

NEWSLETTER UP THE K-TOWN 9974R USERS GROUP AND THE RTHENS COMPUTER CLUB

JULY 1993



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#### COMMENT

The K-Town 99er is published monthly for the Denefit Of 99/4A K-Town Users Group membership specifically and the TI Community in general. The Articles in this mewsletter to the best of our knowledge are factual but neverless the views expressed are the views of the author

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## K-TOHN JULY MEETING

THE JULY MEETING OF THE K-TOWN 97/4A USERS GROUP WILL BE AT THE HOME OF E.M. SMITH. This meeting is wide open for anyone to bring in a special piece of software which one might wish to share with the rest of us. I have added a few embelishments to a Holiday Special which I developed back in July 1983. It runs in a continuous loop and could run all evening but I believe one or two times will be adequate for most of you. But if you don't show up with something else that may be all you will get for the evening.

If nothing else develops of interest we could combine our collective with and update a DISKLABELER program to accept any drive i through 7 and A through 7. John Bull has done a good job of getting the program to accept the

extra drives but it still has some bugs which need to be exterminated. Of course it is possible that someone has a catalog program which accesses Drives 1-9 and A-I and prints to printer in either two or three column format. If so, bring it in for a demo at the July Meeting or download it to me. EM and I will demo it.

It has finally dawned on me that a program for the July Meeting was announced at the June Meeting. John Bull and EM were to collaborate on getting access to the CONNI Newsletter exchange BBS. Neither of us has found time to collaborate so that probably won't happen before the August meeting. Be assured that we will celebrate after the meeting and under the Solden Arches.

## DUES / MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the K-Town 99/4A Users Group is open to owner or user of the TI-99/4A Home Computer. Dues TEN DOLLARS are per year and subject to our fiscal year which begins April 1 and ends March 31 of each year. Dues are clasified as family memberships. New member ships are prorated at

the rate of ONE dollar per if less than a full year, ехсерь for the last five months п£ our fiscal year. There is minimum fee of five dollars. Memberships are not prorated for current or former members. We visitors.

# PRESIDENT'S FORUM

We were æ little short in numbers at our last meeting since our regulars. Art and Dennis and Joe, were out  $\neg f$ pocket. We missed you, follows! However, the rest of us had a good time sharing our collective wisdom and some ignorance. Neither E.M. nor I had any luck hooking into vast realms of information available through INTERNET, that part the program O+ cancelled.

The program for this month's meeting is still up in the air at this moment but I am sure that we will have something good set up by July 8.

One project that I wish we could get going on is the "clearinghouse" BBS for exchanging

articles with other TI groups. We have already invested the \$30 that was requested to hook on but we have done nothing One problem is to arrange things so that long distance costs are a minimum. Do W⊕ have password? Who knows what download? Upload? Ιt will probably. take several mf. U.S working together. My 2400 baud modem is available.

I hope to see ALL of you at E.M.'s. 3506 Garden Drive on the second Thursday, July 8, at 7:00 FM. How about you, Jack Garrison, Ron Hatmaker, Carl Emge, and James McNeillie? We have not seen you for awhile so please come and get your money's worth!

John H. Bull



# CHRITERBOX - 29 BY BOB BUEHLER



HOH-BOY, HOH-BOY! I'd worried. The Savings Season was getting closer and closer, and Short Course offers had all but stopped. Then came BONANZA! Read about it under UPDATES, below, and other good things down there too.

#### UPDATES OF PAST ITEMS.

#### The Savings Season

Chatter Box-26 had recited the virtues of Engineering Summer Short Courses, taught for practising Engineers and consultants by Professors at prestigeous colleges to earn extra bucks in summer semesters. Registration costs are not trivial and there are travel and subsistance costs too. Thus, they are GDLD MINES for me and the "diggin' is easy." I PLAIN DON'T SO, thus saving all cost, across the board!

That BONANZA? Offerings in this May-Day, '93, mail are from UT, Knoxville, mostly about Nuclear; and Wisconsin, Milwaukee, mostly about Stormwater Management.

