



SASKATOON TEXAS INSTRUMENTS COMPUTER CLUB

NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 1986

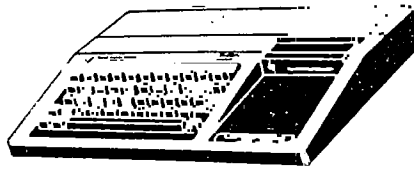
FIRST CLASS MAIL

FROM: STICC
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TO:

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SASKATOON TEXAS INSTRUMENTS COMPUTER CLUB

We discuss and review new products for the TI99/4A while providing technical support for any problems that a member may have. We also support a software library and have regular contacts with other groups in Canada and the United States. Our membership fees are very reasonable: \$10.00/single or \$12.00/family. If you would like to become a member, or require more information, contact any member of the executive.

1986 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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STICC DISCLAIMER

We are a small, nonprofit club here in Saskatoon. We never have, or ever will, consider our newsletter a professional medium in its field. Therefore, with this consideration, the views presented in the articles, by various authors, may not be the views of the newsletter committee, the STICC executive, or its members. On this basis, this club cannot be held responsible for errors, omissions, views, or copy infringements, as presented in the articles.

MEETINGS

General meetings are normally held at 7 PM on the first monday of each month at the Saskatoon Region Community College, 145-1st Avenue North. Any changes in date will be announced in this newsletter. The meeting room number will be posted on a sign at the main entrance. (Usually room 144)

NEXT MEETING: July 7, 1986

Bulletin Board System

There is no longer a TI99 BBS in Saskatoon. What was the STICC BBS is now the Benden Weyr. It may still be reached at (306)384-2844. Ken Read and Colin Hinz are the sysops. This BBS is node 22, net 140, of FidoNet™. Hours of operation are 4AM to 3AM, 7 days/week. 7 bits, even parity, or 8 bits, no parity, and one stop bit. The voice line is 382-2527.

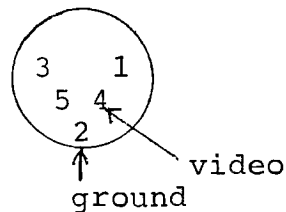
BITS AND BYTES

The following is a condensed write up by Paul Meadows of the TI Nova Scotia Users Group. Its purpose is to obtain 132 columns condensed print using TI writer.

1. Prepare file normally using TI writer.
2. On line "0001", enter margin and commands ie. .LM 10;RM 120; IN +5;FI;AD. Fill and Adjust are necessary while the indent command is up to you.
3. Instead of SF to save files, use P for "print files" instead, preceded by letter "C" and a space in order to strip all control codes from the file.
4. Once printed to disk using above "C DSK1.FILE", you exit the Editor and enter Formatter.
5. Follow prompts to print out the file.

Please note that if you are using tabulated information, the Fill and Adjust commands are essential.

Using a Black and White monitor - This is from Softex of Australia: attach pin 4 and pin 2 to your video and ground respectively. You can use any type of plugs as long as it fits the end mates. Ensure you use shielded cables with the shielding braid connected to the ground plug. The video connector facing back of computer is as follows:



TID BITS

You can obtain a video of the Chicago faire by sending \$25.00 to Chicago TI, PO Box 578341, Chicago, IL 60652.

You can get the Trivia '99 by sending an initialized diskettes with postage or \$5.00 to Robert L. Wesler, 4300 Frazier, Forth Worth, TX, 76115.

You can get a set of Music Disks by sending 2 SSSD disk and postage or \$6.00 to Bill Knecht, 815 Yorkshire, Pasadena, TX, 77503.

Disk Cat is available by sending a disk and postage to Mark McCormick at 215A Yorktown Dr., Ft. Lee, Va, 23801.

Models of quieter fans to replace the ones in the PEB are Statco cooling fans, Sprite model SU2C5 fans, and ETRI model 126L5 fan.

C99 is available from Clint Pulley, 38 Townsend Ave, Burlington, Ont., Canada, L7L 1Y6.

