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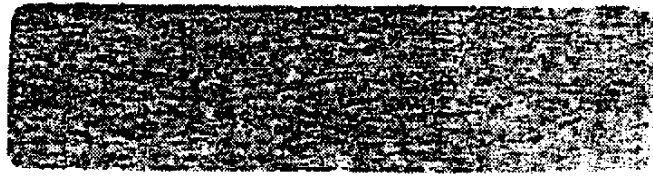


99'er Online

May 1986

p.o. box 11983
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T5J 3L1

to:



99'er ON LINE... is the news letter of the Edmonton 99'er Computer User's Society published ten times a year. Unless otherwise stated, all material contained in this news letter may be published in other news letters provided that source and author are identified. We welcome correspondence from all TI User Groups and we will credit authors quoted in 99'er ON LINE.

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OFFICERS: PRESIDENT—PAUL HELWIG, VICE PRES—TOM HALL, TREASURER—SUSAN LIVINGSTON, SECRETARY—ROGER LOTEN

DISCLAIMER: All information published in this news letter is, for the most part, the fruits of the labors of amateurs; therefore, we cannot guarantee that the information presented is always correct.

REGULAR MEETINGS... of the Edmonton 99'er Computer User's Society are held on the second Tuesday of each month in room 849 of the General Services building of the University of Alberta from 7:00 till 10:00 PM and are open to all members in good standing. Non-members may attend their first meeting free of charge. The Executive Committee meets monthly. Members may attend these meetings as observers or to address a particular issue. Arrange with one of the officers listed above if you wish to attend.

ADVERTISING... Commercial space is available in this news letter at the following rates: FULL PAGE—\$20.00, HALF PAGE—\$15.00, 1/4 PAGE—\$10.00. Discuss your needs with JIM MULLIGAN at 467-6021, at the next meeting, or send "photo ready" copy to the P/O Box above. Members may advertise their personal computer related items for free but are asked to limit their ads to about 50 words. Mail your ads to the EDITOR'S ADDRESS or hand it to him at the general meeting; newsletter deadline 3rd Tuesday of the month.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: FAMILY—12 MONTHS, \$20.00, 6 MONTHS, \$15.00. STUDENTS—12 MONTHS, \$13.00, 6 MONTHS, \$10.00. New member initiation, \$20.00.

The Edmonton 99'er Computer Users' Society



Date / /
 New Membership Application
 Renewal of Membership
 Change of Address

Name _____
 last first initial
 Address _____
 City _____ Province _____
 Postal Code _____ Telephone _____

1 Please note that if you are a NEW member, there is a ONE TIME fee of \$20 for the purchase of hardware and software for the club computer.

2 May we release your name, address and telephone number on a club roster to companies, other clubs and other members?
 YES NO

Single or Family membership
 \$20 (12 months)
 \$15 (6 months)

Student membership
 (please have I.D. card)
 \$15 (12 months)
 \$10 (6 months)

Out of town membership
 \$20 (12 months)
 \$15 (6 months)

Hardware fee \$20 (life-time)

OFFICE USE ONLY

Membership I _____ Amount tendered \$ _____ Date Filled _____
 Card Issued Yes No Authorized Signature _____

The Edmonton 99'er Computer Users' Society

1986 Nomination Form

Please follow the six steps below to ensure that your nominations are valid:

1. Include your name as the nominator.
2. Confirm with your nominee that he/she will stand for election.
3. Make sure that your nomination reaches the nominating committee by MAY 6, 1986.
4. Nominates one person only for each position.
5. To be eligible, both the nominator and your nominee must be members in good standing of the society.
6. Please PRINT!

Nominator's Name	Incumbent	Nominee
Position		
President	Paul Helwig	
Vice President	Tom Hall	
Treasurer	Susan Livingston	
Secretary	Rodger Laten	

Please remember that this form has to be returned to the Nominating committee by the May General meeting, by mail or in person.

