

**EDMONTON
99'er
COMPUTER
USERS'
SOCIETY**



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99'er on line... is the newsletter of the Edmonton 99'er Computer User's Society published ten times a year. Unless otherwise stated, all articles may be republished in other Newsletters provided that source and author are identified. We will in turn credit authors quoted in 99'er ON LINE.

NEWSLETTER CORRESPONDENCE: Editor: John Harbord, 13857-114st. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. T5X 4A1 (403) 456-0362.

OFFICERS: President Yves Chevalier; Vice President Ken Goddeer; Treasurer Dennis Miller; Secretary Roxanne Appelt.

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DISCLAIMER: Information published in this Newsletter is created by and for amateurs, therefore, we cannot guarantee the accuracy or use of presented information.

REGULAR MEETINGS: of the Edmonton 99'er Computer User's Society are held on the second Tuesday of each month in room B49 of the General Service Building of the University of Alberta from 7:00 till 10:00PM, and are open to all members in good standing. Non-members may attend their first meeting free of charge.

ADVERTISEMENTS: Commercial space is available in this Newsletter at the following rates: Full page \$20.00, Half page \$10.00, 1/4 page \$5.00. Discuss your needs with John, at (403) 456-0362, or the next meeting, alternatively send "photo ready" copies to him. 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 Editors address or hand it to him at the General Meeting; Newsletter deadline 3rd Monday of the month.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Family; 12 months \$20.00, 6 months \$15.00. Students; 12 months \$15.00, 6 months \$10.00. New member initiation; \$20.00.

------(NEWS LETTER)-----

NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting will be
September 13th. At 7:15 PM.
General Service Building U of A
Campus room B49.

------(News Letter)-----

JUST A WORD.

by: Yves Chevalier President.

Another year (at least, for our club anyway), is just starting and it is time to wipe the dust off our trusted workhorse.

I would like to welcome back all our club members, and extend an invitation to all T199 owners -- WHO HAVE NOT YET JOINED OUR RANKS-- to attend some of our meetings.

This year looks like a good year to expand our knowledge of the T1 Consoles' hidden powers and also our membership. With GPL knowledge starting to spread it will not be long before we will know how to access the rest of these powers of the 99/44. If only Texas Instruments realised that they were awakening generations of T1 product worshippers... They had the potential to influence millions of present and future wannabe users if only they were. Excluding Geneve, the 99'er has not yet reached its full potential.

I ask myself, "Why be there a potential for 16 GROMs with 4Kb each, in each console making 640Kb of ROM? And, can it be manipulated like the Horizon Ras cars if ROM chips are used? Where is the EPROM programmer card or the MOOREY card that were planned by TI? Do the blueprints exist? Someone somewhere is sitting on this knowledge and strangling the information pipeline."

We will try to increase our membership to 50 members by year end, that's not impossible, by appealing more to the basic user (BASICS and/or cassette) it should be possible to bring many more to our ranks. We will look at ways of rewarding people who recruit new members; any realistic suggestion will be considered. (remember during the shortage of water, the caption, SHOWER WITH A FRIEND, well let this caption be, BRING A FRIEND ALONG TO THE MEETING...ED.).

More of you want RAM cards and Shane Audin is interested in getting them for you. He has one on order for me and you must contact him personally if you want one. It will be the Horizon 1MB version. We are going for the bulk discount on parts to decrease the unit price. He has heard of up to 13 members wanting cards but only 4 or 5 have placed firm orders. When mine is built I will sell my 192k version with kit to extend it to 256k.

Coming up this year:

-Elections at the Sep/Oct meetings. Any and all positions can be challenged and you are invited to do so. If you are willing to improve the club we will gladly step aside.

-Intergroup meeting, Edmonton/Red Deer/Calgary. I am looking forward to it.

-Special Interest Groups, -Interesting lectures, -Demonstrations, -Consultations, -Etc. etc and a good time.

See you there.....Yves

;-------(News Letter)-----;

TI-FAIRE.1988

by: Jim Mulligan.

The annual, I think you can call the first occasion of an event that is planned to happen again, annual anyway, Orphan Computer Reunion was held at the Country Lodge in Innisfail Alberta on May 14, 1988.

The actual event began early in the morning as numerous TI'ers began to gather and set up their wares. Some brought systems to display and some brought systems and other hardware to sell. We saw many modified systems, all working very well and showing that for an Orphan Computer we still have a lot going for us with the TI. Several people brought and displayed the new Geneve from Myarc, including Judy Dehany of Nova Computers. Several people had software available to demonstrate, most of which was written by themselves.

During the day, the Red Deer Club, (they were the organizers and hosts for this event), had programmed various feature events to happen. There was a demo of the Geneve by the Calgary/Red Deer clubs. That machine is incredible, especially the graphics. The demo's made you realize just how powerful the new Geneve really is. The speed of its operation is also nothing to sneeze at. All round, the Geneve demo and machine were well represented.

