

March, 1991

# **LONGVIEW COMPUTER USERS GROUP**

P. O. BOX 9284 , LONGVIEW, TEXAS 75608

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

by  
Ray Coates

I'm sure you noticed that we got the advertising snafu straightened out. Of course, we are going to continue with our advertising campaign, but we will need some help. The original committee that was formed to address public relations, retailer relations and membership completed their charge, which was to develop a brochure for the club. The next step is to form a committee to go to the local retailers. Their job will be to get permission to leave our brochures, solicit an ad for our newsletter, and a couple other items. Eddie Green has volunteered to call potential committee members and to set up the first meeting of this committee. I will come to the first meeting and share in more detail the charge of this committee. If you would like to help us out on this committee, please give Eddie a call. If Eddie calls you to ask you for your help, please consider lending a helping hand. Eddie's phone number is 759-4036.

I shared with you last month the possibility of some Saturday seminars. The details have not been worked out with Pine Tree Jr. High, so for now the seminars are on hold. Hopefully we will be able to hold the first series of seminars in March.

At the February General meeting we gave away a door prize which was a box of Maxell 5-1/4"/double sided/high density disks. We also raffled off five items during the meeting - (2) Lotus 1-2-3 videos, the FALCON game, (2) computer books, and a Bible search program. Congratulations, folks.

The last thing I want to share with you in this article is, I resigned as President of the club at the February board meeting. My decision to resign is due to my increased work load at our church, and with AT&T. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as your president these last twenty months. This year in particular has been a very productive one. I appreciate all the excellent help and cooperation I received from everyone, especially the board members. I am not sure yet how the board will proceed in the replacement process. They may choose among themselves who will serve in my place until the 1991 elections, or they may decide to share the load until the elections. Whatever they decide to do, please do all you can to support them, and if they should call upon you for help, please respond in the affirmative.

You are once again invited to attend the LCUG Board Meeting on March 4th at the United Methodist Church at 7 P.M., and the LCUG General Meeting on March 5th at the Pine Tree Jr. High School at 7 P.M.

**END**

Chairman:  
Leo W. DuBry  
758-5042

# TI Report

by  
Leo DuBry

Librarian:  
Leo W. DuBry  
758-5042

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the TI99 home computer. A lot of water has gone under the bridge during that time. When first placed on the market, people thought that it would never go. There have been a lot of Computers come and go. TI99 has not been manufactured for a number of years. The amazing thing is there's more material for the 99 today than when they stopped producing them. What happen is, the community of users were split up. Some went to other computers, but the die hards learned to make their machines do things that even TI said could not be done. The Longview Users Group, now called the Longview Computer Users Group, came out of the TI99 Computer Group.

Here it is the first of February and there are few News Years resolutions left in tack. Am I going to let another year slip by and not learn more about my computer. Receiving a number of newsletters from around the country on the TI99, there is always something new going on.

The MICROpendium listed a program which prints disk jackets with the directory on the front. The program is about sixty lines long and is programed in Extended Basic. The longest part of typing in a program is debugging it. The way most programmers use it is listing the program on the monitor line by line and correcting it that way. The problem in using this method is you over the same mistake again and again.

There is a short program that can be used to help. After saving the program to disk you boot up the corrected program and follow directions in loading it up. The program goes though each line adding up the numerical value of each letter and making a print out. By comparing the number from the end of each line with the original printed program, you can find your errors. Now if you do not have a program that does this, here is another method. The majority of times it will be a syntax error, which means that a comma, period, etc. is out of place. These can usually be found by running the program as it will stop when it runs into an incorrect syntax. The most wonderful thing about finding mistakes is: **YOU GAIN IN LEARNING HOW TO PROGRAM.** I have used the jacket a number of times and find it a help. Now the directory is part of the jacket.

This is where a small SIG can be a lot of help. One member usually types in these programs and shares it with the rest of the SIG. Having done this in the past, I've found it is not what is gain from the sales of the programs, but in helping the rest of the SIG members. If a member is having problems with a program, he or she brings it to the SIG meeting and we combine our heads together to find the error. This helps every one present, not just the person who was having the problem.

Now what is new in the world of the mighty TI99. Fest West '91 is going to be held at the Ramada Maingate hotel in Anaheim, California, located across the street from Disneyland, held Feb. 15-16. According to MICROpendium there are going to be some fourteen companies that have supplies for the TI99. There are to be a number of lectures on programs and the use of the machine. The fair is being sponsored by three TI99 Users groups in Southern California.

There is a second fair that I feel Frank Hathorn and Mac will be interested in. The Family Computer Exposition and Ham Radio Festival, March 9th at Roelle Park High School in Roselle Park, NJ.

Can you imagine the TI99 with 1.5 Meg of memory on board. With the New Horizon card in the expansion box, that is what you have. This is not a hard drive but part of the computer operating system. The use of hard drives is something else. With the Myark Disk Manager Card in place the TI99 unit can use three 60 Meg hard drives and (4) five and quarter inch floppies. Maurice Henderson in the Tyler group has such a setup. He uses four floppy drives and a forty Meg hard drive besides a

Ram card in his expansion box. There is not much that he can not do with his system. The programs that he uses all the time are on the Ram card and when booting up a program there is no waiting time. Call for a program and it is there.

The Computer companies have had a field day during the past ten years. A lot of them place only enough in a computer to do certain things and if a person wants to do more he has to either purchase a newer machine or extra cards to fit in the expansion box. The old TI99 had over 64K of Read Only Memory that gives the machine a lot of ability. Today a person has to purchase expansion cards to cover these same abilities.

A family living up near Gilmer left a Portable "PC compatible" Professional computer here at the Studio. They had no idea in how to make the machine do anything. An excellent machine, but is limited in what it can do. To make it run games and word processors the unit needs extra cards that are no longer in production. I am now able to show the people what the machine can do. It is a shame that Companies did this to so many people.

Looking forward to seeing the SIG members at the next meeting as we have some new goodies. The meeting will be here at the studio on the third Wednesday at seven PM.

**END**

## ONLINE

The following is a list of local BBS's. If you are aware of any others that are online consistantly, please leave a message for the SYSOP on the LCUG BBS with the details.

Name	Phone Number	Baud Rates		Hours Operation
ATC Circuit Board	(903) 663-4260	300 - 2400	8N1	24 Hours a day
Citadel	(903) 759-0060	300 - 2400	8N1	24 Hours a day
Clearinghouse	(903) 757-6950	300 - 9600	8N1	24 Hours a day
LCUG	(903) 236-7434	300 - 2400	8N1	24 Hours a day
LeTourneau University	(903) 237-2742	300 - 2400	8N1	24 Hours a day
Living Waters	(903) 753-4829	300 - 2400	8N1	3-10pm, Mon-Fri 9am 10pm, Sat&Sun
Marty's Place	(903) 753-0485	300 - 9600	8N1	?
The Association	(903) 753-6505	300 - 2400	8N1	24 Hours a day

**FOR SALE:** One color enlarger and complete black & white dark room. Digital timer cost \$200.00 alone. This package has trays, print washer, easel, paper, some chemical, drying rack, and more. Call Dan Hill 903-757-7730. **\$600.00 or best offer.**