The Tennessee Tibbs runs with 128K ram, triple clock, 64K printer buffer, 3 DS/DD, ink jet printer, 300/1200 baud and can be reached at (901) 357-5425.

In Calgary Alberta? Try the following locations for TI items:

- Compshop, 3515 18th st. w., Calgary, Alt, T2T 4T9 (403) 243 - 5005.
- Broadview, 103 Franklin Mall, Calgary, T2K 6K5, (403) 235 - 2440.
- Second Bytes, 1009-11 ave. SW, Calgary, T2R 0G1, (403) 229 - 1890.

300/1200 Baud modems are available from Knapco at (813) 392 - 0406. It is a Novation Smartcat and will work on the TI and priced at \$124.50 (US).

Version II of TI Artist has received numerous and excellent reviews. Just thought you may want to know. It is available at major dist. and from Bob Boone from Ottawa.

A DSSD Ram disk is available from the New Horizons Users Group. It is highly rated (12 out of 10) by Bob Boone. It was developed by Clulow, Romer, and Gries, so you know that it is a first class item. Price is \$42 for board, schematics, parts list, and support software (source code) or \$230.00 for DSSD fully assembled, tested, and warranted. (us funds). It allows drives to number 1 - 6, has DM100, and several call statements. Well documented and backed up with a self charging Nicad battery as well. SSSD is also available at \$158.00 but upgradable to DS.

Super 99 Monthly (Bytemaster) and The Smart Programmer (Millers Graphics) have merged to provide quality products for the TI 99/4A market. Bytemaster Computer Services has purchased all rights to "The Smart Programmer". A revamp of the staff and magazine is in progress. Memory maps and a 16 page format will result. Subscription can be sent to Bytemaster Computer Services, 171 Mustang Street, Sulphur, LA, 70663. Rates are US and possessions, 1st class \$18.00, 3rd class \$15.00. Canada, 1st Class \$18.00. Other countries air mail \$32.00, surface \$20.00.

Micropendium are increasing their subscription and advertiser rates as of May 30th. It will now be increased to \$20.50 (us). This publication is still considered the best for our TI 99/4A.

On June 14th, the first Australian TI Faire is expected to commence. A large turnout is expected, while a four color, 100 page magazine will also be developed especially for the faire. Some groups overseas will be communicating with the Australian Faire via modems. These committed groups include Cincinnatti, L.A., Lubbock, and Hamilton, Ont.

Well, till next time. I am in the process of investigating ~~the~~ the placement of the speech synthesizer inside the console. Wish me luck (ha!!). From my last sign-on on timeline, Winnipeg is attempting to place the console inside the PEB....not a bad idea at all...hmm....

Francis X. Gaston

[EDITOR'S NOTES]

* Regarding the DIN connector J201, here is the complete pinout information. See Francis' Bits and Bytes column for the console socket diagram. Remember the plug pins are a mirror image of that diagram.

Pin Number	Signal
-----	-----
1	+12 Volts DC (to the RF modulator)
2	Ground (for the video shield)
3	Audio signal
4	Video signal
5	Ground (for audio and 12Volts)
6(Shell of connector)	Ground

The video on pin 4 can be wired directly to a video monitor that accepts Composite Video (using a shielded cable). If the monitor does not have an audio input, you could use any audio amplifier. For example, Radio Shack™ sell small units, or you could connect to the auxiliary input of a mono or stereo amplifier or receiver.

* The price comparisons of TI peripherals and accessories has been provided courtesy Nolan Andres, a local STICC member. The prices may be a little out of date in some cases, but these lists should provide some useful information. As reported last month, Unisource (UNI) has folded. Prices from US retailers are in US\$.

If you wish to contact TI retailers, here are some addresses:

- (1) Texcomp, P.O.Box 33084, Granada Hills, Calif. 91344
Catalogs are US\$2. (818)366-6631 Visa, Mastercard
- (2) N.A.G. = National Assistance Group, Box 290812, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33329. (US\$10 membership required)
- (3) Nova Computerware, 52 Airport Road, Edmonton T5G 0W7
(403)452-0378 free catalog
- (4) Triton, Box 8123, SanFrancisco, Calif. 94128
(800)227-6900 They usually apply a 15% surcharge for Canadian.
- (5) Redford Computer Sales, 14648-134 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta
T5L 4T4 (403)451-4529
- (6) Competition Computer Products, 2629 W.National Ave,
Milwaukee, Wis. 53204 (414)672-4010

MVS = Multi Video Systems I don't have their address, but I believe they are in New York. ??

