

#NET 99er  
HOME COMPUTER USERS GROUP  
PO BOX 534  
HURST, TX 76053

Hello there! Fellow 99ers

#### NOTICE

Next meeting is the 3rd of NOVEMBER  
at 9:00 AM at the Hurst Public  
Library. Hope to see you there.

#### PRESIDENT'S PAGE

NOTICE - The next meeting will be  
EARLY by one Saturday. It will occur  
on Nov 3 (the first Saturday) of  
November at 9:00 AM at the Hurst  
Public Library. This change in day  
was necessitated by the Library  
pre-empting us for the 2nd Saturday.  
I promise that we will be open and on  
time this time.

It seems that the last meeting was  
only yesterday. In fact, it wasn't  
too many days ago. But, now for some  
new thoughts. We are very thankful  
that thru it all our membership  
continues a slow growth. I feel that  
this indicates that we are doing a  
job which pleases most of the  
membership. With renewals and new  
members we are making a slow gain in  
spite of those who choose not to  
renew. The membership list has  
spilled over to 8 pages now.  
Speaking of membership lists--I hope  
to have a copy for every member  
either in the December newsletter or  
available at the meeting. This will  
take consultation to determine the  
best way.

It doesn't seem just right to keep  
referring to this publication as 'the  
newsletter.' I propose a contest to  
give our newsletter a suitable name.  
You can get ideas from other  
newsletters that we have in our  
files, but we don't want to copy from

anyone. Let's declare that the prize  
will be one year extension of  
membership for the suggestor of the  
winning entry. Bring your ideas to  
the November meeting.

Activities which are planned for the  
next meeting are as follows: a short  
BASIC tutorial (see elsewhere in this  
newsletter), a short demo of the SST  
Compiler?, and judging of the holiday  
programming contest. Just a gentle  
reminder--please remember to submit  
your entry to the contest by the Nov  
meeting time. Remember, any language  
is suitable and all that's required  
is that it be pretty or entertaining  
and in the holiday spirit. Prizes  
could be interesting. Everyone is  
invited to be a judge by  
participating in the judging during  
the meeting.

Our constitution requires that new  
officers be elected at the first  
meeting of the calendar year. This  
will be in January. Nominations will  
be accepted by any of the current  
officers starting immediately.  
Please confirm the person's  
willingness to serve before  
nominating them. I have no intention  
of serving as president again. It is  
someone else's turn. I want some  
time to learn assembly language and  
FORTH. If you are of such a mind,  
other openings will be available.  
Gerry Myers tells me that he wishes  
to step down as Chief Librarian, but  
wouldn't mind remaining as a lending  
librarian. If this work appeals to  
you, then you might want to talk to  
Gerry for details. In general, be  
thinking who you want running your  
club next year. New officers will  
take over after the January meeting.

My rumor source on CorComp reports  
the following. Their court hearing  
on the Chapter 11 thing is scheduled  
for some time in November. Their  
problems stem mostly from  
mis-management of resources and  
trying to develop too many new  
products at the same time. Their  
plans are to continue manufacturing  
the cards for the F-box while  
recovering their financial position.

Development on the 99000 and any other advanced machines has been stretched out. Rumor has it that the first evaluation prototypes of the complete 9900 system will go to selected people within the next month. Hopefully we will be able to purchase the one for our club shortly.

Another item from the rumor mill: Since Elephant has a new owner and also a "new manufacturer there have been a tremendous number of returns to stores where they are sold. One should exercise caution.

The diskette deal mentioned at the last meeting is still on. It is open to all your friends too. We need to order 50 boxes or more to get a reasonably good price break. The source is Ralph Young, Inc in Fort Lauderdale FL. We plan to buy boxed Wabash SSSD disks to sell for \$12.50 including shipping. Verbal quotes have indicated that these are currently packed 11 to the box. I have just heard of another good source in Richardson that will be checked out prior to this order being placed. Bring your money or check to the next meeting. This order will be placed in the second week of November. Prepaid reservations are the only kind that count.

The Assembly Language SIG met on the 16th. Only three brave souls attended. This is too bad since we have essentially all the space that we need at the First Baptist Church. You only need an interest in AL to attend. We all learn something each time. This is the place for sharing neat tricks and working to solve previously un-solvable problems. Bring your problems and your interest next time. The AL SIG will meet the Tuesday immediately following the general meeting. In this case, the next AL SIG will meet at 7:00 PM on the 6th of November.

A new FORTH SIG is scheduled to start up this month. It will be led by Charles Clines and meet at his house. Space is limited and it is currently

full. If you feel left out, give Charles a call and maybe a slot will appear.

I just received the November issue of COMPUTER SHOPPER. There continues to be good support of the 99/4A. This month, in a column by Randy Holcomb, there is some information on the MBX and a short demo of writing and reading disks by the sector. If you are interested in mail order, there are many ads to search for bargains. They are there.