APRIL MEETING

The March meeting was attended by 30 members. The minutes of the March executive meeting were read:

1. Assembled newsletters for mailing.
2. One Logo programming contest entry received to date.
3. Membership list to be given to new members upon joining. All other participating members to get an updated list in June and December each year. If you do not have a list, see Susan Livingston for details.
4. A request that the Users' Group purchase a GramKraker for the group's system was turned down as it would be of questionable benefit at this time.
5. Enquiry into purchase of Horizon Ram Disk for the group's system. Decision deferred until further info is received from suppliers.
6. Discussed concept of newsletter on disk as a cost cutting scheme. To be brought up at April regular membership meeting.
7. A "CARE" package for new members is to be developed. To be included: membership and executive list, support people for Basic, TI-Writer, XBasic, E/A, etc, membership card, dues receipt, current and last newsletter, offer to purchase newsletter back issues, outline of our history, goals, functions and facilities, notes on our BBS, and a copy of our bylaws.
8. New members will be sent a follow up letter about three months after joining to determine if we are meeting their needs and to get suggestions.
9. Designated a committee to review and suggest revisions to our bylaws. Roger Loten and Bob Pass will prepare a first draft for the April executive meeting. Aim is to discuss revisions at May general meeting and vote at the June annual meeting.

Susan Livingston reports that our bank account now stands at \$526.35

The subject of supplying the newsletter on disk was discussed to some length. Finally, it was realized that there would be far too many problems to save too few bucks and the idea was shelved.

Discussion followed on turn down of GramKraker purchase. Executive explained that at a cost of \$300.00 (60% of our budget), it was too expensive and, considering our stand against piracy, it would be of limited usefulness to the majority of our members. A Ram Disk, on the other hand, would benefit everyone, including the BBS.

Bob Pass collected and distributed diskettes on the Freebie offer started last month.

The programming project announced last month was returned by Jim Beck. He has made substantial improvements over the original. Jim Mulligan has taken it on for this month.

Kon Godbaer mentioned that our newsletter may be exempt from the 12% federal sales tax paid on reproduction costs. Paul Helwig to check it out.

Home Computer Magazine has been sold to another publisher. At least that's what one of our members was told when he called the Eugene Oregon office. Apparently the magazine will go back into publication soon, will contain advertizing, will continue to feature TI-99/4A, will be called Home Computer Journal, and old subscriptions will be honoured.

There is a new disk copy utility available that is free and is claimed to be able to make backups of any TI disk. It is called "BACKUP".

Please return any library materials you may have squirreled away. Remember, these materials are loaned on a monthly basis only and you are expected to return them at the next meeting.

There is material and software now available that explains and allows access to GPL (Graphics Programming Language; that's what is inside your GROM chips in the console and modules). According to Gerry McCarthy, the book, "INTERN" by H. Martin is an excellent resource. It includes TI-99/4A ROM and GRAM listings with commentaries and GPL directions. But the software, an assembler, is poorly documented. Both are available from WRITE DATA, 210 MOUNTAIN ST, HALIBURTON, ONTARIO, K0M-1S0. The book is \$17.95, GPL Assembler, version 2.1, is \$59.95, both for \$75.00. Add \$1.00 for postage. All amounts are US FUNDS!

The meeting then broke for coffee and about 45 minutes worth of free time.

The final two hours were devoted to a demo of Don Bessette's GLP printer and to another in our series of assembly language programming workshops. This month's was again presented by Michal Jaegermann. He reviewed a program that emulates a DVORAK key board and discussed CRU techniques.

The meeting wound up at 11:00 PM.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting, our ninth of the season, is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13th at 7:30 pm in room 849 of the U of A's General Services building on 116 St at 90th Ave. Doors open at 7:00 PM; meeting starts at 7:30 sharp.

Gerry McCarthy will demonstrate the Gram Kraker from Miller's Graphics. (He couldn't demo it last month due to an embarrassing accident while monkeying about inside his console!)