UT Nuclear has unique drawing power. Registration is \$650 for 1 two-day course, and \$995 for each or 4 four-day courses, a total of \$4630. Their crownig virtue is that through convenient concurrent scheduling they all cozy-up in the 5 days from August 15-20, '93! Savings pyramid when a guy can stay away from 5 courses in one single day and 4 more courses on 4 other days! Saved travel and subsistence fast lose importance in comparison.

Wisconsin's Storewater stuff has charm of it's own. This course is only two days which is less tiring than

five dayer's but, of course, registration is less; \$595 each. But hear this: It's the same course given twice in Milwaukee, once in Nashville, and once in Albuquerque, NM. Hotels are \$69 per night in Milwaukee and Nashville and \$85 in Albuqurque, which adds in. Course dates are restfully spaced in June, Aug, Sept, and Oct and don't interfer with UT. Think about this too. The Storwater course is a repeat, all the four times, and I already pretty well know the hydologics involved. A CRIMP CPOURSE FOR me. No mid-night oil. Maybe I could not take in a show or two. to increase savings slightly.

SUMMING SAVINGS:

Not going NUCLEAR saves \$4630 :
Not going Stormwater saves \$3102
Total, N/O subsistence and travel \$7732
Days involved: Nuc = 5; SW = 8; Tot= 13
Savings per day = \$595 which aint chick feed!
Enough! You get my point. But you ain't heard my

Enough! You get my point. But you ain't heard my best savings of the whole thing. By not going I wont have to miss a single K-Town 99er's meetings!!

WHOA! I NEED BIG HELP!!

ANY IDEAS WHAT HAPPENED OR HOW I COULD HAVE SAVED THE TEXT? A FREE BIG MAC TO THE WINNER, WITH COKE AND FRIES!

#### HAPPY MISFORTUNES

A guy learns a lot just by long living: Given modest good health; a lick or two of common sense and judgement; a double measure of patience; commingled with understanding and acceptance. Discovering that misfortune sometimes is precedent to good fortune has been one of my happy learnings. Simple but maybe stupid example, "You miss your plane flight. Plane crashes on take-off. You go back home. Go to bed. Sweet dreams."

Now lets get real!

## Busted Commode -- Good Livin' Sun-Room

I know it's real 'cause it happened to me and mine!'
'Twas not even a dark and stormy night. Just an ordinary
evening, I think in February two or three years ago. Just
watching TV in the living room, probably about il PM.
Then came this "bump in the night" about which you've
often heard and which you dismissed as a 'ghosty.' Our's
was real enough that I opened outside doors, looking; the
basement door, looking; and learning nothing therewith.
So off to bed we went. Roughly nine hours later I arose
at well past the dawn, strode to the kitchen to throw on
the light, when what to my wondering eye did appear, but a
fast stream of wet water streaking down to the floor,
right there by the switch.

WHOA! This was no night before Christmas. I just paraphrased to gain your attention. So here are the facts.

In the upstairs bathroom water was streaming forth down the back of the commode. I could stop that with the cut-off I'd had sense enough to intall when I built the upstairs. I picked up the soaked shag rug and carried it dripping down stairs and out doors. In the kitchen the wonderfull one-fool diameter glass bulb holder was filling with water but I flipped the light switch anyway using an insulated something or other. Real soon, water reached the hot hulb inside and it popped with a flash.

Misfortune indeed, I think you'll agree.

Hurrying right along, insurance covered \$4000+, my cost \$100. But that's not the good fortune I'm talking about. We liked the repair contractor so well that we had him build a new sun-room off the kitchen. That made room for a good sized food cupoard with louvered doors at one end, washer-drier, with doors at the other end, and a bay window for lunch table and chairs in the middle. He've practically lived in that cozy room ever since. Sure it cost. Point is we wouldn't have thought to build it but

for the good contractor who came our way by way of misfortune!

