Texas Instruments
USERS GROUP
TORONTO

FOR THE TI-99/4A COMPUTER

JULY 1985

NINE T NINE USERS GROUP

29 INGLESIDE DR.
DOWNSVIEW, ONTARIO
M3K 1V2

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT Emile Verkerk (633-1451)
VICE-PRESIDENT Dave Rust (449-2576)
SECRETARY Randy Rossetto (469-3468)
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OFFICER AT LARGE Boyd Brown (793-3761)

PAST-PRESIDENT Lloyd Lindsay (743-3868)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Emile Verkerk

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Randy Rossetto

MEMBERSHIP FEES

FULL MEMBERSHIP $25.00 / year
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP $12.50 / year

All memberships are household memberships. An associate membership is only for those who live beyond the consulting distance of Toronto, but wish to receive our newsletter and have access to our library. You are welcome to visit one of our general meetings before joining the group. If you wish more information contact our president in writing at the club address on the front cover or call and leave a message with his answering machine.

NEXT MEETING

The meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 28 at the Black Creek Public Library in Downsview, starting at 7:30 pm. The library is at 2141 Jane Street just south of Wilson Ave. The entrance to the library is on Jane Street.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING

Any business wishing to reach our membership may advertise in our newsletter. The rates are as follows. (width by height):

FULL PAGE   (6" x 7 1/2") $40.00
HALF PAGE   (6" x 3 1/2") $20.00
QUARTER PAGE (3" x 3 1/2") $10.00

Please have your ads camera ready and paid for in advance. For more information contact the editor.

Don't forget, that any member wishing to place ads, may do so free of charge as as long as they are not involved in a commercial enterprise.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter in the form of articles, mini programs, helpful tips, jokes, cartoons and questions. Any article may be submitted in any form by mail or modem. We welcome the reprinting of any article appearing in this newsletter providing credit is given to the author and 9T9. If more information is required, call Emile Verkerk.

DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and are not nec- essarily those of the 9T9 USERS' GROUP. 9T9 cannot assume liability for errors or omissions in articles, programs or advertisements.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The hot summer days have finally arrived only so that we can hide in air-conditioned bliss.

We are a nation of complainers, but it is very seldom that we actually do something about what's bothering us. No more! When that something irks me, I'm not going to take it any more.

Point 1 - DMP-105 printer, from Radio Shack has been sold to the scrap yard. (I almost had to pay them to take it away) Very recently replaced by a Roland DG PR1111A. Five billion functions. Unfortunately, I've only got one lifetime to explore it.

Point 2 - School, work, newsletter, family, cutting the grass. Need I continue. I'm busy. Too busy. There's an ad in the newsletter for an assistant editor. I need help. I could resort to bribery...one program for each article typed...wonder how long 200 disks would last.

Point 3 - Remember that our August meeting is on a Wednesday due to scheduling problems with the City of North York. Don't complain. Just do something about it. Attend.

Point 4 - Running out of space, time and mind. Until next month, Happy Computing...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Emile,

Just thought I'd drop you a quick note regarding the CALL LOAD in your last issue. Fascinated by "having" more than 32K in the 32K expansion, I immediately tried it. As you said, it works! But, there really isn't anything extra there - in fact, you can make SIZE read almost anything you want. I played with location -31866 a bit and discovered that if you CALL LOAD(-31866,159,255) the SIZE command will give you - are you ready for this - 65472 bytes of program space free! Not bad for a machine that is supposed to be only 48K maximum. This number, according to the "Pokes" I did appeared to be the maximum - probably due to the limitation of 2^{16} (65536). As soon as a program is loaded and RUN, SIZE returns to normal. So sorry, location -31866 is a neat location for demonstrations but not good for much else!

Well, that's about it for now. I certainly enjoy receiving your newsletter. It is nice to have some outside contact. Take care and good computing ...
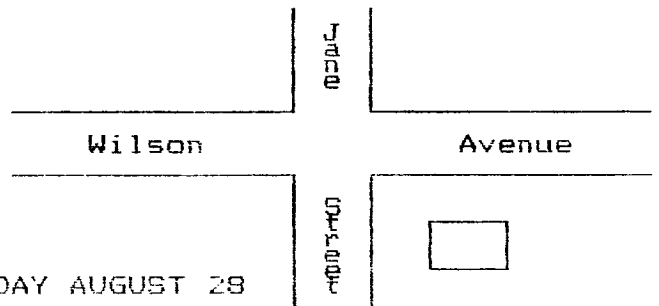
Sincerely,