Planned is a discussion of revisions to our bylaws. This will help us get through the annual meeting in June.

If any of you have outstanding materials on loan, please remember to return them so that others may share the resources of the Users' Group.

Jim Mulligan: don't forget to return the programming project package.

Nominations for executive positions can be made at the next meeting. Please make sure Roger Loten receives your nominations.

FREEMARE SOURCES IN THE LIBRARY

By: Ken Godbeer

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>SUGGESTED</u>
Clint Pulley 38 Townsend Avenue Burlington, Ontario L7T 1Y6	c99	\$20
The Ottawa TI-99/4A User's Group P.O. Box 2144 Station "D" Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5W3	Disk Manager	\$10
Stephen Lawless 2514 Maple Ave. Cedars Wilmington, Delaware 19808	Mass Copy	\$10(U.S.)
Bob Lawson 16223 Mill Point Dr. Houston, Texas 77059	HBMPRINT	\$10(U.S.)
C. Richard Bryant 417 E. Alpine Street Altamonte Springs, Florida 32701	Ptera	\$10(U.S.)
Tim MacEachern P.O. Box 1105 Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 4B8	Wytera	\$10
Edgar L. Dohmann Rt. 5 Box 84 Alvin, Texas 77511	Superbug II	\$3-5(U.S.)
William Warren 2373 Ironton St. Aurora, Colorado 80010	PRBASE	\$10.00(U.S.)
Jim Swedlow 7301 Kirby Way Stanton, California 90580	SIDE*PRINT	\$10.00(U.S.)
Dick Altman 1053 Shrader St. San Francisco, California 94117	TI-Rewrite	"A few Bucks"

Freeware Donated by Members

The following programs were donated by members with the stipulation that if you found them useful you should make an appropriate donation to:
Edmonton 99'er Computer User Society.

Mars	Ian Denny
Super Croak	Ian Denny
TI-Dinghy	Ken Butler
Unidump	Michael Jaegermann

DISK LIBRARY NEW ADDITIONS

By: Ken Godbeer

Since my last article in the April Newsletter we have had a couple of excellent additions to the Library.

Side*Print is a Freeware Program written by Jim Swedlow. The program takes a Multiplan Spreadsheet and prints it sideways on any Gemini 10X or compatible Printer. With this program you can print any spreadsheet up to 80 rows long with no real limit on the width. Also on the same disk is a Disk Menu (Load) program with some interesting new features. In addition you will find a TI-Writer file called TI-Rewrite which is a Freeware Instruction and Hint Sheet for TI-Writer written by Dick Altman.

A new game by Bob Burley called 357 Puzzle has been added to the Games 1 disk. This program runs in Console Basic.

On the Utilities 1 disk you will find several new utilities contributed by Bob Burley. They are: Active Graphics, Clock, Joytalk Test, and Ohm's Law.

We also now have the 99'er Volume 1 Number 2 and Home Computer Magazine Volume 5.6 programs in the Library thanks to Jim Mulligan.

BA-Writer

(Not Just Another TI-Writer Extended Basic Loader)

by: Ken Godbeer

In late February, after reading a very positive review of BA-Writer in MICROpendium, I decided to send for it and see if it was as good as it sounded. Less than five weeks later, my copy arrived safely after it's long journey all the way from Italy.

Having used the Funlwriter Loader as well as the TI-Writer cartridge, I decided to compare all of the features to see where the differences were. From the time you initially select option 2 on the Extended Basic Cartridge, it takes about 10 seconds to load the main Editor/Formatter/Utility menu. This is about the same as Funlwriter and of course the TI-Writer Cartridge presents this menu almost instantly. From this point on, BA-Writer really excels. It supports Show Directory in the Edit mode, just like the other two, but it also supports it in the Format mode. The Directory is displayed in a continuous scroll fashion with each page filling from the top down, overwriting previous entries. The display can be paused at any time or aborted by pressing escape. I don't know if any of you have ever timed the Show Directory function, but I found that a DSSD Disk with about 100 files on it took about 25 seconds in BA-Writer and Funlwriter vs 50 seconds in TI-Writer. Once into the Editor, when you Quit and Exit, you instantly get the Menu (Editor/Formatter/Utility). If at that point you decide to re-enter the Editor, it is instantly loaded and your file is still there. If you select the Formatter, instead, it loads in about 11 seconds (same as the others). Once into the Formatter, it operates similarly to Funlwriter carrying your file name from the Editor and allowing the option of printing another file without reloading the Formatter. The main difference here is the ability to access Show Directory.

