

NET 99er
HOME COMPUTER USERS GROUP
PO BOX 534
HURST, TX 76053

Hello there! Fellow 99ers

NOTICE

Next meeting is the 9th of JUNE at
9:00 AM at the Hurst Public Library.
Hope to see you there.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

With summer now here I know that many of us will be going on vacation. I hope that we all have a nice time. But this is to let you know that our User's Group will keep right on going thru the summer. We hope that you will attend the meetings when you are in town. During the summer I know that we tend to think more of vacation-type things than paying our bills. This is a gentle reminder to you folks with 4/84 and 5/84 on your mail labels--you are on the verge of being dropped from the list. Nuff said.

I want to send a double helping of thanks to Gerry Barker and STARTEXT. First, and most important, he put on a very interesting program. I believe that both the NET 99ers and STARTEXT benefitted from this program. STARTEXT is still one of the best deals around--especially at no connect charges. The promises made for Version 3 of their software will make it even better. STARTEXT is unique in this business: not only do you have a chance to talk back to them--they listen and take action! Also, a small but important thanks to Gerry for personally delivering my STARTEXT T-shirt order.

One thank-you that was inadvertently overlooked during the program goes to Mike Cravens and Plano Systems--he supplied the US Robotics PASSWORD modem that was used during the STARTEXT demo. Mike deals with us thru Frank Schnell. Hopefully, we will have some word on a deal for these modems at our next meeting. The PASSWORD is a 300/1200 auto dial/auto answer modem. It is very compact and works quite well.

As mentioned at our last meeting, we need to spend some of our money on ourselves (the members). The exact amount is unknown at this time. I want to hear your opinion on exactly what we should buy for ourselves. I will accept your input by phone, letter or voice at the

meeting. The major suggestions received so far have been: buy a 99 system; buy software for loan to members; buy unique software/hardware packages for loan to members; or have a free picnic for members and families. Please let the officers hear from you now or don't complain about the final decision.

Once again we have decided to include the entire membership list (as of near press time) in this newsletter to members. Every effort has been made toward accuracy and timeliness. If you are incorrectly listed, please let LeRoy Thompson at 429-2039 know. We want you to be correctly listed.

Due to other diversions (job) the new SIGs have yet to form. The names and areas of interest will be published here to give others a chance to indicate their interest. The initial gathering of the Assembly Language group will probably be at the home of LeRoy Thompson within approximately two weeks of the general meeting. I will leave the organization of the FORTH SIG up to those listed below.

Assembly Language FORTH

Les Long 221-2318 Les Long 221-2318
E Knutson 252-4887 M Cantu 461-1769
Fulton Cook 284-9680 E Knutson 252-4587
Ward Ray 244-2988 Ward Ray 244-2988
Mike Brodie 275-6508 Mike Brodie 275-6508
John Crosson 281-4868 Clint Joplin 439-3388
Clint Joplin 439-3388
LeRoy Thompson 429-2039

For those who may be interested, we have received a letter from CorComp. They thanked us for registering our user's group but failed to respond to our questions and offer. They asked that we send all future correspondence to their new address: CorComp Inc. 1255 North Tustin Anaheim CA 92807.

It is with sorrow that this announcement is made. Our friends at DFW Computer have found it no longer possible to make a living selling computers and peripherals and software. They are forced to liquidate. This liquidation started on May 21 and is scheduled to continue thru the 31st. You might find just what you are looking for there. We wish the best of luck to Jerry in his new endeavors.

Another question has just occurred to me: Do we the members want to order NET 99er T-shirts and/or caps? That was just a thought. Please reply same as your vote for our future expenditures.

It appears that Control Data Corporation does intend to market their PLATO series for the TI 99/4A in addition to other computers. The user's group has just received a catalog from CDC. The prices are list (I hope). No

THE LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

dealers are mentioned but maybe we can find some.

The following is a quote from 'The Paper Peripheral' of the Austin user's group (Central Texas). They quoted it from Atlanta and LA and it is worthwhile for us to read ourselves.

It is suggested that members write to companies that are considering dropping support for the 99/4A and encourage them to stay in the market. Suggestions follow--Spinnaker Software, which markets a line of educational games, no longer sells them for the 4A. Their address is 215 First St, Cambridge MA 02142. Koala Technologies produces the Koala Pad Touch Tablets for several machines but are not sure that the 4A has a big enough market. Their address is 310 Patrick Henry Dr, Santa Clara CA 95050. Finally there is Aardvark Ltd, who produces adventure games. They are supposed to have their products ready but got scared off by the TI retreat. Their address is 2352 S Commerce, Walled Lake MI 48088. Let these companies know that there are people interested in their products by writing them. Thanks.