Alan C. Fox
Regina, Saskatchewan

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map of our new
meeting place
2141 Jane Street

the meeting will
be held in the
auditorium which
is in the basement
of the library
NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY AUGUST 28

Jane

Wilson   Avenue

Street

The Library is the grnd floor of an office building

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############################################################################
#                                                                          #
#           NINE T NINE USRES GROUP STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS rev. 07/85        #
#                                                                          #
############################################################################
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	Bank Balance	1443.09 as of 02/07/85

Open Bal. 1543.87 '84 exec	Cash on Hand	65.00
Total Inc 2286.55	Accounts Rec.	0.00
Total Exp 2378.06	Accounts Pay.	0.00
ASSETS $1452.36	TOTAL	$1508.09
	MISC. INCOME	55.73

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EXPENSES Total to date $2378.06

newsletter, printing and paper	postage and supplies	equipment	library and software	misc. (t-shirts and membership pkges)
824.94	346.72	12.00	180.36	1714.04

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INCOME   Total to date $2286.55   OPENING BALANCE $1543.87

memberships		advertising	library	misc.
1300.00		59.00	373.50	554.05

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W A N T E D

This newsletter is looking for an energetic individual who is willing to slave over his hot console in the interests of the club as assistant editor.

Equipment required would include expansion system, TI-Writer, and a modem.

Please contact the editor at (416) 633-1451 if you are interested in filling this position.

You start immediately!!

FRANCISCO'S ROADSIDE SOFTWARE
SE HABLA PASCAL

HOW TO ORDER A PROGAM FROM THE LIBRARY

One of the questions most often asked is "How do I order programs from the club library?", or "Can I get just one program or do I have to order a whole disk full?" This short explanation will take this problem by the han and hopefully answer your questions concerning the library.

FOR EVERYBODY

Enclosed with your membership package was a listing of all the programs presently in our library. Every-one got one. The first step is to look at this listing and select the programs you want. Because of the work involved, programs are only available by the disk or cassette, so in order to get one program you will have to purchase the whole disk full.

The listing gives the environment under which the program runs (Basic, ExBasic, etc.) and the equipment necessary to run the program and a description of the program. (For a more detailed description read the library disk listing in the newsletter.)

Each group of programs is available on cassette or disk, the only difference being that the disks have loaders, which can not be used by a cassette.

IF YOU ATTEND MEETINGS

Your next step is to call Randy (his phone number is on the inside front cover) and order the programs from him. If you can't wait, make arrangements with him to PICK up your disk or cassette, else Randy will bring the programs to the next meeting.

IF YOU LIVE OUT OF TOWN

Select the programs you want and write to the club address with:
   Your Name
   Your Address
   Your Postal Code
   The NUMBER of the disk you want, and
   SPECIFY if you want the disk or cassette version

DON'T FORGET TO READ THIS

Saving the best for the last, the tapes or disks, each with about twelve programs on them are only $7.00 each or two for $10.00.

I hope that this has cleared up a lot of problems.

FROM OUR LIBRARY

Starting in February and hopefully continuing every month, the library committee has been commissioned to report to the membership on the contents of the disks in our library. Since we lack the space to give every program on every disk an indepth description, we will be limited to giving the contents of each disk, but only describing some of the programs. Also, copies of the described disk will be available from the librarians in either cassette or disk form during our monthly meetings. Many thanks to Kenny Hunter for making this possible.

LIBRARY DISK 99LIBBXB01

Kenny Hunter

ANUAL/BDGT	XBASIC	CONVERSION	XBASIC	MORT/LOAN	XBASIC
ATTENUATR	XBASIC	COST-EFFEC	XBASIC	RECIPE	XBASIC
AUTO/EXFEN	XBASIC	FRICTI.N	XBASIC	SPREEEHEET	XBASIC
CASSETTE	XBASIC	LRGE-.-A"5	XBASIC	WCPIFFJCSR	XBASIC
		MOD/ROCKET	XBASIC		

ATTENUATR: Designs two types of resistor attentuation circuits. To prevent a proram crash add line 935 IF RI<RO THEN 910.

CONVERSION: Converts Temp, Mass, Length, Capacity, Angles, Energy Pressure using several units systems (NOT SI).

FRICTION: Illustrated practice for two types of high-school friction problems (SI units). Super graphics. Introduction uses a stage curtain opening to show intructions; useful for other programs.

LRGE-CHARS: Test display for large size characters (1.5 % normal). True lower case. Includes data for characters.

MOD/ROCKET: Checks the stability of model rocket designs. Requires design parameter data which is not referenced in the program.

