THE DAYTONA 99ers

MARCH, 1983
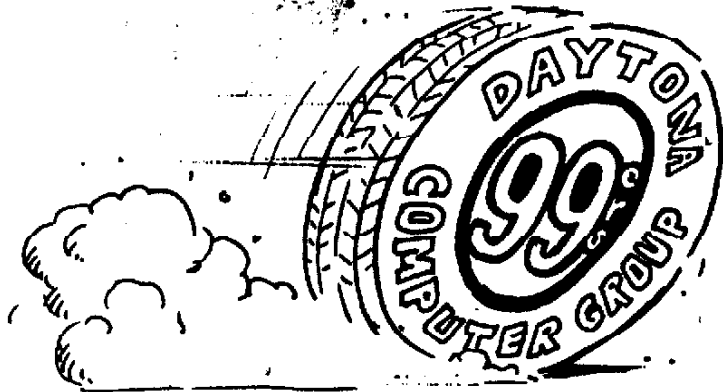
NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Spring, and another edition of our newsletter!

President's Message:

Well, Spring is practically here in Daytona Beach. The tourists are beginning to come back, The College kids will be here for Spring Break, This week is Motorcycle Week, and we have all the right reasons for wanting to be outdoors rather than indoors. It is beautiful to live in Florida where it can be in the 80's in March! I guess we will all have to buy the new CC-40 Computer to take with us to the beach.

Seriously, even though it is Spring, The Daytona 99ers have more reasons to stay indoors and compute. We have added several benefits for Club members, more programs to our Library, and had a little National publicity. I had a letter published in the February issue of 99er Magazine. Thanks to the letter, we have had inquiries from as far away as Jacksonville and Orlando, Florida.

See the inside pages of the newsletter for details of the new Club benefits. We hope to have a workshop later this month. It will be a chance for some of you more experienced 99'ers to help out some newer users. We should all be able to learn something. The workshop should be on Saturday morning   March   26th . Check with us at the meeting for the exact date, time, and place.

Thats it for now,

Ralph Fowler, President

This month's meeting will be on March 17th at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the usual place: Building 16, Room 111 at Daytona Beach Community College on US Highway 92 in Daytona. We hope to have a speaker there from T.I. in Orlando. The large video projector should be permanently installed by then, so we will all be able to see the demonstrations more clearly. We will have demonstrations of educational software again, and will attempt our Compuserve demonstration if the lines aren't busy

-Next Meeting Cont._

again. Remember that the deadline for the Free Speech and $100.00 rebates
is April 15th, 1983. If you have already gotten your synthesizer, or feel
that you will not be able to accumulate enough receipts by that date,
bring your end flaps and receipts to the meeting. Mabye some of us can
work out a trade or some other type of deal. More and more software
packages can use the synthesizer, and a free one is too good a deal to
pass up!

        If you have some questions, write them down and ask them at the meeting.
We will have a short question and answer session. Remember that there are
no dumb questions. If you have thought of it, chances are that someone
else has the same question. If the discussion gets too technical for you,
just remember that it follows along the level of the questions asked.

The April meeting will be on April 21st at the usual location. For your
convenience, here are the dates of the next few meetings:

April 21, 1983   May 19, 1983   June 16, 1983   July 21, 1983

                      Aug. 18, 1983   Sept. 15, 1983

    Remember that Non-Members are always welcome at the meetings.

Attention paid members: If you missed the last meeting, pick up your
program catalog at the March meeting. We now have over 200 programs and
we add 20-30 per month. Updates to the catalog will be going out soon.

Attention everyone: Bring a blank cassette to the meeting if you plan to
order programs. If you want the programs mailed back to you, bring 75¢
for each tape to cover the costs of postage and the mailer box. DO NOT
bring plastic cases for the tapes. They add to the postage costs, and the
mailers are not big enough to hold them.

        On the subject of cassette tapes: DO NOT use chrome,high bias, or
metal tapes. DO NOT use the cheap 99¢ tapes. You may have good luck with
them once, but they are not reliable. The best tapes we have found are the
TDK DC60 tapes. Walgreens runs them on sale quite regularly at 3 for $4.00
The only tapes suitable for use in the portable recorders that are used
with computers are the NORMAL BIAS type.

NOTICE TO OTHER USERS GROUPS:

        It is expensive to produce and mail this newsletter. Our members pay dues to
support it. We send you our newsletter in the spirit of a friendly exchange of ideas.
Please send us your newsletter in return. We have not heard a word from many of you,
and if we do not hear from you by our next newsletter deadline (April 12, 1983), we
will have no other choice han to stop sending you a newsletter.

