It! requires TI Extended BASIC and a disk drive system. A memory expansion unit is also required for some features, but is optional for most. Now available from official Asgard Software dealers, on Compuserve from TeleData*Guide (page TDG-4), and on The Source by writing via Source Mail to TI9720.

Asgard Software
P.O. Box 10306
Rockville, MD 20850

MasterCard   VISA

To order or for information call 301-345-2492 (8AM - 8PM)

~~~~~~

flat rate of $25 a month. For more information or to register
call 1-800-368-4215 (voice) 8-5 (Eastern Time) Monday through
Friday or call the PC Pursuit BBS at 1-800-835-3001 (24hrs). This
is great for people who frequently call BBS's across the country
as this would save a lot on the phone bill!

How would you like an IBM style keyboard instead of the built in
TI keyboard? Several places have in the works a keyboard interface
to by pass the TI keyboard and use the IBM style keyboard.
Besides having the new keyboard other features are also expected
to be included. However, you still use your console for the
microprocessor and for access to the module port. I have written
letters to obtain more information and I will let you know
something as soon as I do.

The latest MICROpendium has arrived and I thought I would mention
a few items contained in it. Besides several nice type in
programs such as a Window Calculator (simular to the one included
in the old 99/4 console) and some tutorials and some good deals on
products a couple of reviews caught my eye. One was the HORIZON
RAM disk card which costs only $53 in kit form where you put it
together. In case you do not know what a RAM disk is. It is a
card for the PEB that acts like a disk drive but information is
stored in memory chips instead of on disk and the memory is
battery backed... Therefore information obtained off of the RAM
disk is pulled of very quickly... The kit includes a PC board,
parts list and software. It can also be purchased already
together for $165... The Horizon RAM disk was given a final grade
of A as was a review of a FREEWARE Macro Assembler. I will have
an issue at the meeting for you to look at it if interested.

We are just now getting started with new hardware and software
much more so than when TI was still in the market! For a long time
TI kept secret all the innerworkings of the computer so only TI
could market hardware and software for the machine. In fact, TI
told Ralph Fowler (author of TIBBS) that it was impossible to
write a BBS on the TI. Now most anybody can obtain any
information they need on building hardware or writting assembly
programs thus we are just getting started with our computer
revolution. We may not have the most advanced computer today but
we certainly have the "BEST"! All computers will some day be
"orphans" and I would certainly rather be an orphan with my TI
than any other brand. Another note on the good side, I just heard
word that Games and Gadgets in the Mall of Memphis is expanding
their coverage of TI products due to a great response to a recent
increase in available products across the country in all Games and
Gadgets stores. The next time you go by the store be sure to say
THANKS for supporting TI! ....Gary Cox

PROGRAM

6:00 Doors open.

6:30 - Library open

7:00-710 General discussion.

7:10-7:35 Demonstration of BitMac distributed by DataBioTics.

12

~~~~~~

This program is a graphics drawing utility similar to GRAPHX...
We will be using a Track Ball to draw the pictures.

7:35-7:40 Demonstration of a calendar program written by Chris
Gaskins a member of our group.

7:40-8:00 Demonstration of Disk Master I distributed by
DataBioTics. A great disk manager program with many fancy
features! You haven't seen anything like it!

8:00-8:10 Demonstration of the new Star NX-10 printer. This is
the latest model from the Gemini 10X and SG-10 series. From what
I hear from people who have purchased one it is the best printer
made today not to mention reasonably priced. The printer will do
all the SG-10 will do but better and it is also Epson
compatible... If you are thinking of getting a printer think
about this one.

8:10-8:35 c-99 demonstration, Tips and Techniques by Dicko
Vandenberg. Here is your chance to take your first look at the
new c-99 programming language just recently available for the TI
and I might add is NOT available for many other home computers as
it is usually used just on the bigger machines. C is a very
powerful and useful programming language that has been becomming
very popular lately and I think you will find it a very
interesting and educational demonstration. Dicko has already
written a utility program in c-99 which he will be showing. c-99
is available as FAIRWARE through our library.

8:35-9:35 Second half of the product demonstration tape by Craig
Miller and the Front Range 99'ers will be shown. Demonstrations
include Night Mission, DISKASSEMBLER and more...

9:30-10:30 Play time...