Another feature presentation of the day, was our own Jim Beck's presentation and tutorial on the C99 programming language. Jim gave a very informative, educational demonstration and talk on this language. He showed some of his own programs, written in C99 of course, and really made the crowd appreciate just how good the C99 programming language was. Jim also showed them that he was a programmed exceptional himself. Thank you Jim Beck for the excellent presentation.

Yves Chevalier also gave a presentation on his home built modem. He has constructed a modem to fit into the PCB and to operate at 300-1200 baud. The modem may not be a smart modem, but Yves presentation sure was. He showed again just how good our machine really can be. Thank you Yves for such a good demonstration.

Through out the day several programs were running on all of the fifteen or so systems on display. The affect of such versatility was almost overwhelming. We saw music programs, graphic programs, logic programs, and of course games. The Alberta TI community is certainly capable of writing some good software.

All in all the day was very enjoyable. We managed to acquire some software for our club, and to share some of the software that we took with us. The people we met, and the friendship we felt, made this event, certainly one worth repeating. We may be orphans but we are certainly not alone. The TI community is alive and well in Alberta. I would strongly recommend that you try to attend the second annual Orphan Computer Reunion next year. Why do such good things happen so seldom? Thank you Red Deer for hosting this event and I know that we in Edmonton are ready to go again.

TI-WRITER REFINEMENTS.

by: Terry Atkinson.

This first appeared in the Oct.86. Newsletter but I thought a re-run would be appropriate at this time. Although Terry above submitted this amendment, we have to acknowledge Rick Cosmano of the SCCB as the originator.

This fix is extremely useful to people who use the writer often, using the 'E' and the 'I' symbol can cause many tiring errors, in that case, why not change these symbols to less required symbols ie., '\ ' & '' (FCFN I and FCFN C)..(on the original document I have had to double up to obtain a print, the same as the old TI-Writer method of printing the 'E' & 'I' symbols?).

As we are going to use a Disk Fixer, ie., Disk and Aid, the first thing is to make a copy of your original disk, and hide it under the mattress, or even Mail it round the world until you have made your alteration, do anything but don't, repeat DON'T, leave it in the same room. Now taking a freshly formatted disk, copy the file FORM1, I think the original version was FORM1, same file. Load up your Disk and Aid, we are looking for a HEX string 23 23 40 26 this is entered into the search as a complete number ie., 23214026, mine was located on sector 22. line 0024, change (ALTER) the last two bites ie., 40 26 to read 60 3C press ENTER then re-write FCFN W. That's it! simple, if you wish, you can substitute whatever you like for these symbols, ie., 7B 7D would use the left and right braces (FCFN F&G). Most printer manuals have a ASCII decimal and HEX. chart (but the ones we used seem to be the best, least required?).

There is also another fix while you still have the FORM1 in the Disk-Fixer, you can also change the colour on the formatter from that sickly TI-Colour White on Blue to whatever suits your fancy, for this example I like Black on Light Yellow, to see it seems easier on the eyes.....

Search for a string 02 00 07 F5 in the same sector below you will observe another string 80 02 03 F5. It is the F5's that have to be changed, the 'F' is the foreground colour, while the 'S' represents the background. Select whatever colours you would like, for my example I changed F5 to 1B make both strings identical, being careful not have the foreground and background the same colour, use contrast for best results. press ENTER, then FCFN W to re-write to disk, voila! (That's for the benefit of our French readers) you have made it again.

You can now copy this File FORM1, FORM1, back to your back-up copy of TI-WRITER, don't forget to remove the protection for a non-error transfer, it is now time to try out your alterations, if satisfied, it would be prudent to retain your original copy as is, in case you ever want to use your '\ ' & '' again or you can revert to the transliterate method!

I have here something for User's of Grep-Tracker, the first fix should be in g857: while the second fix should be located in g82A5 and g82B4 according to Rick.

Anyone have problems with this phone me and perhaps I can talk you through the process

HEX COLOUR CHART.

by: JOHN.

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=====
  COLOUR.  HEX.  COLOUR.  HEX.
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MEDIUM RED  0  TRANSPARENT  0
LIGHT RED   1  BLACK        *1
DARK YELLOW 4  MEDIUM GREEN 2
LIGHT YELLOW *B  LIGHT GREEN  3
DARK GREEN  C  DARK BLUE    4
MAGENTA     0  LIGHT BLUE   >5
GRAY        E  DARK RED     6
WHITE       *F  CYAN         7
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Microsoft
Multiplan.