#### Car Wont Start-Call AAA

We were packed and ready to leave for Florida. Dead battery! AAA came and gave us a start. Thus, we were delayed like an hour or so. Under my happy concept that misfortune may have preceded good fortune, that delay was taken in stride because it just could have been a quirk that kept us from a far worse fate. Well, darn it, it could! And I'm far happier thinking it might have. You think about it, and let me know if misfortune has ever been good to you! Thanks.

#### HAPPY HISTORY

It's plain great to remember things and happenings in my pleasant past. Here, now, is a practical thing, likely laughable these days.

#### The Laundry Case

In 1929-33 college kids sent their dirty duds home to some each week. The laundered things came back promptly along with home baked cookies too! The container was the ingenious Laundry Case, roughly 30° long, half that wide, and 6° thick. It was a corrugated cardboard box solidly encased in durable canvass. It's end flaps met near center. Its crowning feature was it's lapping side flaps, each as wide as the box itself, and each with a celluloid protected pocket encasing an address label. Folded one way the Posted package went home. The other way it came back to dormitory, rooming house, fraternity house as school progressed. A pair of light weight but atrong canvas straps with buckles secured the package and held a convenient carrying handle on the way to the Post Office.

You better believe: That laundry case was a cherished link to home and endured solidly for the duration. With support like this, "flunking out of school" was an unheard-of alternative! Ours may still be tucked away in the attic.

I saw a couple in the sad remnants from a public contents self-out in the Knoxville home of our deceased best friends since college days. Sad, yet pleasant in my memory: The Laundry Case!

#### ODDS AND WEIRDS

When in trouble or in doubt run in circles, scream, and shout!

Timid youth by telephone. "May I marry your daughter?" Father, "Surm. Whose calling?"

Innovate: If they give you ruled paper, write the other way.

Experience is a poor teacher! The test comes before the lesson.

Hot dogs always taste better at the ball park! Government too often scratches where it doesn't itch. Government programs have a beginning a muddle, and no

Awesome is your power. You get a good TV program cancelled just by watching it.

#### RECIPES

end.

Selecting good recipes for Chattar Box is increasingly difficult. Just keping track of those already printed also gets harder and harder! The one following is real easy and yields a handy munching product. One name for this one is Savery Snack Crackers. Another is Dillie Dallies. I'm using the latter just for fun.

#### Dillie Dallies

1 Heaping Tblsn Dill Weed 1/2 tsp Garlic salt
1/2 tspn Lemon pepper 2 12-Dz packs byster crackers
1 small package Hidden Valley Ranch Dressinbg, milk style
1 Cup salad oil

Combine and mix well the first five items. Pour into large plastic bag. Add oil, close tightly, and shack bag often until all oil is obsorbed. Yields 9 cups.

From my Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin sister. BB 5/6/93 Trying to get ahead. Never can tell.

#### LATE STUFF As of 6/18/93

New Member—Not replly, just a rearrangement of monikers. We've long carried him as Fulton H. Foster. Recently a \$10 check arrived for '93 dues from H. Foster Fulton, same address. Now we know and Foster, we'll treat you better hereafter. He's a long ago member of the Athens group which combined with K-Town some years back. Though never active here it's gratifying that he options to suppoper K-Town these years later. Our thanks, Foster.

My Horizon Ram -- Preparing to imstall my new memory chips, I copied on separate floppies the contents of formerly configured drives and took them along to EM who-generously offered to insert the new chips.

All went well until I suggested a trial loading of one of the floppys on the newly configured, enlargeed Horizon. It flubbed for no known reason. I went home and tried various actions until becoming totally helpless. Actually I could get things right until a turn-off

computer, turn-back on crashed everything.

The only good thing about those frustrating 3 or 4 days was realizing why we could not make a trial load at EM's. My floppy was initialized for 1440, whereas EM's TI will only run 720.

The upshot, I had to have EM come here, sit in my chair, and do things correctly. Of course I watched closely. It then became clear that I had been configuring corrctly, but failing to save the configuration to the Horizon card.

But now EM was having enough trouble 'till he decided to resurrect the Horizon card. Taking out the batteries would kill the memories for a fresh start, but that seemed like an ideal time to check the batteries. Two checked good. The third checked BAD. All were replaced by new NICADs from Target.