If you have something you would like done at the meetings please
say so and we would be glad to do so. Tell us what you would like
to do at the meetings and we will try to have it going. The
workshops are for solving your problems that could not be solved
at the main meeting. If you have questions on a certain program
or on programming itself or if you have equipment problems bring
your equipment to the workshop and we will all see what we can do
to work out all problems. That is the purpose of the workshops.
...Gary Cox

AMNION(r) HELPLINE INFORMATION

This article was gleamed from the mass of information sent to me
by Dr. Guy-Stefan Romano, the official Wiz who mans the telephone
at the Helpline.

Address: 116 Carl Street, San Francisco, CA 94117.
Helpline hours: 9-4 Mon thru Sat (Pacific Time Zone, which means
they are 2 hours behind us, I think).
PHONE NUMBER: (415) 753-5581
Claim To Fame: A Non-profit Volunteer Effort!

It appears that these guys keep the good Doctor chained to

telephone or something as he has been doing this since March of
1981! Dr. Romano's voice is the one you will most likely hear if
and when you call this Helpline. The guy is good, to provide an
understatement. Probably no one else in the Universe knows as
much about the TI as he does. Got a problem, with equipment, the
boss, programming, your wife, or just need that one piece of
software that you are sure someone has written .... this is the
man to talk to.
Dr. Romano "is there to give valid and COMPETENT technical help".
He "is doing this strictly on a volunteer basis and, at his
insistance, receives no fee or reimbursement for his services so
that he can be free to give all information without being
obligated to anyone -- even Amnion!"
Here can be found the Ann Landers of TI land. Write him or call
him for help, information, referrals, sources for hardware and
software, quality, availability, reputability and service. If you
write send a stamped, self addressed return envelope along with
your letter.
I can encourage you to write or call him without any reservations.
And when you do ask him for the Amnion information packet. He
will gladly send it to you also.
Amnion review by Rick Glisson

SHOPPERS CORNER

FOR SALE:

TI99/4A Black and Silver console, Speech Synthesizer, cassette
cables and misc. software goes to best resonable offer. Call
Gary Cox at 901-358-0667.

ELSEWHERE LOCALLY:

Check out Games "N" Gadgets as they still get new items every once
and a while at reasonable prices. Childrens Palace also sometimes
pops up with something. Also check out the For Sale table at the
meetings as someone always has something to sell or trade.

Have something you want to buy or sell? A few lines in this space
is FREE to non-commercial members. Ads are available for
businesses at $10 for a full page ad (5" by 8") and $6 for a half
page ad (5" by 4") . Ads must be photo ready and will be placed
in the newsletter as soon as possible.

THE TI WORLD

Since TI material has become almost non existant locally I have
composed a list of the most well known and major hardware and
software suppliers available across the U.S.A. This is by no
means a complete list and many of the listed companies carry
products of companies not listed.

DEALERS:

TENEX   TRITON
P.O. BOX 6578   P.O. Box 8123
South Bend, IN 46660   San Francisco, CA 94128
1-800-348-2778   1-800-227-6900

~~~~~~

Te::Comp   DataBioTics
P.O. Bo:: 33084   P.O. Bo:: 1194
Granada Hills, CA 91344   Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274
(818) 366-6631 (24hrs)
Send $2 (refundable with purchase) for catalog

Millers Graphics   Asgard Software
1475 W. Cypress Ave.   P.O. Box 10306
San Dimas, CA 91773   Rockville, MD 20850
(714) 599-1431

Texaments   Pilgrims Pride
53 Center Street   5 Williams Lane
Patchogue, N.Y. 11772   Hatboro, PA 19040
(516) 475-3480   (215) 441-4262

TigerCub Software
156 Collingwood Ave.
Columbus, OH 43213
Send $1 (refundable with purchase) for catalog. A very good
source of utility programs... and most are available on cassette
tape!

TI SUPORTIVE MAGAZINES:

MICROPENDIUM
P.O. Bo:: 1343
Round Rock, TX 78680
(512) 255-1512
$20.50 year(largest and best TI only publication)

The Computer Shopper   The Smart Programmer
407 S. Washington Ave.   c/o Bytemaster Computer Services
P.O. Box F   171 Mustang Street
Titusville, FL 32781   Sulphur, LA 70663
$21 year $18 year (technically orented)

Genial TRAVelER Diskazine
835 Green Valley Drive
Philadelphia, PA 19128
$30 for 6 issues (magazine on disk)

OTHER ASSISTANCE

Guy Romono
c/o Amnion Helpline
116 Carl Street
San Francisco, CA 94117
This is a non-profit helpline providing help and assistance to TI
owners. Be sure to send a self addressed stamped return envelope
with all correspondence. Guy also has a library of thousands of
public domain programs! ...Gary Co::

99 Q/A (Questions and Answers)

NOTE: Send any questions or answers to: John Craig, RT.1 Box
86-A1, Atoka,TN 38004. If you don't desire your name printed with
the question or answer, state so and we will designate an I.D.

