THE
SPRITE

a monthly newsletter of

THE 9900 USER'S GROUP, INC.

A voluntary organization for the
sharing of knowledge and
resources of people having
interests in, or ownership of
9900 processor based Home
Computers.

THE SPRITE is published monthly by THE 9900 USER'S GROUP, INC. for the enjoyment and furthering the knowledge of it's members in the use of 9900 processor based Home Computers. Address all correspondence to the EDITOR, THE 9900 USER'S GROUP, INC. P.O. Box K, Moorestown, N.J. 08057.

Articles from other newsletters are welcome and will be included to broaden our readerships base of knowledge and experience level. All submissions will be noted and credit given to the author. Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted for use by other user groups so long as the user group in question is an existing viable entity for the benifit of those wishing computer literacy. User groups that exist without a membership at large will not be considered user groups per-se. All articles or letters sent to the Editor for publication are subject to the unrestricted right to edit and comment.

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THE SPRITE is soliciting advertisers at the following rates:
    FULL PAGE $15.00 Note: All submitted
    1/2 PAGE $8.00 advertisements must
    1/4 PAGE $5.00 be printer ready.

We must recieve all submissions by the 12th of each month for the next month's printing. Prepaid Orders Only!

THE GROUP OFFICERS and STAFF:

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SECRETARY - Ray Osowski   TREASURER   - (vacant)
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THE SPRITE STAFF:

Editor-in-Chief - Michael J. Baker
Research Editor - Errol Lansberry

INTRODUCTION:

I almost didn't get this printed. I've been out of town and Murphy's Law is in effect. To say that this newsletter is late is an understatement I guess. You know what they say. Nothing in, nothing out. I've observed this same effect in other newsletters lately. Seems that all the editors are either quitting or resolving their newsletters to single pages. What does all this mean? Nothing unknown actually. Just the great American tradition of "Let George do it." A newsletter is a very important thread. It ties all members of a User Group together. It ties other Users Groups together. Without it we all just go away. The other time consuming entity in the last 60 days has been the Bulletin Board. People have been known to call it. I have a core of about 4 people who call it regularly. Nobody leaves messages. Nobody asks questions of interest. Nobody answered the two questions that were there. Callers come and go but you'd never know it unless you keep track of the User log and Caller #. Now what do you think I should do about that? We will put the BBS on probation I guess. I'll give it until the next newsletter. Anyone want to buy a BBS software package. I'll sell it for $70. Complete with documentation and utility files. The next 3 enhancements can be acquired for an additional $10. This is cheap folks. The Fowler BBS is $125 and doesn't hang-up the phone at the end of the session. That's just someting I noticed. My program right now is all in Extended BASIC. Upcoming enhancements will most likely be in Assembly language snce the executive program has used up all of Extended BASIC's space. This offer gives someone else the opportunity to start a board and grit their teeth ad see what the life of a SYSOP is all about.

The September meeting was at the Marlton Middle school as will be all other meetings for the rest of the school year. ALL Splinter Groups will also meet at least once a month there also. This reduces the "hassle" of who's house to meet at every other week. We have also put out flyers in the Pine Hill area to see if there is enough interest to warrant a group meeting down there. That response has been zero so far. Mmmmm. Maybe everybody just wants to go back to playing Space Invaders.

Most of you may not believe this but we DO have a library. It's not elaborate by any means but we do have one. Don't ask me what we have in it. I can only do one thing at a time. Right now it's midnight and I'm typing out this newsletter. I give up. I have only one member of the User Group who calls me with regularity. That's Larry bless his heart. I TRY to "start" and initialize Splinter Groups, Libraries, Special Meetings and Functions but NOT to "run" them. So if YOUR Splinter Group is not meetin contact it's leader. If the library is hiding, contact the librarians. Don't wait for me. With this newsletter for all members

is the newest membership list. If there is anyone who wishes to be known for his "expertise" or desire to help others in any particular section of our computer let us know and we'll be glad to put that next to your name in the newsletter or in the next membership list.

This will not be one of our longest newsletters to say the least. Well, let's get on with it. I still have a lot of typing to do.

TI WRITER ENHANCEMENT MODIFICATIONS:

We just got this in and already we're modifying the mod Ah, but it's worth it. Especially if you're using the parallel interface. Follow these instructions to modify it to give you the PIO.LF as the default.

Get out your DISKO (a disk fixer available through the group just this month and select option 2 &c to sector 56 (HEX), the beginning of line 3. Use FCTN 2 to switch to ASCII so you can read it clearly and you will see RS232.BA=1200.LF appear. Position the cursor over the 'R' at the beginning of the line and type "PIO.LF" then type over the rest of the old default value up to LF with spaces. Next, press FCTN 8 and answer "Y" to the prompt. There you have it. Of course if you are using the RS232 ports and you wish to change baud rate you can do that too. Whatever you wish the default to be just make the correct changes.