Now everything works UNTIL the computer is turned off, then on. This time it doesn't frash, but the only way I can get the important necessary MENU on the monitor is to CALL MENU from XBasic. It is enough of a nuisance so I'd rather have back my old, smaller Horizon than the new, however, I have every confidence that a way will be found to cure this latest problem!

This PLEADS for help from anyone! BB 6/18/93

SPECIAL NOTE: Bob has a Corcoap 9500 disk controller and the CC MENU overrides the RD MENU. He also has a Myrac RD and it is at address 1100. His HRD is at address 1400. Any help you offer should allow for this configuration. This is the same set-up as prior to the addition of four 128k X 8 memory chips. The only change other than the extra memory is in the HRD configuration using DSK4 instead of DSK5 as the low drive number for the HRD. (P.S. by EM Smith associate editor and Users Group handyman.)

INTERNATION.

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AND THE PARTY OF

A TOWN

CHAIR ..

## MINUTES OF JUNE 10, 1993

Different it was this time for Only sure! the five, tenacious, firm, faithful few were present; the scheduled demontratiin of accessing INTERNET via UT Somputer System couln't happen because UT lacks connetion to INTERNET, learned too late to reach the newsletter yet with barely time for Bill Sheridan generate a good substitute: waiting on and on and on for the 'missing persons' among us with EM filling the time by roonfiguring Funnel Web from serial parralletl printer for me, much to embarrassment for the unexpected time it took albeit

thankful remembrance deceaced of: John Birdwell hi= and Disk Uilities Program applied flawlessly by EM; and then leaving just enough time for Bill's before adjournmene to the Aarches, the one and only K-Town actitivity that wasn't different this time!

Bill's demo was skimmed from the Memphis Group newsletter, just arrived that day. He would have used for an article in our Newsletter, but quick applied it for our June 10 program! I'd like like him also to continue as he had planned. The demo illustrated use of the SEG\$ command, an interesting and useful tool.

I'm a poor one to explain the application, but will at least mention that with SEG\$ a String Expression can be disjointed and the separate parts identified and

used or applied 111 useful John Bull had used it to improve a INDEX program a long back, that could be applied prose to sample σf judge its readability. Bi 11 it cleverly in a file Ωf names, addreses, and phone numbers.







STUMBLINGS insert my introductory paragraph and my gorilla (here). by EM: Sorry Joe, I did not have time to look up one ۵f your articles which contained the paragraph you referenced. Ιt has been several months since you contributed an article and sometimes due to limited space your introductory paragraph is edited out. I feel certain anyone wishing to read that paragraph again won't mind perusing through back issues to find it.

I have been stumbling about with my new chips for my ramdisk. I have found that seven chips are just not enough! Lloyd, does this sound familar? I have found that I need to know how to create a path name for Spell It which will work on the ramdisk. I tried to install it but it just bombed! With MultiPlan, if you copy am existing MP file to the ramdisk, the RD with load it, modify it, and save it back to the RD. But if you create a new file name it will only save it to a floppy drive. Any Gru lus out younder have an explanation?

The following is my contribution on my trip with the K-Town group to Lima.

#### Lima Trip

We left on the 14 of May from Bill Sheridan's home near the McGee Tyson Airport. Kitty, Bill's wife, had the coffee hot and had filled Paul Blevins, Art Gibson, and Dill with her delicious pasteries by the time I arrived at 8:30 in the morning. John Bull's wife met us en route through Knoxville and we proceeded up the many miles to Lima. Eventhough, we clipped along at just above the 65 MPH on speed control, it took us over seven hours to reach Lima!

As one watches the topography of the route change from the ridge valley providence of East Tennessee to the Cumberland Mountains between Knoxville and Jellico and the downside between Jellico and the Kentucky River below Lexington, and the Blue grass region around Lexington one begins to recall ones geography from way back younder in high school or college. According to those who believe the explanation of the gradualist, the breakdown region

near the Ohio River is the result of the south edge of the glacial expansions. The explanation of the continental divide near Lima and the ridges at Dayton is not readily clear to me.