~~~~~~

for it. Q/A's must be received before the end of the month to be
published in the next month's newsletter. Keep those cards and
letters coming folks !

First: Many thanks to Marshal Ellis for his help with the
Organizer and Outline Editor programs. Our Group Works !!! (John
Craig)

QUESTION: I would like to know if there is a way of adding an
option in TI-Writer so that I have an additional choice of a
second printer in the Formatter. I have two printers hooked up,
one through my RS 232 serial port, and the other through the
parallel port. I have thought about changing the output option
back to RS232.LF (mine is now set up to automatically print to
PIO.LF), but then I thought it would be nice to be able to choose
Formatter/RS232 or Formatter/PIO from the option list. Does
anyone know how to modify the program to give this additional
option? (Beth Hannigan)

ANSWER: Like many questions, yours probably has several possible
solutions. I'll give you one which came to my mind. First, you
might use FUNLWRITER instead of TI-Writer. I can't think why you
wouldn't. It is FREEWARE (of the HIGHEST quality) and you can get
a free copy at one of our meetings. After making yourself a
backup copy, put your computer into Extended Basic (before
installing the FUNLWRITER disk in the drive). Then type in OLD
DSKr..LOAD and ENTER. Then type 140 and press FCTN-X (down arrow).
Line # 140 of the LOAD program should appear on the screen and you
may edit (change) it to suit your needs. You could make more than
one copy and label them so you know which one has which default.
In other words, you use a different disk to get the desired
(modified) default. I believe that is how I would do it. One
thing to remember about defaults - it is nice to automatically
have what you need, but you are not bound to it. You are still in
charge of things! If it doesn't say what you really want, simply
type the desired device (or whatever) over it and enter it. It's
not hard, but you need to know it's an option. By the way, anyone
having the FUNLWRITER should print out FUNNELDOC to see all the
other neat things in it. It is really GREAT. Hope this has
helped you or someone. (John Craig)

QUESTION: If a person wants to write a program which will explain
the operation of several other programs, what is the easiest way
to go about this? The program should present a menu of program
instructions to choose from and any choice should present a screen
of instructions about that program choice. (Marshal Ellis)