Several other aspects of BA-Writer may be of interest to users with specific needs. It comes with a customization program that allows you to change the foreground and background colours, output printer and default Utility file name. It also comes complete with character files for screen characters in English, Italian, French, German, Spanish and Swedish. There is also a resident disk initializing program which can be loaded from the Utility Option. Finally, the author includes some ideas on how to store and load BA-Writer from a RAM Disk. The RAM Disk must be capable of storing 4 programs of 33 sectors length, accessible by the TI "DSRLNK" routine, and not affect normal CPU or VDP RAM. The author states that the RAM Disk option will not work at all with Myarc Controllers or the 512K Myarc Memory Expansion, however he owns a system with this configuration and expects to have a compatible version available by the beginning of May. The basic program itself is compatible with Myarc Controllers, it is only the RAM Disk option that doesn't work.

All in all this is an excellent piece of Software and, in my opinion, because of the Show Directory in Format mode and the speed of the Directory, better than the original TI-Writer.

If you are interested in ordering a copy send \$10.00 (U.S.) to:

Paolo Bagnaresi
Via J.F. Kennedy 17

20097 San Donato Milanese
Italy

I think a Postal Money Order or something internationally acceptable rather than a Money Order drawn on a U.S. Bank would probably be easiest for him to cash.

QUICK REFERENCE FOR MODEMING

By: John Harbour

For those of you who are new to modeming, here are some tips to get you started:

USING OLD AND SAVE COMMANDS.

BOTH: Load Basic or XBASIC.

SENDER: Selects and loads program, types in, **SAVE "RS232"** (don't press ENTER yet), sets modem to originate or "O" position.

RECEIVER: Types in **OLD "RS232"**, sets modem to answer or "A" position (tone heard if acoustic modem), have a formatted disk or tape ready to save after receipt of the file.

BOTH: Place phone in acoustic cups on modem, when ready, press **ENTER**.

RECEIVER: 255 will appear on the top centre of the screen. This will then change to the number of sectors being transmitted, then gradually count down to zero. When **READY** is displayed, immediately save the program to disk or tape.

USING THE TE-II.

NOTE: This method cannot be used to transfer tape files.

BOTH: Load file disks into disk drives and insert TE-II modules. Sender should first catalog his disk using a disk manager. Select option 3 LOGON, make sure that the Alpha key is in the **DOWN** position.

SENDER: Make sure you have the selected disk in the **CORRECT** drive(1/2/3). Be sure to tell the receiver the number of sectors you will be sending so he or she will have a disk with sufficient space loaded.

SENDER: Sender selects "O" on the modem.

RECEIVER: Selects "A" on the modem and hears a tone if modem is acoustic type.

BOTH: Place phone in acoustic cups when ready.

SENDER: Press **CTRL 4** (Trans). Type in the device name when requested, **DSK1, 2, or 3** and **NOTE** no period after the drive number!!! Press **ENTER**. You will then be asked for a file name; enter the name of the file you wish to send to the receiver and press **ENTER**. You may be requested to enter 7 or 8 bits. Use 7 bits when the PRG/FILE contains only printable ASCII upper and lower case letters and punctuation; use 8 bits, when it contains ASCII control characters, ie a program, or if you are not sure what the file contains.