The trip revealed to my traveling companions how easily I can pass off to sleep as I drifted in and out of sleep all the way up and some of the way back. About the only way I can remain awake is to be the driver! Monotonous activities or warm environments places yours truly into a non wakeful state.

One of the benefits of attending meetings and fairs is the purchasing of hardware and programs from the creators. And, if one is fortunate, speaking to many of the people you have conversed or corresponded over the many years the "toy" has been in existence. Four such individuals I met at Lima were Deanna Sheridan, Marty Smoley, Bud Hills, and Charles Good. To Deanna, I gave a handshake and a thank-you for her helpful advice and friendship. To Marty a challenge to create a program to create (xy) graphs with data dot points from TI-Base data and to fit a curve to the data. To Bud a handshake for finally getting me the #4016 ramdisk he promised while he was developing the 4000 board. And to Charles a rock from Decatur County, Tennessee which I felt was a piece of petrified wood. Since Charles is in real life a Botanist in the reals of Palynolgy. Charles, did I bring you a rock or a tree limb. If a tree limb, what is its scientific name. Is it still in existence today?

At fairs, one also meets new acquaintances. I met a fellow "Anak" from Indiana and L.L. Conner Enterprise's, a Harry Hoffman from the Cleveland Area who was going to get to go back to work after being off for surgery, a Don

O'Neil who was very boisterous of what all could be developed for the I.I., and others from the Lima area who were very friendly. At a donut shop across from Bob Evans, I met several people one of whom was a hog auctioneer!

The Lima Group's hospitality can not be lauded enough! Besides setting up and hosting the faire at the University, they also gave participants an all you can eat of Pizza and coke after the faire. For one who partook of a good quantity of the Pizza and coke, it was a good celebration and conclusion for a group of kindred spirits.

### Thank you Lima!!!

The K-Town group asked if I would attend next year and I replied we would have to wait and see. After further reflection, I feel if everything else is equal I will try to attend the Lima Faire next year.

## SAF-KT Section Meeting

I attended the summer meeting of the Society of American Foresters' Kentucky-Tennessee Section Meeting which was held in Memphis this "year" on June '9,10, and 11th. I took Ellen and the girls, and while I was attending a tour of Anderson-Tully's bottomland hardwoods, they enjoyed visiting points of interest in Tennessee's most western city.

Anderson-Tully has been acquiring and managing hardwoods along the alluvial soils of the Mississippi River since 1889. They practice extensive forest management by only cutting selected trees or by only cutting small group clearcuts of less than five acres. They do no planting and rely on nature (600) to replant their crops. This is the type of management that the public and the environmentalist would like for everyone to practice. And this is why I wanted to participate on this tour. One is never too old to learn more!

On one of the stops they tooks us to one of their CFI (Current Forest Inventoy) plots which they have remeasure on five year intervals since 1968. This particular plot stays flooded from the Mississippi River (eventhough the River is over a mile away) during the spring of each year. It was flooded just three weeks before our visit. The

annual rejuvenation of the soils by the Mississippi River's flooding was revealed by the very high volume growth per year found from the CFI plot. In the most recent period 1988 to 1993 showed a Cherrybark Oak diameter increased from eleven inches to 15 inches. If the uplands we have here in the rest of the country could achieve this high site index of growth, selective (extensive) harvesting could be practiced. However, our uplands site index averages about 50 feet in twentyfive years as compare to the Mississippi' deltas 85 to 95. To achieve the high yields to pay the banker requires that we practice intensive forest management.

Mail Bag

Lloyd: Katherine has just ordered a 386dx-40 mhz with 128 cache and 4 meg on board ram expandable to 32 meg with a mini-tower. If you could get her some share ware word processors and graphic programs, she would appreciate it. We will be taking up your and Carol's offer as Katherine will be attending UA at Tuscaloosa.

Dennis: I hope you will attend the July meeting so that I can give you a copy of Crowley's checkbook program. Art is too caught up in his own world to help me modify this program. I hope you will be interested enough to help.

