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Norton, Massachusetts
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CLUB 99
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ATTLEBORO, MA. 02703

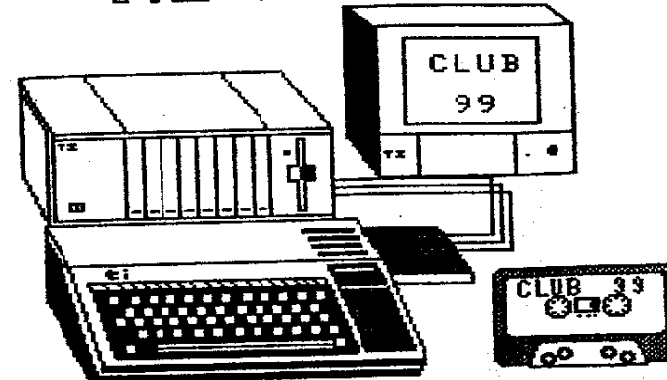
CENTRAL ALABAMA 99/4 GROUP
551 LARKWOOD DR.
MONTGOMERY, AL 36109

***** NEXT MEETING WILL BE 4/27/87, 6:30PM *****

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NEWSLETTER



APR 1987

NEWSLETTER

50 CENTS

HI THERE!

A Note to User Groups

If this is the first time you have received our newsletter or heard of our club, Hello. We are CLUB99 of Attleboro, Ma. We are sending our April newsletter to some 160 user groups Texas Instruments published in a list a short time ago. Due to the increased costs, we can not continue this mailing. However, if you put us on your mailing list, you will remain on ours. This exchange is beneficial to all, and aids in the expedient dissemination of ideas and information throughout the TI community. If you are currently part of our exchange program, you will be retained.

We are a club of about 60 members who enjoy learning and experimenting with our TI99/4A computers. As a point of reference, Attleboro is midway between Boston, Mass., and Providence, RI. The TI Writer SIG meets at the home of Edgar Lecuyer, about a mile from the stadium the "New England Patriots" call home. We started as an employee club of the TI plant in Attleboro and have grown to include many non TI employees.

Looking forward to include you in our exchange, I am,
Edgar Lecuyer....Editor

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CLUB 99 NEWSLETTER
A COOPERATIVE EFFORT OF THE ATTLEBORO USERS GROUP

ELECTED OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT - JOE COSTA III (617) 336-9023
VICE PRES - KEN TAIT (617) 761-5648
SECRETARY - BILL NIEVERA (401) 728-5944
TREASURER - BOB LEE (617) 222-4682

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

TECHNICAL ADVISOR - PAUL SULLIVAN (401) 847-3672
LIBRARY: FRANK BILLER
MIKE BATES
NEWSLETTER: TI WRITER SIG
EDGAR LECUYER (617) 384-8608
BILL NIEVERA / MIKE BATES

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OF CLUB 99, PROVIDED AUTHORSHIP IS ACKNOWLEDGED.

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CIRCLE THIS DATE:

APRIL
S M T W T F S
 1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 **27** 28 29 30

IT IS THE NEXT MEETING DATE.

CLUB 99 MEETS THE LAST MONDAY OF
EVERY MONTH AT THE STUDEBAKER'S
LOUNGE, 300 WEST MAIN ST. (RT. 123)
MORTON MA., AT THE WADING RIVER
GOLF COURSE. MEETINGS START AT
6:30 PM. DUES ARE \$12.00 A YEAR
PAYABLE IN JANUARY OF EACH YEAR.

THE VIEWS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE VIEWS OF
THE CLUB, OR ALL OF ITS MEMBERS. IT IS THE INTENT OF THE TI WRITER SPECIAL
INTEREST GROUP TO INFORM THE MEMBERS OF WHAT IS OCCURRING IN THE TI COMMUNITY
AND TO EDUCATE THE MEMBERS ABOUT THE TI 99/4A HOME COMPUTER. THE TI WRITER
SIG PUBLISHES THE NEWSLETTER ON A REGULAR BASIS.