MORTLOAN: Excellent program calculates and displays loan payment schedule with interest/principal beakdown and totals.

SPREDSHEET: A good 20 row, 17 column spreadsheet. Someone with a disk drive and printer should check this one and WORDPROCSR for bugs.

WORDPROCSR: A versatile program which can print and/or display and save to tape or disk. Adjustable memory counter to avoid MEMORY FULL error when using without memory expansion.

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** Notice **

As we all know, there are quite a few programs in our library that either lack proper instructions or need to be debugged. Any member, who debugs a library program and can supply written documentation for the program (see Programming Committee for standards), will receive FREE of charge, the contents of any disk in our library. For all the others, we will print the modifications here so that you can all change your versions.
                                        - the Library

AIRPORT AREA COMPUTER CLUB
from ARIZONA 99 UG

IF YOU HAVE A BLACK AND WHITE
TV, TRY THIS FOR A SHARPER
PICTURE. ADD THE FOLLOWING TO
THE BEGINNING OF YOUR PROGRAM.

10 CALL SCREEN(15)

THIS WILL DISABLE THE COLOR
GENERATING CIRCUIT IN THE 99/4A
AND REMOVE THE PATTERN OF
VERTICAL LINES OFTEN SEEN ON BW
TV'S. IT ALSO INCREASES THE
SHARPNESS OF CHARACTERS.

from PITTSBURG UG

LET'S SAY YOUR EDITING A
PROGRAM AND INSTEAD OF PUSHING
FUNCTION 2, YOU MISTAKENLY PUSH
FUNCTION 3. DO NOT ENTER!! PUSH
FUNCTION 4. FUNCTION 4 TAKES
YOU OUT OF THE EDIT MODE WITHOUT
UPDATING THE LAST LINE YOU WERE
EDITING. LIST YOUR PROGRAM, AND
YOU'LL FIND THE LINE IS STILL
THERE.

MORE ON THE 99/8

FROM THE JUNE ISSUE OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY USERS GROUP
NEWSLETTER "THE DATA BUS"
TI WITHDRAWAL OF KEY COMPONENTS DELAYS MYARC BID FOR NEW
COMPUTER!

Chicago's C.E.S. became the event that wasn't for eager
TI-99/4A users. Barely weeks before that exposition, TI
announced they'd suspended any future production of their
TMS9900 and TMS99000 microprocessor chips and scrapped
plans for the Advanced 64K VDP chip, while withdrawing two
memory controllers and production of the TMS9918A chip.
Japanese MSX computer plans, dependent on TI items also,
suddenly were shaken. Once again, outstanding TI
technology yielded to manipulative market techniques.

In a feature story for the July issue of MICROpendium, the
prospective maker of the so-called "99/128", New Jersey's
Myarc, Inc., has apparently vowed to continue the pursuit
for extended development of the capabilities of the
present 4A units.

New Members

As of press time, here are the names of new members

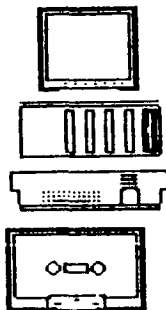|		
Doug Lawrence	22 Ingleside Dr	DOWNSVIEW M3K 1V
Philip Beaven	3341 Harleyford Cres	NIAGARA FAL L2G 7K
Harry Boves	Box 513	STOUFFVILLE L0H 1L

We at 9T9 welcome you!!!

CURSOR POKE

From Valley Times
Columbus, GA

If you have Editor/Assembler
or Minimemory and are program-
ming in BASIC, you can change
the cursor shape with a simple
POKE. Try this (after CALL
INIT):

CALL POKEV (1008,0,60,36,36,36,
36,36,60)   or this:

CALL POKEV (1008,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,
60)

HOW WE MEASURE UP

A few months ago we sent out a questionnaire to all members concerning equipment, interests, languages, meetings, library, SIGs, newsletter and social events.

Out of nearly 200 sent out, there were only (including mine) 50 returned. Unfortunately, this means that only 25% of the club is going to have a say in 100% of the club's business.

Out of the 50 returned, two people (who shall remain nameless) didn't turn the page over and therefore missed answering more exciting questions.

First of all, the members in our club seem to be equipment rich, with 34% having two or more disk drives and with 6% stocking up on consoles.

We also seem to have a wide range of interests from games and music, to business and data bases.

Special interest groups (SIG) were called for, and about half want social events such as kid's arcade days, picnics and social evenings.

Following is a breakdown of the results of the survey. All responses in the less than 10% category have been omitted for the sake of saving space.