Art: If you read this, I will give you call to see if we can ride to K-town in July.

Joel: Enjoyed our conversation this past week. We do need to get together.

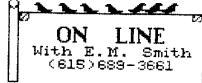
Hodem via Bob Buehler, EM and Bill

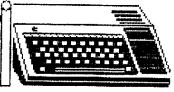
On June 17, Katherine and I stopped by to see EM while looking at computers. As a result of another on hands down by EM, that evening a momentous occasion occurred. I both sent and received transmissions at 300 baud. Art, if you will return the modem which you have been testing which I purchased from Paul, I would like to test it out at the 1200 baud rate.

In any event, Bill and I will now be able to transfer my contribution each month cheaper than meeting at Fort Loudon Dam!!

Enough stumblings. 23:32 hours 6/21/93.//joe









As this i s being written (composed) the program for the July meeting is still uр in the air and articles for the newsletter remain on the low side, therefore I have an oportunity sqeeze in a few words. I think we are about one and a half Dages

short. I'll ramble through about half that amount and hope Bill Sheridan comes through with enough to make this edition a full eight pages.

I was very happy to receive

four more 128k X 0 chips to gu on my HRD. Bill, Bob, Joe, and Art also took advantage of some very low prices for chips at Lima to upgrade their HRD's. Most of upgrades were achieved with little or no problems but Bob Buehler opened up a can of worms that seemed to defy solution. Some of details are in Bob's CHATTERBOX-29 Article which VOL will find interesting to read. Τ inserted in Bob's article an explanation of his troubles in hopes some good soul will know the solution and come to our rescue. All cards in the PE BOX are still at the same memory address which were being used prior to memory update. All replies can be sent to the Users Group Address.

Another problem which has bugged me for some time is my need for a CATALOG program which will access drives 1 through 9 and A through I and print a hardcopy in either 2 or 3 columns. modified copy of DSKLABELER will work fine for any drive "bombs" when the printer buffer receives the last "read". It gets the job done but I have key in RUN for each disk drive and of course the date has to be input each time the program is run. As long as HRD's have been available I feel enterprizing some programmer has already licked that problem. If not, and you possess the skills, I hope you will accept the challenge and share the results with me. Using the Users Group address will get it to me.

It was a real pleasure to share with Joe Simmons' his first experience in using a modem to transfer and receive files over long distance telephone circuits. Once Joe experienced his first success he did not hesitate to use hi= modem tm send നല bi = newsletter article for this month's newsletter. I am sure this becomes "old hat" in short

order but so far I still aain sense of achievement when I can helo someone through experience. A11 regular contributers to the K-Town Newsletter are now using their modems to transmit their articles to me or Bill. If any one else wants to get their feet wet in this experience give me a call. When I am at my console it takes less than a minute for me to get on line with you if protocols have been previously agreed upon. Your call will be welcome.

The summer season is already here and I don't believe I completed any of the tasks were promities for the cooler spring days. A leak in my home heating boiler required considerable time to resolve. First observations left thinking I was going to have a two thousand dollar plus expense but lucked out for less than fifty dollars plus numerous hours of flushing, testing, and draining the heating system. I wasn't that lucky on the houshold cooling I had to replace the system. condensing section. Of course, as expected, it happened on a weekend of unusal hot weather for the spring season. The priority of removing a solar collector still looms on the horizon just where it has been since I first decided over a year ago to abandon it as being too expensive to maintain in East Tennessee where only one third of the days are clear sunny days. And the concrete capping of a sixty foot long block wall awaits my special attention.

All these chores remind me of how smart I was to not want to retire. For the most part I have found retirement to be hard labor for no pay or fringe benefits but the descretion to select the hours except in extreme emergencies which come in tandom and without warning.

# K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP

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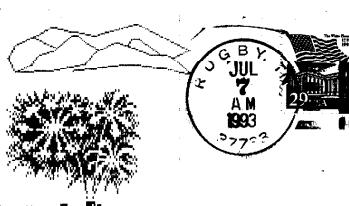
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