NOTICE TO USERS GROUPS WHO SEND US THEIR NEWSLETTERS: Thanks, we enjoy them and are
attempting to set up an archive for them. (Provided we get the proper cooperation from
our Public Library)

More Benefits for Members:

There is a new computer store in town.   It is called Computer Junction and
it is located in the Oak Tree Plaze Shopping Center across from Big Tree
Shopping Center on South Ridgewood Avenue in South Daytona.   Their phone
number is (904) 788-3985.   The owners are Pat and Roy Shirah.   They are not
new to the computer business, though, they recently moved the store from
an industrial park down in Port Orange.   Pat and Roy will be stocking and
selling the TI and Commodore Computers, as well as the Radio Shack Model III
and Sanyo units.   If you show your Daytona 99ers membership proof, they
will give you $2.00 off any box of disks. (That makes a box of Verbatim
Datalife Disks $29.95)

Pat and Roy are also the sponsors (along with the Daytona 99ers)
of a new C.B.B.S. here in town.   What is a C.B.B.S.?   It stands for
Computerized Bulletin Board System, and is a computer set up to automatically
answer the phone and communicate with another computer via the phone line.

The C.B.B.S. here in town is called "Micro-80" and is being run by
Ed Jennings, the Vice-President of The Daytona 99ers.   Ed is using one
of his computers full-time to provide this service at no cost to the computer
users of the area.   All users of computers are welcome to call in :
Rotten Apples, Rataris, Ick 20's and Trash 80's (Just kidding, yall).

Members of our club will have access to special levels of the system to
enable them to upload and download programs and files.   Its almost like
having a TEXNET in your own back yard.   We hope to be able to run the system
24 hours a day, but during the first few weeks the hours will vary.

The hardware required to use the system will be; A MODEM, RS232 interface,&
Terminal Emulator II or a Hexbus Adapter, RS232 and MODEM along with the TE II.
To reach the system, dial (904) 767-3011. When you hear the high pitched tone,
put your MODEM on line and follow the instructions on the screen.

Another club benefit is going to begin this month.   Paid members will
be able to borrow either of the following programs from the club for a
period of one week: Teach Yourself BASIC or Teach Yourself Extended BASIC.
We should have these available at the March meeting.   We will probably
start with one of each, and see how the demand goes.

The programs will be available to be signed out from our Secretary,
Joyce Hall.   To get on the list, give her a call at (904) 252-5144.

Big Price Drop for the 99/4A:

In what appears to be a move to be more competitive with the Commodore
VIC-20, TI has slashed the price of the 99/4A by about fifty more dollars.
This was announced on February 8, 1983, and means that the price will now
be about $249.00 to $259.00 less the $100.00 rebate. We are all pretty sure
that the price will drop another $100.00 when the rebate ends, so it looks
as if the "final latest" price will be $149.00 to $159.00. This will make it
almost justifiable to buy another computer just to have as a spare!

Computer Show Hits Orlando:

On February 27, 1983, Al Fox, Rick Sauer, Ralph Fowler, and Ed Jennings visited The Second Annual Computer Expo. Our roving reporter,Daytona's own Clark Kent, gives us the story.

By Al Fox

The Tupperware Convention Center in Kissimmee, Florida was the site of the Second Annual Computer Expo, February 15, 26, and 27th. The show featured a variety of exhibits for hardware, software, accessories, supplies, and more. Several of our group members found the time (and the $7.50) to attend and found it very interesting, while not entirely informative. The vast majority of exhibitors were retailers from around the Orlando area and elsewhere. They displayed their major lines of hardware which pretty well represented the major manufacturers. To the best of our knowledge, only two or three manufacturers displayed their own hardware, one of which was T.I.

T.I.'s display area occupied a prominent area just beyond the main entrance to the show. Their exhibit included at least seven 99/4A's up and running for public use and nearly all of them were in use constantly. While none of our attending members was able to examine it personally, we did understand that there considerable interest in the Logo Language software, and we did notice a seeming majority of young enthusiasts occupying the T.I. computers.

One disappointing item was the lack of a PEGASUS, T.I.'s new "Professional Computer" for our examination. We had received so much positive information concerning the computer, that we had eagerly anticipated a closer look. Also absent from the T.I. exhibit were the two new personal computers: the 99/2 (T.I.'s Sinclair Killer), and the Compact Computer 40 (CC40). Again, our information concerning these two units was very positive- but T.I. will not allow us to have any first-hand information. Hopefully, we'll be able to find some actual machines in the near future that will allow some good hands-on impressions to be made.