Price Comparison of Peripherals and Accessories for the TI Home Computer

Expansion Box Cards

TYPE	MVS	UNI	TEXCOMP	N.A.G.	NOVA
CorComp RS-232	89.95	89.95	79.95	78.95	177.00
CorComp Disk C.	159.95	159.95	159.95	162.95	237.00
CorComp 32K	99.95	109.95	99.95	119.95	237.00
CorComp Tr Tech	125.00	129.95		129.95	275.00
Myarc Disk Con.	159.95			162.95	
Myarc RS-232	89.95				
128K				219.95	407.00
64K Print Buff.				129.95	200.00
DS/DD Contr.				154.95	
Myarc 512K	299.00				667.00

Stand Alones

32K	99.95		119.95	112.95	227.00
RS-232	129.95	124.95	129.95	99.95	225.00
Speech Synth.	69.95		74.95	44.95	99.00
RS-232 Parallax	59.00	84.95	79.95	74.95	137.00
Clock/Calendar	79.95	79.95		79.95	175.00

Cables

6' Centronics	25.95				
6' Extension	25.95				
RS-232 Y-cable	39.95		10.95	22.95	
Double Serial	28.95				49.95
Serial	22.50		23.95		
Twin Cassette	12.50		5.95		19.95
Single Cassette	9.50			3.95	14.95
Volksmodem	10.00	10.95	12.95		
Parallel	19.50		24.95	23.95	49.95
Monitor			14.95		29.95
Joystick Exten.			4.95		
Joystick Adaptor			10.95		14.95
Okidata PIO				39.95	
30" Dsy. Chn. Ex.				24.95	
30" Dual Floppy				9.95	
1/2 Ht. Drive Kit			29.95	24.95	
P. Box cable					44.95

Modems

TYPE	MVS	UNI	TEXCOMP	N.A.G.	NOVA
Volks-300	55.95	67.95	59.95#	69.95*	
Volks-1200	259.00	229.95@	229.95	199.95~	499.95*
Mark III	84.95*	79.95	94.95		125.00^
TI Modem			74.95		100.00

* - c/w cable

@ - AMA link communications software and cable are included

- \$87.95 with TE II and cable

~ - c/w TE IV for up to 9600 baud.

^ - c/w AC Adapter.

Other

TI-99/4A Console	69.95		79.95		149.95
Widgit	27.95	29.95	29.95	27.95	47.95
Flip 'n File 50	9.95	16.95	19.95	14.95	29.95
MBX system		39.95*	99.95		99.95@
MBX cartridges		\$10-20	24.95		99.95
Super Sketch	39.75		47.95	39.95~	79.95
TI Keyboards				9.95	24.95
TI Modulators		19.95	19.95	3.95	29.95
TI Transformers				8.95	29.95
Dust Cover	7.50	8.95	7.95	4.95	11.95
Light Pen					49.95
Grombuster					67.00
Gramcracker					call
Maximem					200.00

* - When you buy 3 cartridges.

@ - 5 free cartridges included.

~ - free "graphics program" included.