CLUB 99 PARTICIPATES IN A NATIONAL NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE WITH USERS GROUPS
ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THE TI WRITER SIG REPUBLISHES ANY INFORMATION THAT IT
THINKS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE ENTIRE CLUB. USERS GROUPS THAT RECEIVE
OUR NEWSLETTER MAY DO THE SAME. PARTIES INTERESTED IN VIEWING THESE
NEWSLETTERS SHOULD CONTACT MIKE BATES, LITERATURE LIBRARIAN AT THE MONTHLY
MEETINGS.

ED'S MESSAGE

I really don't have all that much to say this month. Just some
general information. The June meeting will be a "swap meet." Bring your
surplus equipment and your wallet. It should be fun. The July meeting will
be held on the 20th instead of the 27th. The lounge will not be available
on the 27th. The Basic SIG group will be starting up at the May meeting
under the leadership of Doris Blaney. I have known her for a while now and
she is an excellent programmer. She will start the class at whatever level
the group wants.

Now some "I hopes". I hope you attended the TI Faire in Waltham.
This newsletter is being written before the faire but I was glad I went last
year. I also hope you attended the March Meeting. Paul Sullivan put on an
excellent demonstration of a home made light pen that plugs into the
joystick port. He had the literature available on how it was made and the
software created for it. Paul is in the process of writing an article on
how to make commands resident in the keyboard. He mentioned that he did
this a long time ago. I asked him to write an article on it. He replied,
"Why, doesn't everybody do this?" PLEASE, if you do something with the
computer write a short article about it for the newsletter; then I wouldn't
have to keep typing in reprints from other newsletters.

Let me leave you with this reprint from the Erie 99er Newsletter. Do
you know why fire trucks are red? Well, fire trucks have 4 wheels and 8 men.
4 and 8 make 12. There are 12 inches in a foot, and a foot is a ruler.
Queen Elizabeth is a ruler, and it's also one of the largest ships on the
sea. The sea has fish and the fish have fins. The Finns fought the
Russians once and the Russians are red. That's why fire engines are red,
cause they're always rushin'. If you think this is illogical, you should
hear some of the excuses people give for not participating in club
activities. (Author Unknown)

-Edgar Lecuyer-

-Editor-

BOB Meeting...

The March meeting of the board of directors was held Thursday,
3/25/87. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Joe Costa III at 7:20PM.
Reports from the Pres., Vice pres. and Secretary were accepted by the
board. The application for membership of John Bradshaw was accepted. Also,
an improvement in the application trail thru the board was suggested, and
accepted. This will mean less of a delay in the issuance of membership
cards for new members. A report of the computer faire was given by Ken
Tait.

Also discussed was the payment of freeware fares to authors by the

club. The feasibility of a SIG co-ordinator was taken under advisement. (any volunteers?) As requested, the June meeting is tentatively scheduled as a swap meet for club members...more at the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30PM

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Nievera, Secty.

The Last Meeting...

The March meeting of CLUB99 was held Monday, March 30, 1987 at Studebakers. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Joe Costa III. The tech advisor and Secretary gave their reports. The June meeting has been set aside as a "swap meet". This meet is for club members only. The July meeting has been pushed up a week, to 7/20/87. Edgar Lecuyer has been designing a business card, and the first draft was presented at the meeting. Paul Sullivan discussed a way to modify your controller card to support DS/DS. Any one interested can see Paul. Also, it would appear that an Assembly SIG has formed. Any one interested can see Paul Rodgers for info.

The SIGs met and the general meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Nievera, Secty.

WHAT???

Do you often show off your 99/4A to your friends? Do they often touch things they shouldn't? I had one person who asked, "What does this lighted, red switch do?" and he promptly shut off my main power switch. (I'm not kidding.) To prevent this from happening to you I suggest you force all visitors to read the following notice...