A word in passing to the gaming enthusiasts--- Parsec and Munchman pretty much stole the show as far as games were concerned. There always seemed to be a line of people awaiting their opportunity to play Parsec, while the Atari folks next door had hardly anything but games to display and seemed to have a lot of empty seats.

The remainder of the exibitors , as we mentioned earlier, were local retailers displaying their hardware and software. Manufacturers like IBM, Digital, Apple, Victor and all their "clones" were represented in force. For the person seriously considering the purchase of a computer, the show was a good place to see what was available all at one time. One interesting occurence which seemed to be a boon for the purchasers was a price war among printer retailers on the last day of the show. This came to a head about mid-afternoon. As this writer can attest, the deals to be had were too good to pass up. It was entirely possible to pick up the printer of your choice at savings of $300.00-$1000.00!! I guess it pays to make the trip in more than one way. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE NEXT YEAR!!

More Information about Computer Expo '83:

      I saw Scott Adams (of Adventure fame) at the show on Sunday. Scott told me
that he will possibly be converting his .SAGA (Scott Adams. Graphic Adventures)
into the T.I. format. We will believe this when we see it! If any-
one has not been into his Adventure International Store in Orlando,
don't go in expecting to hear T.I, being spoken. Despite the fact
that his Adventure games are being sold for the T.I.,.Scott and his
salesmen are more interested in promoting the ATARI and knocking the
T.I. We will see which computer triumphs in the long run!

What's this about a TI 99/4A recall?

      This question pops up everyday it seems. According to T.I.,
there is no recall. There is, however, a retrofit A.C. power cord
being distributed for the computer.

      It seems that one of the units in lab test a couple of weekends
ago had a failure of the fuse that is built into the transformer.
This caused a higher than normal voltage to go into the computer. No
one was or has been shocked, and TI claims to have already solved the
problem.

      No computers are being sold until the task force from T.I. goes
into the field and adds an adapter cord to the existing power cord.
This is being accomplished in our area by Carol Stith from TI
and her staff of PSR's. (Does anyone know what PSR.stands for?).
Carol was to have spoken at our March meeting, but now has informed
me that she will not be able to make it, due to this project. She
promises to be at our April meeting, along with the 99/2 and CC40
computers.

      If you already have a 99/4, TI informs us that the problem only
affects units that were sold after September 1st, 1982. If you are
on file at T.I. (you are on file if you get a TI newslerrer, got a
Speech Synthesizer, or got a $100.00 rebate), you will get an adapter
cord in the mail soon. If you are not on file, or do not get the cord,
call T.I. at 1-800-858-4565 and they will send you one free of charge.

Questions and answers at our March meeting:

      We will handle our questions and answers differently at our March
meeting. In this newsletter, you will find a form on which to write
your questions. Write your question down and place it in the box that
will be at the door of the meeting room. We will answer questions
from the box at the meeting. This allows everyone an equal chance
at getting his/her question answered.

The following article originally appeared in the March, 1983 Newsletter of
the Washington, DC TI 99/4A Users Group. It was prepared by:BIT and BYTE's
at 4100 Canterbury Way Temple Hills, Md. 20748

BIT and BYTE'S

Dear BIT

Recently I purchased a Texas Instruments TI-99/4A computer and I must con-
fess the sensation of computing is an exciting adventure. The sound and graphics
of Tombstone City are fascinating. I've even scored 160,300 on level three of
the game. However, now is the time to really get serious and explore the full
capability of my computer. But I ask you, is it necessary to buy all those pe-
ripheral devices? What do they do anyway? Why doesn't my cassette recorder
work on the TI-99/4A. Can the problem be corrected? How can I use the programs
written for those ??????? well, you know "other computers"? Must I always suffer
the agony of frustration before experiencing the thrill of "WOW----I DID IT---
IT WORKS"? I have tried to answer these and other questions but Bill Crosby
only mentions rebate, rebate, and rebate during his TV commercial. The instruc-
tional booklet has many alien words and phrases that are sometimes more confusing
than the Washington Redskins defense. I even tried osmosis but that did not
help either. Can you?