Game Cartridges

NAME	MVS	UNI	TEXCOMP	N.A.G.	NOVA
Munchmobile	12.50	3.95	11.95		34.95
Jawbreaker	12.50	6.95	5.95		19.95
Zero Zap		6.95	8.95		
Adventure	12.50	6.95	6.95		34.95
Hustle		6.95	6.95		19.95
Connect Four	12.50	6.95	8.95		24.95
Parsec	12.00	9.95	4.95		
Hunt The Wumpus	12.00	9.95	4.95		19.95
Ret.-Pirate Isl		9.95	11.95		34.95
Othello		9.95	9.95		
A-Maze-Ing	12.50	9.95	4.95		
Blymoids		9.95	15.95		
Alpiner	12.50	4.95	4.95		
Blasto	12.50	4.95	4.95		
TI Invaders	12.50	4.95	4.95		
Munchman	12.50	4.95	4.95		
War Wars	12.50	4.95	4.95		19.95
Attack	12.50	4.95	4.95		
Tombstone City	12.00	4.95	4.95		
Whiskolm Trail	12.50	4.95	5.95		
Sneegit		4.95	5.95		24.95
Buck Rogers	12.50	15.95	15.95		
Congo Bongo	12.50	12.95	15.95		
Tunnels of Doom	12.50	15.95	6.95		34.95
Indoor Soccer	17.50	12.95	8.95		29.95
Treasure Island		12.95	11.95		
Hopper			4.95		24.95
Hangman	17.50		6.95		19.95
Football			9.95		
Largertime			9.95		
Microsurgeon	12.50		9.95		
Moonsweeper			9.95		29.95
Lemon Attack			9.95		
Blackjack-Poker			15.95		39.95
Moonmine			5.95		
M*AX*S*H			11.95		
Startrek			15.95		
Fathom			15.95		
Q-Bert	23.95		19.95		39.95
Frogger	29.95		19.95		39.95
Popeye			19.95		39.95
Arcturus		49.95			

Printers

TYPE	MVS	UNI	TEXCOMP	N.A.G.	NOVA
GP100-TI	219.95	119.95	249.95	179.95	
GP500-TI			299.95		
GP700-TI(color)		329.95			999.95*
Elite-5		249.95	289.95		
Gemini 10X		219.95	259.95	279.95*	
Star SD10	349.00			299.95*	
SD15	459.00				
S610	219.00				
Gemini Pwrtyp.	309.00				
Panasonic 1090				229.95	
1091	239.00				
1092	319.00				
1093	425.00				
Legend 808	169.00				399.95
1080	229.00				499.95
1380	275.00				
1385	319.00				
Epson FX-85	349.00				
FX-125	469.00				
LX-90	249.00				
LX-80					499.95
JX-80	479.00				

* - Free cable included.

The following is reprinted from the May newsletter, Ottawa UG:

TI-99/4A National Users Association (NUAC) News By Bob Boone

We're at a crisis point right now with NUAC. We need ideas from all of you who have cared enough to join us. What kinds of things do you want NUAC to do for you and can you also suggest how we can do them if the answer isn't obvious.

Jane LaFlamme and I have been asked to start up a steering committee to advise the Ottawa TI User Group on what directions we'd like to take with the Association. We desperately want ideas from people remote from our group here in the Ottawa Valley. Tony Robinson in Vancouver; Tom Hall in Edmonton; Francis Gaston in Saskatoon; Monte Blue in Lethbridge; Paul Degner in Winnipeg; Jean Paul Rheume from GOTIQUE; Larry Dickenson from Fredricton; etc etc etc...

rally to the call....

The steering committee will be appointed locally; it will convene several times over the summer and make its report to the OUG executive on the second Thursday in September. That report will essentially be NUAC's salvation or damnation. Things we're looking at are an amendment to the OUG's constitution whereby NUAC will become an "official" entity; enlarging the NUAC section of our NL with input from users in other countries and continents (letters have already gone out soliciting semi-regular input from Australia, England, Germany, France and even Argentina!) We also want input from YOU across the length and breadth of our country! Toronto is doing some great hardware tricks with the 99/4A; as are some of the users in BC. Many Canadian users and others from around the world are doing equally impressive things with software. Lets do everything we can possibly do to spread these accomplishments around!

TI-NUAC, right now is just a name. In name only, we co-sponsored a festival to celebrate the TI-99/4A computer on the 26th of April. Many of you came. From all known points in Ontario and Eastern Canada, you came! We were impressed!