EQUIPMENT

item	owned by
99/4A	100%
speech	86%
32K	78%
printer	70%
RS232C	68%
1 disk drive	52%
modem	46%
2+ disk drives	34%
cassette	14%

INTERESTS

item	interested in
utilities	76%
data base	50%
education	48%
games	48%
business	44%
scientific	26%
music	22%
speech	18%

LANGUAGES

item	program in
XBasic	90%
Assembler	60%
Basic	60%
Forth	26%
Logo	26%
Pascal	14%

MEETINGS

The meetings were generally wanted either in the north or the west of Toronto. We compromised with the north-west area of the city and our meetings are now held the same time (last Tuesday of the month) at 2141 Jane St., the Black Creek Branch of the North York Public Library.

LIBRARY

Many people were spit on the issue of the library. Some felt that there was no access to the club library, while others were satisfied. Our procedure as it now stands, requires you to look in the library listing that came with your membership package, and to send $7.00 to cover copying costs and postage to the Library Committee, with the number of the cassette or disk you want. If there are any suggestions how to streamline the system, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

MEETINGS

more	wanted by
demonstrations	61%
guest speakers	56%
tutorials	50%
free time	14%

We try to please everyone at the meetings. Since moving to our new "clubhouse", we have the facilities until 11:00 pm, so we should be able to do more things.

NEWSLETTER

satisfied	61%
not satisfied	14%

To those 14%, I say, why don't you come over and help me put this thing together every month instead of just complaining about it.

more	wanted by
tips	50%
tutorials	37%
articles	33%
programs	25%
reviews	19%

The editor has taken the above figures to heart and will do his best.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

for	52%
not interested	31%
no answer	17%

SOCIAL EVENTS

want them	42%
don't want them	36%

Of the 42% in favour of social events, there was an even split (31%) for kid's days, family picnics, and social evenings.

COMMENTS

The following are brief comments submitted by members on all sorts of things.

see my address (Saskatchewan) - I would love to attend meetings but a teacher's salary only goes so far!! - you have a good newsletter! Congratulations - how about a formal question period for say 1/2 hour? - put library on BBS for club users only with individual password - could there be mail access for the library for those who cannot attend meetings - limit demonstrations to 15 minutes - noticeable improvement keep up the good work - could you circulate the printed matter at meetings - how do I get access to the library? - I have found the newsletter very helpful - I would like to see a club operated BBS -like the newsletter full-size - more structure to meetings - answers to written questions - more information on source books, programming, hardware, software - be nice to start on time - keep the small pockets of conversation from taking place when meeting is under way - obtain permission to reproduce articles from other newsletters - make library accessible at meetings - where are the meetings now?

Thanks to all those who participated in the survey.

A TERRIBLE LOSS

by Criket Raybern of the Portland User's Group

We were saddened to learn recently of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else. Someone's passing created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else had been with us almost since our club was formed, and during that time, Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration, as well as, results.

It was often said, "Someone Else can work with that group or committee." Whenever there was a job to be done or a meeting to attend, one name was on everybody's list - "Let Someone Else do it."

Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman. But a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everyone expected too much from Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone, and we wonder what we are going to do.

Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things that Someone Else always did?

From the LAWS OF COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

01 HARE'S LAW OF LARGE PROGRAMS
   03 INSIDE EVERY LARGE PROGRAM IS A SMALL PROGRAM STRUGGLING TO GET OUT.

01 TURNAUCKA'S LAW
   03 THE ATTENTION SPAN OF A COMPUTER IS ONLY AS LONG AS ITS ELECTRICAL CORD.

01 FALLIBLE MEN DESIGN FALLIBLE COMPUTERS.
   A COMPUTER PROGRAM DOES WHAT YOU TELL IT TO DO, NOT WHAT YOU WANT IT TO DO.

01 TROUTMAN'S PROGRAMMING LAWS
   03 IF A TEST INSTALLATION FUNCTIONS PREFECTLY, ALL SUBSEQUENT SYSTEMS WILL MALFUNCTION
   03 NOT UNTIL A PROGRAM HAS BEEN IN PRODUCTION FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS WILL THE MOST HARMFUL ERROR THEN BE DISCOVERED.
   03 JOB CONTROL CARDS THAT CANNOT BE ARRANGED IN IMPROPER ORDER WILL BE.
   03 INTERCHANGEABLE TAPES WON'T.
   03 IF THE INPUT EDITOR HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO REJECT ALL BAD INPUT, AN INGENIOUS IDIOT WILL DISCOVER A METHOD TO GET BAD DATA PAST IT.
   03 MACHINES WORK, PEOPLE SHOULD THINK.