If you have already transferred FORMA1 to your own disk just use option 2 of DISKO to locate where FORMA1 starts on your disk and then proceed forward 10 sectors (decimal) and that's where the default value is. Good luck and enjoy

CORCOMP PARALLEL I/O FIX: by Lee Stewart, Manner's Newsletter

Don't get me wrong! The CorComp RS232 works just fine as designed. If you have one, you probably will have no problems with it at all... unless... you bought it around February! Even then you may not be bothered.

THE PROBLEM: I have had mine since February and did not know there was a problem until a few weeks ago. The problem is in the parallel I/O section and it does not affect all printers the same way. The reason my difficulty surfaced was that I switched from a Radio Shack Line Printer VII, that worked fine, to a Panasonic KX-P1091 printer that did not work so fine! * Apparently the Radio Shack printer does not care about the installation error but the Panasonic printer stutters, i.e. it repeats characters now and then. I understand that Epson printers have different problems with it.

THE SOURCE: There are supposed to be two 0.01ufd filter capacitors in the parallel I/O section next to the TMS9901 chip. The number on each capacitor SHOULD be 103. The trouble is the CorComp let a few boards get loose with 0.1ufd capacitors installed. The number on these capacitors is 104.

THE SOLUTION: If you do NOT care about warranties, open the case and locate the TMS9901 chip (40 pins). Next, locate the two small capacitors near it. If the numbers on them read '104' (You may need a magnifying glass for this one!), you have the wrong capacitors! Just clip them OUT. You do not need them. You do not have to worry about replacing them with 103's.

If you do care about warranties, the only proper method to correct the problem or to find out if you even have this problem is to send the card back to CorComp for warranty service. I would expect that you will have no trouble getting satisfaction. They are aware of the problem! You would think they would have issued a recall notice!

* I am not knocking the KX-P1091 printer. For the money, I have two printers in one!

FOUNDATION CARD FIX:

It has been passed on to us by Bill Oakley that the 128K card "as shipped" is NOT compatible with the new CorComp DSDD Disk Controller Card. If you have one of these cards there is a 'fix' in the works and is supposed to be available as of this writing. It requires that two PROMS be changed. Call CorComp for directions as to whether you can implement the change or send your card back. Anyone requiring further information on this give Bill a call.

80 COLUMN CARD:

Foundation Computing has expanded the TI's usefullness another big notch. Available NOW is their 80 column card. It provides a 24x80 display with a 25th line of status information. The card sells for $249 and includes it's own internal computer and provides many features found only on 'expensive' terminals. Some of these are, blinking characters, reverse video, double height, double width, a complete set of control codes and line drawing characters. You can also utilize the card as an RS232 port.

I don't want to hear ANY complaints about what you're TI CAN'T do! GO FOR IT!

NEW TI VDP CHIP:

There's a new VDP chip out by TI it's number is TMS9228.

It's range of addressing is expanded to 64K of RAM vs the TMS9918's 16K of RAM. Also, the new chip allows for 40col x 24 lines as well as 80col x 24 lines. Not only that but the graphics pattern can be user defined as 8x1, 8x8, or 4x2 blocks. Bit map mode enhances resolution to 256x210! There is a possibility that this chip could be installed in the 99/4A with a few modifications. Ok you circuit board scratchers get out your Xacto blades!

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PASS THE WORD:

From John Clulow, New Horizons: public domain auto-answer bulletin board, with hardware schematics (about $20); will run a BBS 24hrs a day, hang-up, call back and bring in the paper. Send an initialized diskette, reurn mailer with sufficient postage and $1 to-

JOHN CLULOW
343 W. South Boundary
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

Just received a newsletter from Craig Miller! He's still with us. For a subscription to his informative newsletter send $12.50 to -

MILLERS GRAPHICS
1475 W. CYPRESS AVE.
SAN DIMAS, CA. 91773

NOTE: We have his May issue available for sale through the group for $1.50

MEETING DATES:

MONTH	GENERAL MEETING	SPLINTER MEETING
SEP	24	None
OCT	30	10
NOV	28	13
DEC	20	None
JAN	29	10
FEB	28	12
MAR	27	13
APR	30	15
MAY	29	14

MEETING AGENDA:

7:00PM - 7:15PM	Introduction and new news.
7:15PM - 7:45PM	New Product Demo.
7:45PM - 8:00PM	Open Question time. Door Prizes!
8:00PM - 9:00PM	Free Period. Get togethers. Join the Group, order from the Group, buy from the Group.
9:00PM	End Session. See ya next month!