Sooner or later we are all going to need one. Some of us will need one sooner than others. I am talking about a computer doctor. Did you know we have one among our members. He is John Rachels. He fixes main frame computers for a living and therefore has appropriate credentials. He is a persistent trouble shooter, reasonable and guarantees his work. If you need help, here is where to find it--I know from personal experience.

LeRoy Thompson

****PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT****

Our friends at CCAD (that's Center for Computer Assistance to the Disabled) are being given a benefit. One of our members, Jack Kishpaugh is a director of CCAD. The benefit will occur on Flag Day, June 14. It will be at WRST Bar and Grill (yes I spelled that right) located at 4th and Commerce in downtown Fort Worth. The band playing will be Tangent (an acoustic folk group). Food available is soup, sandwiches and salad. The atmosphere is casual elegance. The \$3 cover charge will go to CCAD. This event is being publicized via radio, TV, newspaper AND our newsletter. This is certainly a worthy cause--make it if you can.

Our Library continues to grow and grow. So look for Library Supplement 2 when you attend our next meeting. Here are just a few of the new programs that have been added to the library:

BANDIT, WINGWAR, GUARDIAN, ZORK I, STARCROSS, PLANETFALL, SLOTS, TOWER OF HANOI, KHE SANH, FROGLEGS and another disk of Assembly Language games that load in Extended Basic. To BUSINESS, we have added four Extended Basic word-processing programs; and to UTILITIES, we have added a PIO screendump for Extended Basic programs.

Because of the many programs that we have received for our Library, we found it necessary to create a new category just for MUSIC. Our first MUSIC disk starts with the most recently acquired programs. Music programs already in the Library will be moved to MUSIC category disks as old disks are revised and updated.

New programs will be available from your Librarian following our next monthly meeting, June 9. Have you ever heard the one about how a special resistor pack is required in the second TI disk drive? Have you ever actually gotten this special pack and successfully used it? If so how about sharing your knowledge? Here is your chance to help someone. We will also try to purchase the pack commercially for those who need it and find it unavailable from TI. Please respond to LeRoy Thompson or Jack Kishpaugh. Thanks in advance.

THIS ROUTINE IS FOR ALL OF YOU WHO WANT TO GET RID OF THOSE PESKY ANSWERS THAT RUN INTO 8 DECIMAL PLACES. LINE 160 IS THE KEY TO SOLVING THE PROBLEM WITHIN YOUR OWN PROGRAM. CONTRIBUTED BY DOUG KLINGMAN

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10 REM ** STANDARD ROUNDING TECHNIQUE FOR TI BASIC**
20 REM**ANSWERS THE QUESTION,"HOW DO I ROUND TO THE
NEAREST 1/100 OR ONE CENT ?****
30 CALL CLEAR
40 GALLONS=12.3
50 MILES=235
60 PRINT"MILES=235 GALLONS=12.3":
70 PRINT"MILES / GALLONS ";MILES/GALLONS:
80 PRINT"PRESS 1 FOR 1/10 2 FOR 1/100 3 FOR 1/1000 4 FOR
INT ONLY":
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100 CALL KEY(0,KEY,STATUS)
110 IF STATUS=0 THEN 100
120 ON KEY-48 GOTO 230,250,270,290

130 LET GALLONS=12.3
140 LET MILES=235
150 LET MPG=MILES/GALLONS
160 LET MPG=INT(MPG*.5)/F
170 PRINT"MILES PER GALLON = ";MPG::

180 PRINT"WANT TO SEE ANOTHER ? (Y/N)"
190 CALL KEY(0,KEY,STATUS)
200 IF KEY=89 THEN 30
210 IF KEY<>78 THEN 190
220 END
230 F=10
240 GOTO 130
250 F=100
260 GOTO 130
270 F=1000
280 GOTO 130
290 F=1
300 GOTO 130

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my church recently suffered a hard-disk failure due to electrical noise on the unprotected line to the computer. I became interested in what needs to be done to protect small computers for line noise and from surrounding noise in the air called ambient noise. The following is a synopsis of things which can be done to protect our computer systems. If you can not do all of them, do as many as you can.