ANSWER: (Also provided by Marshal Ellis), The tried and true
method (I think) is to write the menu part of the program and then
busily add to it each of the screens of instructions. Better
known as line-by-line. Of course one has to plan ahead what he is
going to put on each line. A variation is to utilize the MERGE
capability of the computer. Thus, having written the menu section
of the program, one then writes one of the sreens of instructions.
This instruction part of the program is then MERGED-out,
resequenced, and then MERGED-in behind the other parts. At this
point we have a menu section and two instruction screens. Now

~~~~~~

change the text of the second screen instructions to what they
should be, and we now have the beginning of a real instruction
program. This will be repeated as often as needed.

A method of rising popularity is to do all of this repetitive work
in TI-Writer. There is the inherent need of a file translator
program to convert the finished D/V 80 file into a D/V 163 MERGE
file. With this at hand, proceed with writing the program menu in
TI-Writer, followed by the first of the instruction screens. Now,
the easy part is to repeat the instruction screen as many times as
you need this screen. The next thing is to rewrite the text as it
needs to be for each instruction screen. Then list the file out
to the disk, and using the translator program, change it to MERGE
format, then MERGE it in to memory and you are finished. This
approach has some of the same steps as the previous one, however
the time involved is very short by comparison. (He has examples
he can show you).

One more method is just to write the instruction file with
TI-Writer and use a DV/80 file reader program inside of your
program to read the instructions off of disk and display them on
the screen. This way very little program space is needed to read
the DV/80 file (read June issue for how to do this) and you just
simply type the instructions with TI-Writer not worrying with line
numbers etc...(G.C.)

QUESTION: The printer control capabilities in TI-Writer eluded me
for some time. After finally writing a "printer setup" program, I
found that I could preset my printer for printing from TI-Writer
to a Gemini printer. This is a VERY limited approach, but it does
work - even with Multiplan. It only involves presetting your
paper and then sending the appropriate print commands. This
limited situation prevailed until I came across an article by Mac
Swope (Thanks, Mac), and then the situation became worse! Every
time I tried the escape commands as he showed them, I got strange
results at best. That is all in the past now, but the question is
why should it be difficult at all, or not explained plainly?
(Marshal Ellis)

ANSWER: (Also from Marshal Ellis) You may want to look at Mac's
article in our April'86 newsletter on pages 3,4,13

The answer that I came to after much experimenting is that no one
ever said that you must use another CTL-U just after the actual
Special character and before any others (if>ASC64). For example :
very nice printing is done in Emphasized mode with this command
CHR$(27)&CHR$(69). Now, in TI-Writer you would use CTRL-U,
FCTN-R, CTRL-U, E. To set up constant double wide mode on the
printer use CTRL-U, FCTN-R, CTRL-U, W, CTRL-U, SHFT-A, CTRL-U.
Now this actually works! If only someone had said it (some of us
need to be led by the hand) like this before.

TIBBS

The new version of TIBBS is now up and running. The system has
changed quite a a lot with new menu selections and more things
than ever to read through and download. We now have the
capabilities of downloading in both TE2 and XMODEM protocal. (TE2

17

protocol is the method of downloading with the TE2 **cartridge and**
XMODEM is another method of downloading which TE2 does not support
but is available in programs such as FAST-TERM which is FREEWARE
in our library.) Most of the programs available on our board must
now be downloaded using XMODEM and only a very small ammount
programs are available for downloading with the TE2 cartridge so
everyone will need to get a copy of FAST-TERM if you wish to
download. The reason we are now using XMODEM transfers is because
it is faster and easier for the Sysop to work with and it also
takes up less space on our drives giving us more than twice the
ammount of space for downloads than before. Currently we maintain
about 55 programs in the download section.

With the arrival of XMODEM transfers a lot of confusion has been
going on on how to download using FAST-TERM's XMODEM transfers.
Therefore, I have listed below the exact steps necessary to
download a program to assist you in easier operations.

1. Go to (F)eatures section.

2. Select (L)ist to list the available programs and descriptions.

3. Write down on paper the names of programs that you want.

4. Tell Fast-Term the name of the program by hitting FCTN N .

5. Select (D) to download.

6. Tell TIBBS the file name that you want. The board will then
search all drives for the program and this may take a minute or so
depending on which drive the program is on.

7. If TIBBS finds the program it will then ask you what type of
error checking you desire. Select O for CRC as this is the best
method.

8. Put FAST-TERM in XMODEM transfer mode by hitting FCTN SHIFT X
(press all 3 at the same time.)

9. Select R to receive data.

10. Type Y again to acknowledge you want CRC error checking as
here you are telling FAST-TERM that you want CRC where before you
told TIBBS that you wanted CRC.

The transfer should now begin if everything was done correctly.
PLEASE REMEMBER to change the file name on Fast-Term each time you
download by hitting FCTN N otherwise the second program you
download will have the same name as the first one and it will
write over the first program! Note that the disk drive will only
be accessed a coupple of times during the transfer unlike TE2. If
you have a successful transfer the message "Enjoy the program!"
will appear. If for some reason the transfer terminates before
completion you may see garbage on the screen. Just keep hitting
ENTER until the system comes back to command mode and this may
take several minutes. To upload a program you follow the same
procedures except you select (U) in the file transfer sections to
upload instead of (D) to download. Help files are available

through out the BBS and are usually accessed by a ? .   A general
help file is available in the Newsletter section under the
of   selection "tips and techniques". Please read the files as   they
contain   a lot of valuable and helpful information.   Happy
transfers! ...Gary Cox -SubSysop

NUMERIC KEYPAD

The one thing missing from the TI-99/A keyboard that would make
number crunching a breeze is a 10 key keypad. After several years
of trying to "TYPE" numbers the desire of having a 10 keypad
bacame worth the effort of seeing if it could easily be added to
my TI by building one myself. The first thing I did was to buy
another keyboard, just in case I made any serious mistakes. I
didn't and the ease of working on a "SPARE" key-board makes the
cost worthwile.   You will also need a 10 keypad from any old
calculator, as long as you are able to isolate the key contacts so
they can be configured to match the coding matrix of the TI-99/A
(you probably could purchase a keypad cheaply also). Add to that
some ribbon wire (minimum of 8 conductor) and you are ready to
begin. On the keyboard (diagram #1) you will see the keyboard
matrix.   The intersection of the "X" and "Y" axis lines for the
numerals and any other keys you want on the remote keypad are
identified and (for the numerals) are as follows:


```
        NUM. 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  0  .
        'X'  7  7  7  7  7  2  2  2  2  2  5
        'Y'  8 13 14 15  9  9 15 14 13  8 13
```

Diagram #1

When looking at the bottom of the keyboard, the 15 wire ribbon
connector lead (center top) is numbered right to left (IE.

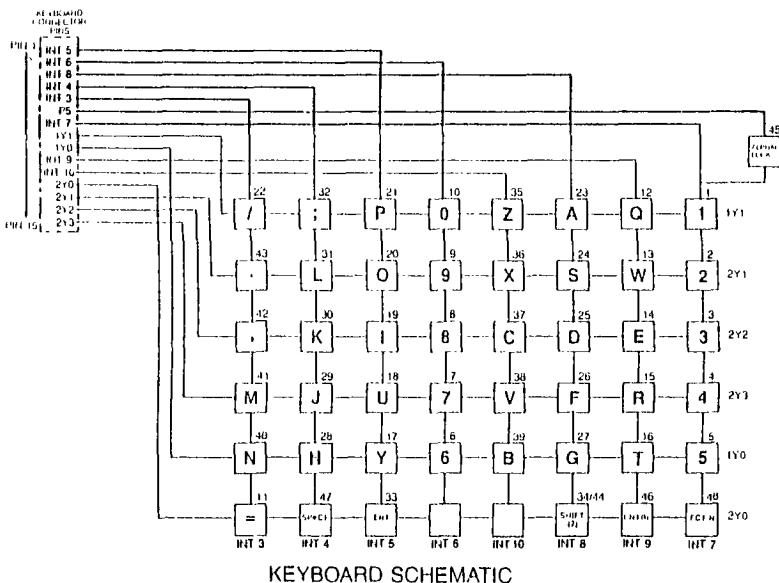15 14 13 12 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1).

Trace the circuit board from the numbered position of the
connector lead to a suitable pin to solder the corresponding
numbered wire lead that will go to your key pad. Any pin on the
board that traces back to the correct pin from the ribbon
connector lead will work. If you are adept at soldering in close
places, you could even solder our leads directly to the same
points that the 15 wire ribbon connector lead is soldered to the
board.   Just remember to use a SMALL soldering pencil and PRE-TIN
the wire to ensure a good solder joing.   Any bad solder joints
could cause a key to malfunction, so be extra careful in your
soldering! Once the keyboard end is soldered, you must develop the
matrix for the keypad. This will vary with the type of pad you
are using. Just remember to make clean/solid joings when you
solder.

If you want to make the pad removeable, there is plenty of room in
the TI-99/4A case for a 9 pin 'D' jack on the right side about   2"
back from the front edge, or a larger jack could be located
elsewhere if required. With the 9 pin I have 1234567890. and "/"
on my pad.   You just cut the wires one at a time and connect to

the jack and plug of your connector set and the pad is removeable.
You may even want to have an ENTER key instead of the "." or "/".
If so just hook up the "X" and "Y" wire of the key(s) desired and
solder the appropriate wires to your keypad. In any event the
installation is quite simply the paralleling of a second set of
keys to the keyboard, and both will function normally. You could
even go as far as wiring in the entire calculator KEY- BOARD to
the TI-99/4A'S keyboard if you desired. If you have any questions
on the installation, please call me (H) 901-353-2827 or
(W) 901-767-2930. It would be possible to do what is now a
"multi-key operation" by changing two of the keys in your key pad
so that both keys make contact at the same time. This would
prevent any back feeding of the matrix signal if you tried to
parallel wire two keyboard keys into one of the key pad keys.

<div align="center">David Cotner</div>