Sincerely BYTE's

P. S. The store clerk said two bits was equal to a quarter. Is that true?

Dear Sincerly BYTE's

Congratulations on your TI-99/4A ownership and welcome to the world of
computing and the TI adventure. We will try to reduce your frustration but
accept the challenge because-because you have a powerful and very friendly-
user computer. It is friendly to you a user because for the most part you can
quickly and easily set up the computer and begin operating it without formal
training. Your TI-99/4A is packed full of automatic instructions that accomp-
lish many functions similiar to the method your body carries out its vital func-
tions. For example, you do not tell your body to breathe or get hungry. The
computer operates similiar in that few instructions are necessary by the user
to accomplish many tasks.

Your TI is well built and will endure for many years but its life and use-
fulness can be shortened by abuse, moisture, heat and static electricty. So
BIT when your abuse temper rises go take a cold shower and than rejoin the ad-
venture. Speaking of temper, your computer is solid state and operates at a
low(heat) temperature. However, it can overheat if you do not keep the computer
air vents open. Blocking the air vents can cause a meltdown worse than three
mile island. Of course, do not expose your computer to moisture of any kind.
Moisture is an excellent conduit of electricity and can cause your TI-99/4A to
self destruct and possibly give you a shock equal to a bolt of lightening from
the sky. That brings me to the last item of static electricty.

Mother natures normally is balanced but sometimes she gets into an unbalanced
condition. When unbalancing occurrs, she rights herself at first opportunity.
An unbalance can be caused by walking on carpets which builds a negative charge
of electricity on your body. When you touch a metal object the body discharges
or releases the negative engery that the body built up thereby balancing the
static electricity charge. This release of engery can have the same affect as
a bolt of lightening striking your computer. Beware and discharge any static
electricity by touching a metal object (chair leg) before using your computer
or its accessories.

Now for the question about the cassette recorder. You have four or more options to correct the cassette recording problem. First, not use it. But thats like carrying a bucket of water while hopping on one leg. Second, you may buy the new TI Program Recorder (PHP2700). It is compatible to your TI-99/4A. This option may be an unnecessary expense. Come to the users group is another option. Or you can read the next issue and we will address the actions that may correct the problem and give you some insight on the recording process.

<div align="center">Sincerely BIT</div>

P.S. Its Users Reference not instructional booklet. Also, eight bits equal a byte.

To ease your mind until the next issue take the following actions. Check your cassette recorder for a tone control. The tone control is needed for recording high level frequencies (tones). Without the tone control the recorder may only record low volume frequencies (i.e. human voices). If you are without a tone control you will probably need to visit the local retailer and purchase the TI Program Recorder. For reliability, use only recorders that operate with AC power, Which reminds me, BIT, did you plug your recorder in the electrical outlet and also follow the instructions in your users guide to connect the cable from the computer to the cassette recorder? If not do so and do not forget to purchase only high quality tapes (C-5 or C-10 recommended).

Sincerely BYTE's Believe it or not

Did you know that transistors and diodes of solid state circuits can be as small as 28 thousandths of an inch and are protected by a glass film only 60 millionths of an inch thick. The circuits operating speed range is about 300 down to six billionths of a second.

ATTENTION DAYTONA 99ers   LAST MINUTE INFO:

We WILL have a workshop/gab session on Saturday, March 26,1983 from 9:00 AM until about Noon. It will be in building 27 room 315 (the Social Services room). This building is also known as the Allied Health (AH) building. It is on the NORTHWEST corner of the campus and can be reached by driving North on White Street from Volusia Avenue. Turn Left on Second Avenue and go about 2 or 3 blocks. The AH building is six stories tall, on the left, and is a very new looking building. Parking is available on both sides of the building. Bring your computer, recorder, and monitor, if you can. Also bring lots of questions! This should be an interesting session and may evolve into a monthly affair.

SEE YOU THERE!   No charge to paid members.
                                 $5.00 charge to non-members.

Educational Software: By Joyce Anne Hall

        Do you find that you have less time than you would like to have
to help your child with his mathematical problems? Number Magic is
a module that you can plug in to help out. Now your child can do more
than just play games with the computer to get scores, he can do basic
math and get a score too.

        Number Magic does not require any addition to your TI 99/4A.
All you need is the Computer, a TV, and the module, of course.
Number Magic uses multiplication, division, addition and subtraction.
It goes from easy problems, on through four other levels, to hard
problems. A pre-schooler can learn quite well any of these basic
skills as well as the older person who just needs to brush up his
present skills. We all get rusty with those multiplication tables!

        Number Magic arranges the problems in two formats: fill in the
blank or fill in the answer. It will allow you to make up your own
problems, if you like. The classroom is a good place to learn, but
it doesn't really allot as much time as is really required to learn
these skills. Number magic gives you a choice as to just how much time
you want your child to devote to learning the math skills that he will
use throughout the rest of his life.