ACHTUNG

ALLES TOURISTEN UND NOT-TECHNISCHEN LOOKEN PEEPER! DAS MACHINE CONTROL IS NICHT FÜR GERFINGERPOKEN UND MITTENGGRABEN. ODERWISE IS EASY SCHNAPPEN DER SPRINGENWERK, BLOWENFUSE UND POPPENCORKEN MIT SPITZENSPAKEN. DER MACHINE IS DIGGIN BY EXPERTEN ONLY. IS NICHT FÜR GERVERKEN BY DAS DUNKOPFEN. DAS RUBBERNECKEN SIGHTSEENEN KEEPEN DAS COTTEN PICKEN HANDS IN DAS POCKETS. SO RELAXEN UND WATCHEN DAS BLINKENLIGHTS.

I think you can translate this one yourself. If you can code assembly you can decode this. I found this poster on the computer-room wall at school. Who wrote it? I'll never know.

-Edgar Lecuyer-

DISK REVIEW

by Mike Bates

This month I will continue along the line of games on disk in our library by reviewing a disk called Texret-3. This Club 99 offering has a few extended basic games among the collection but the majority of choices are in basic.

Con-4 (B): a two player game in which you try to stack up X's and O's until you have 4 in a row, either vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. This seems to be a basic version of the Connect Four game by Milton Bradley.

Dodgem (B): a 1 player game in which you try to dodge walls, obstacles, and your own footsteps. You can control speed and size of playing field as well as the number of obstacles.

Ecco-chamb (B): the computer is turned into an echo chamber and you must try to duplicate the sound you hear from the chamber. One or two players may compete.

Motocros (B): drive your dirt bike around a track without crashing.

Nomad (XB): you must try to navigate your car through the streets of the city without crashing, hitting drunks, or getting pinched for speeding.

Psychology (B): a 1 player game in which you try to psych out the computer and sees who plays the higher number. If you both play the same number you get a draw. Not as easy as it sounds.

SP/Scout (XB): in this one you are a space scout and must try to pick up cargo modules while avoiding asteroids and racing against the clock. It has speech capabilities.

Star-guard (B): this is a typical shoot-em down (not up) game with you against the invaders.

Stellar (XB): in this game you are a stellar explorer and load up your ship with equipment, supplies, robots, and crew members to go off and explore the galaxy around you.

Stackmark1 (B): a simulation game in which you are given ten thousand dollars to invest in the stock of five hypothetical companies. Your assets rise or fall according to randomly generated market conditions.

FREE SOFTWARE

The Surgeon General has determined that COMPUTERS can be hazardous to your marriage and has issued the following self-test questionnaire. If you can answer YES to any of the following questions, then perhaps you are spending too much time at the keyboard and you might start paying more attention to your mate. Remember, this little quiz can only pin-point a potential problem if you are totally honest in your answers.

1. Does your mate let the kids use your floppy disks for frisbies?
2. Do you ask "What's for dinner?" and you are served a plate of broken up game cartridges?
3. Because the peripheral box fan is too loud and your mate can't get to sleep, does he/she shove a pencil through the back of your P-Box, stopping the fan?
4. After being called to dinner 3 times and each time answering with "I'll be there in a minute", does your mate come into your computer room and dump a serving size spoon of tuna casserole on top of your console?
5. When the bedroom window keeps falling down, does your mate use your console as a window prop?
6. Do you think the kids are spending too much time with the computer, because they start listening to program cassettes on their portable stereos?
7. In divorce court, the ONLY thing your mate doesn't demand half of is your computer?

LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

Nine new public domain disks have been placed into your disk library. Programs ranging from Basic and X-Basic games to various utilities, copiers (Copy Cat), and even music for your TI 99/4A. See our catalog #54 thru #63.

"Graphics 99" and "3D World" are only but a few samples of new software purchased by the library. This software is in the process of being reviewed for meeting demonstrations and will be available to members next month. "Copy Cat", a well known copier, has also been purchased and has been installed into the library.

I have been involved with the TI 99/4A about three and one half years now, and I am amazed at the new things I find out about the orphan and the great software that is still coming down the pike. It will be a long time before I think of switching to another computer.