One of the best protection devices is called and "UPS" system for uninterruptible power supply. These are good but they start at about \$400 and go up depending on the features required. If you do not use an "UPS" system then a dedicated electrical power line is the next best protection for noise as there will not be any other equipment plugged into the line to generate noise and this will help to isolate problems. Check your equipment for the type of line you need but in most cases it will be a 15-ampere line with its own circuit breaker. Plug all of the microcomputer system units (with the possible exception on the printer) into the same circuit as this will provide a common ground and reduce noise generated by different-phase electrical cycles. Make sure all of your equipment is grounded either by plugging into grounded plugs or by running your own grounds if you do not have grounded plugs. You may want to consider an additional ground for cabinets of each of your systems components. If so, connect a wire to each and join these wires together with a wire that is grounded to something like a water pipe.

Do not turn all of your equipment on at the same time as this might cause a power surge. Do not have diskettes in your drives when you power them on unless instructed by the manufacturer. Do take frequent backups of your disks and store them in a safe place. If the data is critical to you or to your business, keep a backup copy in another building which would not be destroyed by a common disaster. Remember you can get another computer just like yours, but that data might be hard to buy. The time to do a backup will seem small the first time you have to use it.

Keep the telephone away from the microcomputer, the disk drives and the diskettes. Ringing and dialing a phone create electromagnetic noise which can cause problems. If you have an acoustic coupler, you will need the phone in the area, but keep it as far away as possible. You might consider keeping the phone unplugged when not in use.

Of course, keep magnets away from your microcomputer and your diskettes. Remember some screwdrivers are magnets and that paperclips kept in a magnetic dispenser pick up some of the magnetism.

Avoid using a portable radio, TV, or intercom near the computer. If this can not be avoided, you may need to install an EMI-RFI suppressor. Any electrical motor within twenty-five feet can cause problems unless the computer is shielded (for example with sheets of aluminum on the walls around the computer). This noise can also be picked up by electrical cables, so use shielded cables on long electrical connections.

Surge suppressors start at about thirty-five dollars and will protect against many electrical problems. Spike protectors to guard against lightning strikes and high voltage surges cost a little more but may be well worth the extra expense. The more expensive surge suppressors usually also have EMI-RFI suppressors built in. A word of caution -- some power strips are also surge suppressors but not all and not any I've seen for less than forty dollars. Before buying, read carefully to determine what protection the unit will afford.

EDITOR'S NOTE

HOW TO READ YOUR NEWSLETTER STATUS , AND YOUR STATUS.

The date in the upper left corner indicates your expiration date. If there is an INT it is an interest member, if there is a NL it is for newsletter only.

Note: An "*" indicates a new item or price.

Dick Hatton (277-0515) has an Assembly plan package that shows you how to construct your own CUSTOM TI HOME COMPUTER DESK from a single 4' by 8' sheet of 3/4 plywood. The package includes plans, material list and assembly instructions. Retail price -- \$15, Special members price --\$10.

Frank Schnell (267-3860) is your contact for;
 Disk Drives and Gemini printers; Gemini 10 X --\$299.00
 Cable --\$25, Shugart 1/2 high #SA 455 disk drives -- \$240.75
 Tandon 1/2 high disk drives --\$192, SS/SD diskettes \$19.00 per 10,
 DS/DD diskettes --\$26.00 per 10. VOLKSMODEM with cable is \$85.

Bob Wallace (268-3534) has Tandon disk drives - at \$165 for single sided and \$240 for double sided. An external case and power supply is \$60. Bob has the VOLKSMODEM with cable for \$85. Bob also has the Navarone DISK FIXER cartridge and the ever elusive WIDGET for \$32.00 each. BOB has recently become an authorized COR-COMP dealer. As such Bob has some very good deals on COR-COMP peripherals. At the present time he has 32K Cards that fit in the PEB at \$110, and should shortly have both the RS232 card at \$95 and the COR-COMP Peripheral Expansion System (no price yet). The COR-COMP Db1. Density disk controller card is \$155. GEMINI 10X Printer is \$275. A BRAND X stand alone RS232 with both serial parallel ports is \$98.

DFW Computer Center, in Grapevine has an excellent selection of TI Software and computer related items. In Grapevine, take Main Street North to the "T" intersection with Northwest Highway, then left (West) two blocks to Scribner, then right (North) to 110 on Scribner. Hours are 9 to 6 daily and 9 to 5 on Sat. Phone 481-7698.