 Editor's note: Rick Sauer demonstrated the Number Magic Module at
our February meeting. Rick--Did you ever figure out 736x452?
At the March Meeting, our youngest member, Jennifer Ledewitz, will
demonstrate an educational module that she bought with her very own
birthday money.

Our Newest Members:
        Congratulations to the following who have recently joined our ranks: (f=Family Memb)

Dan Adovasio (f)	Joan Aldous (f)	Jim Applegate	A.H. Brisse (f)	Joseph Cirone (
Jack Clover	Brian Craig (f)	Harold Duff (f)	Rick Felisko (f)	Ralph Fowler (f)
Bill Genovese (f)	Joyce Hall (f)	Rowland Halliday (f)	Brian Hathaway	Joseph Holland (f)
Brian Hull (f)	Bruce Jaildagian	Ted James	Jeff Jeffries (f)	Ed Jennings (f)
Ed Joseph (f)	Dick Lang	Phillip Larsen (f)	John LeGrand (f)	Jeff Ledewitz (f)
Archie McGee (f)	Brian McGregor (f)	Mike Maletta	Frank Mason (f)	Hugh Pope
Arnie Raymond (f)	Curt Ridgard (f)	Rick Sauer (f)	George Smith	Michael Songer (f)
Norman Tate (f)	John Wells	Tom Zdanowicz	Bob Zimmer (f)	

We welcome all of you and hope to see more on this list soon!

That's about it for your newsletter this month. We need to get articles
and the like from our members for use in this publication. If anyone
would like to contribute, mail it to the club address:
                    Daytona 99ers
                    PO Box 4594
                    S Daytona, FL 32021-4594

See you at the March Meeting: M A R C H 1 7 t h a t 7 : 0 0   P M

Please forgive the ugly dark splotches, our copier is in need of a major
                                                    overhaul!

The Daytona 99'ers is a non-profit computer users group for people that are
interested in the Texas Instruments 99/4 and 99/4(A) Home Computer.

Membership dues are $12.00 per year and entitle the member to many benefits.

We hold monthly meetings at the Daytona Beach Community College Conference Center
at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday evening of each month.

Non-Members are encouraged to attend and possibly join.

President: Ralph W Fowler,III   (904) 788-5666
Vice President: Ed Jennings   (904) 767-3930

Treasurer: Al Fox   (904) 788-4249

Port Orange- Rick Sauer (904) 788-5404
New Smyrna- John Marrocco (904) 427-0154
Technical Assistance: Any of the above

DAYTONA   99'ers   MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME_____ AGE_____ FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL_____

ADDRESS_____ CITY_____ STATE____ ZIP_____

AREA CODE_____ DAY PHONE_____ EVENING PHONE_____

OCCUPATION_____

HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD YOUR TI 99/4?_____

FOR WHAT PURPOSE DO YOU USE YOUR COMPUTER? PERSONAL ( ),BUSINESS( ),EDUCATION( ),GAMES( ).

WHAT LANGUAGES DO YOU USE? BASIC( ), X BASIC( ), LOGO( ), ASSEMBLY( ),PILOT( ), PASCAL( ).

WHAT PERIPHERALS DO YOU PRESENTLY HAVE? SPEECH( ), X/RAM-32K( ), DISK SYST( ), DUAL SIDED( )

OF DRIVES( ), THERMAL PRINTER( ), IMPACT PRINTER( ) MAKE OF PRINTER_____

RS-232( ), MODEM( ), COMPUSERVE ID #_____ SOURCE OR TEXNET ID #_____

WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND?_____

HOW CAN YOU HELP THE CLUB? (ie: Hold an office,work on a committee, etc.)_____

WILL YOU ALLOW YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE # AND INTERESTS TO BE PUBLISHED IN A CLUB DIRECTORY

TO BE DISTRIBUTED ONLY TO MEMBERS._____

SIGNATURE_____ | DATE_____ AMT_____ TREAS_____

JAN-$12.00   FEB-$11.00 MARCH-$10.00 APRIL-$9.00   FOR OFFICE USE ONLY!
MAY-$8.00 JUNE-$7.00 JULY-$6.00 AUG-$5.00 SEPT-$4.00 OCT-$3.00 NOV-$2.00 DEC-$1.00

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO: THE DAYTONA 99'ers PO BOX 4594 S. DAYTONA FL 32021

COMMENTS_____