I would like to remind each of you that we have a three-for-one program for free software. The way it works is: you bring in software that you have written or public domain software that we do not have in the library. For every disk or cassette program that is accepted into the library, you will get three FREE in return. This is for software only and does not include cassette or disk media.

Lastly, anyone interested in receiving new, or current software and is willing to write a short paragraph on the software should contact me at the next meeting or call (617) 761-7245

->Frank Billeri

->Librarian

DELETING NOISE

When experiencing background noise, such as humming or buzzing in your TI and your TV there is a simple solution that can make your computer as quiet as a mouse. This tip comes from the Kentuckiana 99/4A Computer Society, v.a. North Eastern 99ers. All you have to do is adjust your modulator. Here are the steps:

1. Turn the volume of the TV all the way down.
2. Select the master title screen and fine tune for the best picture.
3. Use a small screwdriver to carefully remove the cover from the modulator.
4. Increase the volume of the TV to 1/2 of the control range.
5. Insert the blade of the screwdriver into the slotted core of the coil marked "L3" on the printed circuit board. This will crack too much if too much force is used.
6. As you're listening to the buzz on the TV, SLIGHTLY rotate the core no more than 1/8 turn in either direction until the buzz is at a minimum. Replace cover.

PIRATING MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOU AND YOUR SYSTEM'S BEST HEALTH!

The following article was taken from the Pittsburg User Group Newsletter via the Erie Ninety Niner Newsletter.

The FBI is responsible for enforcing Federal Copyright Laws. The very nature of this subject causes information to be somewhat difficult to obtain from the parties involved. It is embarrassing and damaging to one's integrity to be at the wrong end of criminal and/or civil copyright charges.

Due to this and other factors, the identities of the computer user group and members will not be given. Here is the story as reported.

The User Group meeting began normally enough. The UG was conducting business as normal, when one of their members produced to a few other members an FBI ID card and informed a few members that they were under arrest for violation of U.S. copyright laws. Their computers, equipment, and media were seized.

Allegedly, programs were being copied illegally. The U.S. officers pointed out that before every meeting all members are told not to participate in illegal activities. Also, they have placed notice in their newsletter outlining a guideline of offenses for members who do attempt to participate in such illegal activities at group meetings. No charges against the user group have been filed in this case. There are laws on the books that could make that copy the most expensive program you ever gave or received.

--Fred and Amy Mackey--

WARNING!!

From the LONG ISLAND 99'ER, AUGUST 1986...Via LEHIGH 99'ER
Randy's Rumor Rag, by Randy Ainsworth

Beware of a program which may be floating around the country's BBS's called SUPERTRACK. At first appearance, it seems to be a track copier, but in reality is a disk eater. This program was uploaded to my BBS recently and I suspect that it will show up around the country.

I was suspicious at the first because the program tells you to remove the write-protect tape from your master disk. I could not understand why this would be necessary so I stuck two junk disks in my drive.

When the program starts, BOTH drives come on and the heads chatter like crazy. Whatever was on your disks is now in byte heavens. Your disks are zapped and I doubt the action the heads are getting is doing them any good also. The noise is quite loud. I have heard of similar programs for IBM which will zero-out a hard drive, but this is the first one I've seen for the TI.

I just wanted to warn everyone so that no valuable program or data will be lost.

CLASSIFIEDS

TI cartridge: Picnic Paranoia, (new)-\$7.00, Paul Weber, (617) 695-6592

99/4A Hardware and Software available at Narragansett flea market (old Narragansett race track) Newport Ave. Pawtucket, RI. The computer store is located on the second floor, and open between 9:00 AM and 3PM every Saturday and Sunday. Club99 members will receive a 10% discount by presenting an active membership card at the time of purchase. (offer not valid on sale or special items.)