In fact we were impressed enough to do it again next year. If you think it can be improved in any way let us know how... We've picked up several of our mistakes (eg: better crowd control so not so many will be able to sneak in next year...haha!). It was obvious from the very beginning our fairware booth and "freebies" tables weren't visible enough...the Lecture room was kinda hard to find to wasn't it? Anything else??? Larry Dickenson, Luigi Tattonetti and Archie Simmonds have earned my everlasting gratitude for manning my booth for me while I took several badly needed breaks during the show...and still didn't see a thing! That's gonna change next year to (fat chance)! It was exciting and we have a very good quality videotape of all the presentations to prove it! We're searching for inexpensive ways to reproduce it now for the benefit of you that may have missed out on them.

Myarc was represented by Steve Lombardi, of TEXAMENTS, from Patchogue New York. He showed MYARC's new computer on a card and both performed flawlessly. Wow, what a system that's gonna be when it switches from vaporware to reality hopefully near the end of June. John Clulow presented his fantastic Ram Disk and also spoke a little about Guy Gourney's Maximem module. Bruce Ryan of RYTE Data in Haliburton Ontario showed us some of the new hardware from Mechatronics in Germany and Charles Sincofski spoke about his Telecommunications network called TIMELINE, based in Montreal. It made for a solid 3 hours of interesting viewing. Unfortunately there were no shots taken of the Distributor area during the show; an oversight that will hopefully be corrected next year....

That's All for now! Please respond today with input as to what you would like to see NUAC provide for you!

The following is reprinted from the May newsletter, Ottawa UG:

TI-FEST AND NUAC NEWS
by Jane Laflamme

On behalf of the TI-99/4A NATIONAL USERS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (NUAC) and the OTTAWA TI-99/4A USERS' GROUP, I would like to thank all 99ers from Canada and the U.S. who supported our first annual TI-FEST, both directly and indirectly, with a special mention to the 45 plus Ottawa Users' Group members who gave so much of their time to bring the event to fruition. When we originally conceived the idea, we didn't expect such a great response; it has been a learning experience for us and from this, should make next year even bigger and better.

Now I would like to write a note on NUAC. We in Ottawa felt, that as one of the larger and active user groups in Canada, we should take the initiative in uniting Canadian Tiers. Exactly one year before the FEST, April 26, 1985, we sent out feelers to groups and individuals across Canada and today we have approx. 10 user and 20 individual memberships (including the U.S.). Its beginning to look like a viable entity! Some of you have been asking for the NUAC newsletter. As you can tell from the previous numbers, we do not have enough resources at the moment to support a Newsletter of the quality and content of the Ottawa Group's newsletter. We therefore are putting a column in the Ottawa Newsletter with plans for additional space in the future, and if it is feasible or even wanted, to break from the Ottawa group. Time will tell. BUT, an association is only as good as contributions of its members. WE NEED INPUT FROM YOU. Ottawa has provided the means now its up to you to support us and keep it going! The FEST gave you the opportunity of meeting each other, seeing what is available, and swapping goals and concerns, now for the next step... Please ask your group for time to speak at the General Meetings and give NUAC a plug. Appoint or elect a NUAC representative to liaise with Ottawa. Send us the feedback, ideas, etc. that we need; write an article on the history and goals of your group; tell them how much fun it will be to see their name and group's name in print! Anything, to keep the ball rolling... Get them fired up; in the end, its to everyone's advantage.. We MUST support each other. These are possible short term plans; now for a few ideas for your group to contemplate for the future of NUAC:

- A Constitution;
- National Executive;
- TI-FEST advisory committee;
- National BBS (possibly multi-user through Datapac?);
- Bulk discount purchases;
- National software contests and conventions;
- Representation from other countries - or a global tie-in;
- Representation from manufacturers.

These are just ideas to start you talking; you will probably come up with better ones! Its not an impossible dream. Let's think positive and big! Ottawa will be forming a steering committee to give recommendations on the future of NUAC and your suggestions and ideas will be passed on to them. (A note to Ottawa members: We will be asking for volunteers for this committee at the June general meeting. If you wish, you can contact either Bob Boone or myself for further information before hand.)

In closing, we enjoyed putting faces to names and it was great meeting so many, for us, new Tiers.... Hope to be hearing from you and...

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!