SPECIAL NOTE: These modifications are not endorsed or approved by
TI and user takes his own risk in making these mofidications.
However, it does work as I have seen it in operation... Gary Cox

KEYBOARD SCHEMATIC

PROTECTION
There are strong FEDERAL LAWS against duplicating copyrighted programs. Please do not break these laws!

24hr TIBBS BULLETIN BOARD
901-357-5425 300/1200 baud

DISCLAIMER

The Mid-South 99 Users Group is not affiliated, sponsored by or has any relationship with any company implied or otherwise. Any mention of a company or product is not an endorsement of either the company or the product.

NEWSLETTER INFO

Visitors and potential members may receive 3 free issues of TiDbits while they decide if they wish to join (no obligation). A GREEN newsletter and/or dollar signs ($$$) indicate that your dues are due. Please pay your dues to be able to continue to receive the newsletter and other benefits of the group. You will note a letter and date on the top of your address lable. The letter indicates if you are a member and the date indicates the last time you paid your dues. One year from the date your dues are due!

PLEASE NOTE LARGE TYPE IS AVAILABLE FH. 743-6781

CALENDAR

MEETINGS: August 21, September 18, October 16 (3rd Thursday!)
WORKSHOPS: August 16, September 27, October 25

OFFICERS

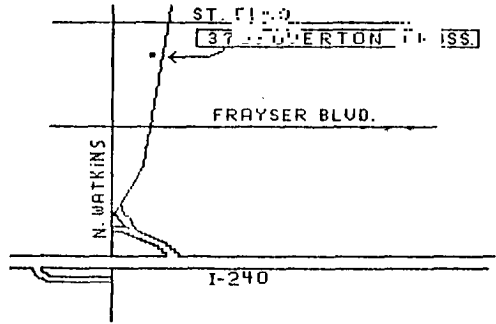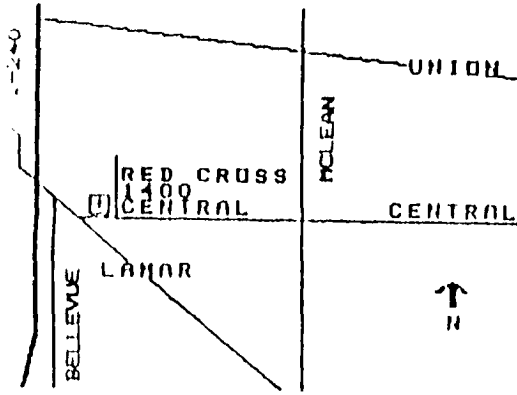|		
Gerald Smith	President	901-363-6273
Dick Vandenberg	Vice-President	901-274-1892
Ralph Wilson	Secretary	901-382-0795
Mac Swope	Treasurer	901-363-3880
Pierre LaMontagne	Chairman - Library and Sysop	901-357-8110
Adolph Butler	Chairman Cassette Library	901-948-0732
Al Doss	Editor #1 - Newsletter	901-743-6781
Gerald Smith	Editor #2 - Newsletter	901-363-6273
Gary Cox	Chairman - Program	901-358-0667
Gary Cox	Information and Assistance	901-358-0667
Mac Swope	Chairman - Equipment	901-363-3880

GROUP MAILING ADDRESS

Mid-South 99 Users Group
P.O. Box 38522
Germantown, Tn. 38183-0522

21

MEETING
7:00 P.M.
Thursday, August 21st
Red Cross Building
1400 Central Av.

WORKSHOP
9:00 - 12:00
Saturday, A̲u̲g̲u̲s̲t̲ ̲1̲6̲
Pierre's Ho̲u̲s̲e̲
3793 Overton Crossing

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ |_| $15.00 FAMILY
ADDRESS_____ |_| $10.00 JUNIOR (under 15)
CITY_____ST__ZIP_____ |_| $10.00 ASSOCIATE (N/L only)
PHONE(___)___-_____: INTRESTS_____

EQUIPMENT,ETC. _____

Detach and mail with check payable to: Mid-South 99 Users Group,
P.O. Box 38522, Germantown, Tn, 38183-0522.