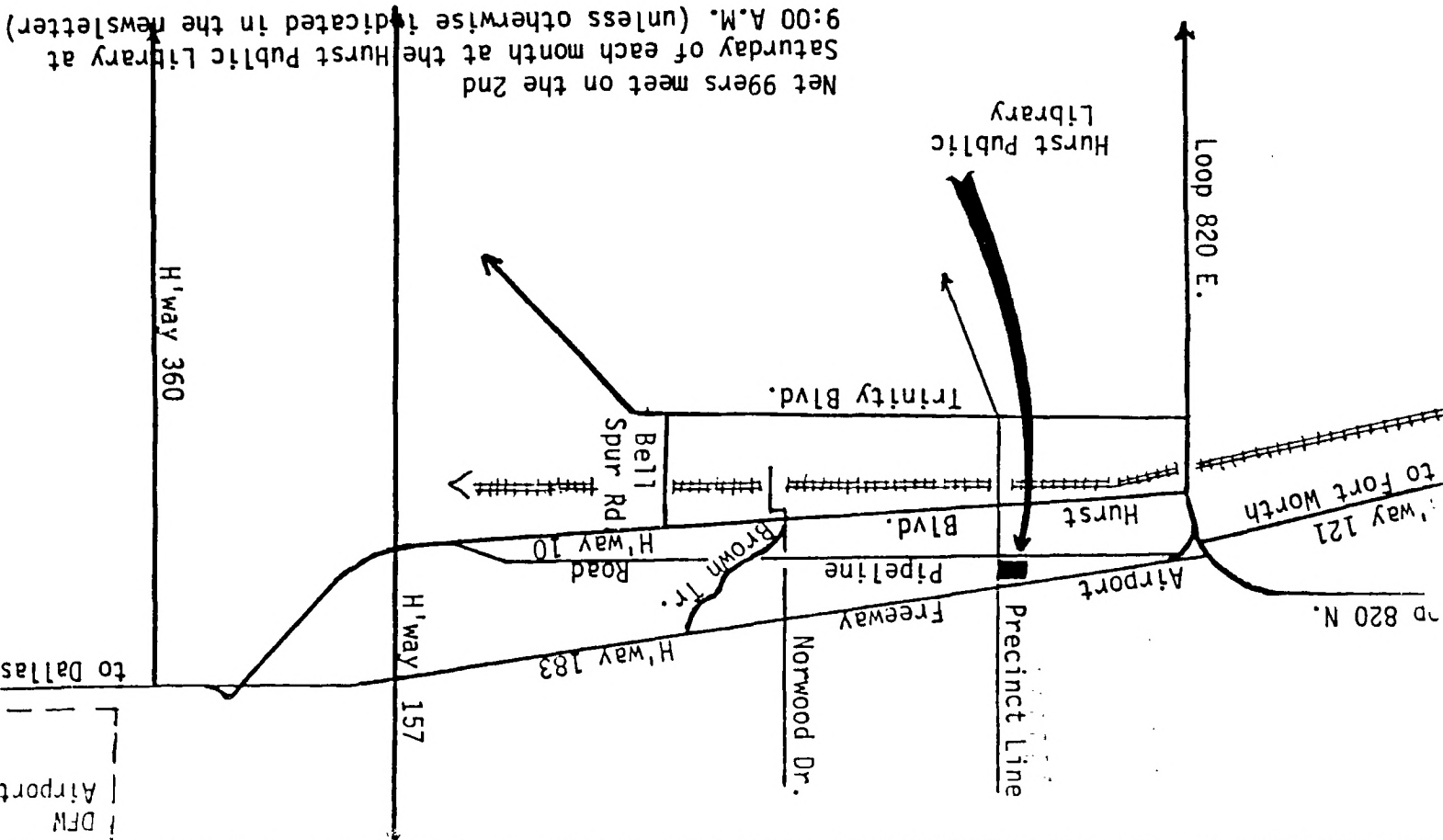
Looking for 9 1/2 by 11 printer paper? SAV-ON, a discount office supply house, has 3500 sheets for \$22.00. They also have many computer printer related items at very good prices. SAV-ON is located in a small set-back shopping center on the East side of Melbourne Street (the North-South street that borders the East side of NORTHEAST MALL) adjacent to the Videoland Store.

The TI EXCHANGE CENTER will remain open until further notice. This is where you should take malfunctioning TI items for repair or exchange. **** NOTE **** Call them at (214) 680-5032 before you take any items in for exchange. Directions on how to get there are; Take LBJ (I 635) East to Central Expressway (I 75W) Exit. Go North to CAMBLE ROAD and then East two blocks to the Exchange Center.

N. Smith...Radio Shack line printer , both par. and ser. ports, upper and lower case,ser. cable,manual, 9 in paper,...\$150.00

F.R.Patel...TI-99/4A with joy-sticks, Parsec, TI Invaders, cable for cassette,...\$75.00

FOR SALE--I have two brand new sealed in the box copies of Extended BASIC. Will sell to members for \$75. LeRoy Thompson 429-2039



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