Day 617-699-3052

Night 617-761-7245 ...Frank Billeri

MPI Model 92 Disk Drive, DS-80. Requires Myarc controller with Quad Density Option. (I don't have that) \$25.00
Harry Guy... (401) 647-5477

Bob Brown of MRB Communications has offered a 10% discount to verified CLUB99 members on software he sells. You can contact him through his BBS called Techie at (401) 785-0697 or by writing to him at PO Box 8621, Cranston, RI 02920.

If you have sold your item, please notify the newsletter staff.

As you can see there is PLENTY of room for your ad.

1987 NEW ENGLAND TI FAIR

The faire was great. Asgard, Disk Only Software, Myarc, Rave 99, and our own Frank Billeri name only a few of the 15 dealers who solicited their wares. 10 user groups including Club 99 also made the faire a success. Demos were given all day in both classroom and auditorium settings. A telecommunication setup was connected to CompuServe, Delphi, and The Source.

Some of the items that were up and running included a 99/8 - a computer TI produced in the lab but never marketed, two different IBM keyboard interfaces, and, of course, the Geneve 9640. They were not on sale, but the demonstration that was given, amazed all who attended. They explained another production problem, the boards were being incorrectly assembled by 1/4 of an inch, causing a short circuit. They "promised" shipping by next week. Cheryl REGENA Whitelaw gave a demonstration or basic tips and was audigraphing her books. I could go on and on but all I can say is, if you missed it, too bad.

-Edgar Lecuyer-

WORD LIST

ANALOG
 BYTE
 COMPUTE
 ELECTRONICHOUSE
 FAMILYCOMPUTING
 HOMECOMPJOURNAL
 INCIDER
 LIVEWIRE
 MICROPENDIUM
 NIBBLE
 ONLINEACCESS
 PC
 PCWORLD
 PERSCOMPUTING
 POPCOMPUTING
 RAINBOW
 RUN
 SUPNINETYNINER

Magazines are a valuable source of information. All the disks in the world will never replace the printed page. See how many magazine titles you can locate in this month's wordsearch.

X I K Z K D V W V J O D J N O B L G W B
 H Z G S J X Z R N D I I V M G I Z B E H
 Z U C U E V E F X J E Z S N L R C X K K
 N O N O H D S L V T S S I C E J Y E Z C
 K I S E I V E C U S E T D N R U L E F C
 S S B C B R P P F C U Y I U G A S S K E
 G K N B A Y M C C P P N E N N U M O I K
 P I S B L O T A M Q Y R I R O D R E C U
 Q Q K O C E E O P T I T U H L N M P Z G
 Q M M I V N C S E W U O C R F U L G G O
 V E O B I Y W N E P J I O C I S T B R K
 V S J L L O I V M P N K J D Z S Z Y J U
 J D N I B N I O M O C F N B U L S R H G
 L O M N P L C O R P R E H E Y I V G C W
 B A I U H P C T G T P U A C T T D S G F
 F A S K O E C B F O P W N H Z R E J D R
 R O K P M E P E R S C O M P U T I N G T
 I F Z O L W D C M R G F K U Q D L O W M
 Z G H E Q J I M S A Q Y Y Q L H N E T G
 B S T R W M H F S Q J J D A N A L O G W

CLUB99 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

By submitting this application with the appropriate dues, I agree to abide by the constitution and By-laws of CLUB99.

DATE: _____
 Month Day Year

NAME: _____
 Last First Init

Address: _____
 Number St/Ave

City/State Zip

PHONE: () () _____
 Home Work

BIRTH DATE: _____
 Month - Day - Year

SIGNATURE: _____
 Please sign application

MAIL STATION: (if TI employee) _____

!!! DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE !!!

For CLUB99 records only:

TREASURER: _____
 Amount Date Type

VICE PRES: _____
 Mem. nr. ID By-laws

SECRETARY: _____
 Record N/List

EIEC BOARD: _____
 Approved/Filed Date

ENCLOSE DUES AND MAIL TO:

CLUB99 Treasurer
 34 Forrest St.
 NB 1-0
 Attleboro, Mass. 02703