RECEIVER: Screen display: "HOST HAS STARTED FILE TRANSFER", followed by, **PLEASE ENTER DEVICE NAME**, type **DSK1, 2, or 3** and **NOTE**, no period!!! and press **ENTER**. You will then be asked to enter any name you desire to save this file then press **ENTER**.

You will then get a display on your screen showing the following:

BLOCKS (sectors), **RECORDS** (five to a block), and **RETRIES** (probably due to bad connection or phone lines). Under these headers, numbers will be displayed indicating transfer progress. **BLOCKS** will be one less than the number of disk sectors required to store the program. A **BLOCK** will be read from or written to disk after each transfer of five records. If you are getting a lot of retries, carefully reseal the phone in the modem cups or read last month's article on modems.

Finally the display **SUCCESSFUL FILE TRANSFER** will appear on your screen, this means you have won, the file or program is already saved.

I HOPE THIS TAKES OUT SOME OF THE FLUSTRATION OF MODEMING --- WHEN YOU ARE READY TO TRY THIS OUT, CHOOSE A GOOD PROGRAM AND SEND IT TO ME!!! (456-0862)

FOR SALE

TI-99/4A system for sale. Expansion Box, Console, 32K Memory Card, RS232, Disk Drive and Controller, TI-Logo, plus software and modules. \$600.00 O.B.O. Call Grant at 458-2392.

Video dramatizes software piracy

Imagine busting your brains to crack a tough programming problem, then having somebody copy your work and win a prize that should have been yours.

That's the setup in a video dramatization about the ethics of software piracy. It's produced by Martin Kratz, an Edmonton computer-law specialist.

The drama stars Edmonton students Karen Southwell and Kim Nowak and teacher Bruce Hopchin.

The moral of this story is the unfairness of software piracy, which Kratz equates with theft.

But it's more than a moral tale. Kratz cuts away from the drama to interview local software producers who talk about the problems piracy creates for people who are trying to invent ideas, make new products available and earn an honest living.

Other interviews with software users point out the rich costs and poor service associated with some software, hinting why some people who would never think of stealing things are into illegal copying of ideas.

Kratz takes a stand against piracy but sees some practical remedies that may be more useful than moralistic hand-wringing:

- Lower prices — The past year has seen several dramatic price cuts in mass-market software;

"Prices will continue to go down," Kratz predicts. When a user can buy quality software for under \$100, with a good manual and access to upgrading, there's little incentive for piracy.

- Mutual respect — Much software is sold with statements that disavow any obligation by the seller. Sometimes there's even an explicit denial that the software must perform as advertised. So users may see software as a rip-off industry and treat them accordingly. Kratz considers Borland's No-Nonsense Guarantee a good step toward earning user respect.

- Site licensing — Schools, which always have skimpy budgets, often must buy multiple copies of software, one for each micro. The growing practice of site licensing sets a single price for unlimited copies at one place.

Kratz's video is directed by Tim Moores, with technical support from Shaw Cable 10, where it eventually will be seen. But the primary audience is students at the junior high and high school levels, so the tape will be distributed to schools for in-class showing.

How will Kratz prevent illegal copying of his video? You can't steal what somebody's giving away, so he'll allow free copying by educational users.

Computers easy prey for snoops

The Canadian Press
Here's a disturbing thought for users of personal computers: every time you press a key on your machine, someone may be eavesdropping.

Dutch scientist Wim van Eck found it's not that difficult to pick up signals emanating from a computer and to display them on a standard TV set.

Using about \$50 worth of common electronic equipment, he was able to monitor and translate the electromagnetic radiation that leaks from nearly every computer's circuits and cathode ray tube.

His findings, which appear in a journal published by the New

York-based International Federation for Information Processing, would be news to the James Bond set who apparently have tried snooping on government computers in this way for some time. But business executives may be surprised at how easy it is for an outsider — their main competitor, for example — to penetrate a computer filled with the company's most sensitive information.

Even home computers aren't safe from prying eyes. Van Eck tested 15 brands of home models, including the popular North American products, and found that about 80 per cent emitted a signal he could pick up.

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