System using the Burglar Alarm Interface, details on this panel can be obtained in the 1988 Radio Shack Catalogue, this should extend the X-10 system considerably, as the panel facilitates the additions of various other things ie., Alarm Loops, strobes, bells sirens, key-locks, vibration and glass breakage detectors or motion sensors, door and window contacts, you can even add an automatic dialer, to dial up to three numbers on Panel Trip.

All the above are battery backup oriented, an asset worth consideration..... build to suit your pocket.

In the event of any of our members wishing to partake in the above, the modules can be had at various places in the city. The Interface is available at:

Heath Zenith
4966-92 Ave., Edmonton. Alberta.

The Utility of course is:

X-10 Home Controls Inc.
1200 Aerowood Drive Mississauga,
Ontario L4W 2S7

please phone me, for further information, there are other versions of this system but I have only outlined the computerized version, I hope you have found this an interesting topic.

WELCOME BACK TO THE FOLD... JOHM.....

------(News Letter)-----

Moving forward 1989

By: JOHM.....

Here we are once again, the start of a New Season, well, we did manage to get going, after a very poor start, I hope we get off to a better start this time, we have at least had less encumbrances, and a new schedule has been formulated, I guess it is not, so much as just making up a schedule, its managing to keep to it.

I can remember having some quite good lectures last year, and at least we had some SIG Groups going, although it is very hard trying to make a go of things with no support.

We have some great things planned, it has been suggested that (SIG) Groups should be introduced at the General Meeting, then, when sufficient interest has been formulated they can branch off, virtually on their own, I would like to state again at this point, if any of our members would like to take on a (SIG), please come forward, we have many talents in our membership, which could be used for the benefit of the club in general, the theme still remains working together, as well as sharing software, as the elections are due there will be vacant positions on the board, please come forward and give our present Executive a rest, POOL YOUR IDEAS.

We are trying to get together an all TI. Bulletin Board. This will be discussed at this next General Meeting, we are a TI. Club, therefore we should use TI. equipment whenever possible, this Newsletter is put together using, TI-Writer, Multiplan, TI-Artist, the only thing is that I have not as yet found a way to print the Logo directly on the front page, perhaps we have a member who would undertake this task, or as I call it a challenge, any offers??? All contributions to TIs and anything else we can print in this Newsletter will be gratefully accepted, don't worry if you have difficulties spelling, or for that matter any Grammar problems, that is sorted out through the Speller Check program, then we all make the same mistakes, its your ideas and suggestions that we need, its my job to put it all together, formulating it into OUR Newsletter

I would like to welcome back the new members from last year and also the new members who will be here for the September Meeting, please feel free to utilise our Disk, Book, and Cassette libraries, remember, they are for all club members, and for them to be available as such, please take care of them and return them as requested.

As for the rest of the active crew, is it necessary for me to welcome you all back once again? Of course it is, for were it not for you this rag would not be worth the effort.

Welcome back, and good luck to you all in 1989. Your Newsletter Editor.

COMPUTERS AND POWER

Courtesy of Edmonton Power.

Some time ago now this printout was issued by Edmonton Power.

Surges in the household current can cause some devastating results, it's no joke to type several pages or a report then the diligent little wife plugs the vacuum cleaner, inadvertently, into the same circuit and instantly wipes out all your work, even switching on additional lights or the furnace cutting in, can sometimes cause a power surge, with the same results.

Mind you if its the cat getting tangled up in the cord, your at fault for not tucking the cord out of the way, keep that in mind!! Remember it's good practice to save your efforts at regular intervals say every 15 or 30mins, or before answering the phone, taking a coffee break, or putting in another load of laundry.

Isolate your computer as much as you can, don't plug your computer into the same circuit as your microwave or other major appliances. Don't let anyone plug a vacuum cleaner into the same circuit as your computer while you are working or even vacuum in the same room.

Computers can't always withstand the normal fluctuations that do occur in any electrical system. A reasonable precaution you can take is to buy and install one of the many electronic protection devices on the market.

A variety of surge suppressors are available from most electrical appliance retailers or computer supply stores. These range from \$15.00 to \$200.00 and offer different degrees of protection. Power bars, which also serve as an extension from your outlet, have built-in breaker protection and cost around \$50.00. (watch London drug sales, these are available for \$15.00?).

If you're really concerned about protecting your data and hardware, you can buy an uninterruptible power supply that will eliminate nearly all fluctuations and damaging surges. Your computer will continue to work on the battery-supplied power after a power outage which will allow you time to store your data in memory and shut down. Not many personal computer users can justify the price, which ranges from \$500.00 to \$3500.00. However, it is worth investigating if other solutions have not helped.

If you are experiencing problems and think the voltage level reaching your home is a possible problem, call Edmonton Power's Trouble Number (428-4994). A voltage recorder will be installed on your service to monitor the voltage for several days at no cost to you.

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HOURS: 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Sat/Day



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