Please remember to think about how you can serve your users group in the next year. Something to think about: Rumors of on-going 9900 type projects at TI persist. TI continues to give software away. What are their plans concerning the home computer market in the future?

See ya at the meeting-

LeRoy Thompson

#### NET 99'ER USERS GROUP MEETING

Oct. 13, 1984

President Leroy Thompson called the meeting to order and treasurer Charles Bathman presented a financial report, showing \$99.83 in the group's account.

Thompson reminded everyone of the programming contest. Programs, written in any language, should be developed around a Christmas theme and judging will be held at the next meeting, Nov. 3. Entries should be submitted to Thompson before the next meeting.

Reports from the Multiplan, Extended Basic and Assembly Special Interest Groups (SIGs) were given. It was announced that the Extended Basic group, however, was changing to a Forth SIG and it was recommended that some other user might want to start an Extended Basic group.

Thompson reported no problems with the restructured library system, and no users voiced any complaints about the three-library, loaner system.

Thompson also said StarText has added Delta Airlines schedules as part of its data base news service and still offers the same monthly fee.

He said he's also talked to Steve Roubik of Personal Peripherals, makers of the Super Sketch, and said that Steve is working on enhancements for the SS.

Thompson also reminded that election of new officers is in January, and he said he didn't want a second term so the group should be thinking of possible candidates.

Bathman also reported of two new deals for diskettes at \$12.50 a box for single-sided, double-density. Anyone interested should contact Bathman. It also was announced that several retail stores are holding clearance sales on TI software -- namely Wilson's in Northeast Mall and Toys 'R Us. Also, Sears in Red Bird Mall in Dallas reportedly has different cards for the FEB at low prices.

Bathman also had several programming books for half of retail prices, including Steve Davis' Programs for the TI and Introduction to Assembly Language. He also said he found a good disk drive repairman, Roger Hoggard -- 817-281-2608.

Member Larry Ulmer also demonstrated two disk manager cartridges that he's offering. One, a kit, has two menu options and sells for \$40 and the other, which offers four menu options, sells for \$75. He said he also can build double-sided, double-density disk controller cards and he sells them for \$150.

It also was announced that a company called SunWare is producing Extended Basic cartridges. The Lubbock company is expected to sell them for \$79.95 each.

After a buy, sell and swap session and a break, member Ron Cook gave a program on Pascal. The meeting then was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Clines

#### EDITOR'S NOTES

In that I had to miss the last meeting (I tried to play golf in the rain) I was not able to hear your comments on the ideas that were presented in the last newsletter, therefore no separate sections in this newsletter. A second and important reason is that there were no contributions from the membership. Please submit your renderings to me and I will edit, correct and do what else is necessary to make them printable. Any mistakes that appear in print are mine and nobody else can be blamed.

In the presidents column it was suggested that a name for the newsletter be found, I think this is a good idea, so everybody but your thinking caps on and submit a name at the next meeting.

DICK HATTON

#### FOUND

An honest company that three times has been found OK. Their work is guaranteed. Twice (with no problems) their guarantee has been called upon to make good work that had failed earlier.

Datilar Micro Service Center located at 740 Military Parkway Mesquite TX 75149; phone 214-289-1676 is made up of former PERCOM employees.

My latest experience with a recalcitrant disk drive picked up at a flea market prompts me to praise this 1 1/2 year old company. I purchased a DSDD disk drive at a flea market in an "as is" condition. One of my friends checked it out as OK--it didn't work on my system. A return visit to same friend revealed that it was now bad. Further diagnostics with an alignment disk resulted in destruction of the alignment disk. At this point I could see a bargain turning into an anchor or millstone.

After saving pennies for several months I took the disk drive to Datilar with the instructions "fix the ... thing." Two days later and \$30 later my disk drive works with my TI and a brand X computer. I feel that an honest shop that does good work at a reasonable price should be shared.

D L Swiedom

#### Charlie's Chatter

First of all, a hearty WELCOME to the following new members since our last meeting.

John Deluna  
1705 Granada Drive  
Arlington, Texas 76014  
467-3083

Jeff Gatlin  
2033 Tompkins  
Grand Prairie, Texas 75051  
(214) 264-2925

Ms. Vicki M. Muller  
1987 Colorado Blvd., Apt. A  
Denton, Texas 76205  
(817) 566-5064

Arthur K. Murray  
2638 Isbella Drive  
Grand Prairie, Texas 75051  
(214) 670-6256

John A. Nesburg  
514 Canyon Ridge  
Euless, Texas 76040  
267-0434

R.M. (Bob) Stephens  
521 Kelso Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75211  
(214) 339-3717

Michael R. Trombley  
2414 Finley Road, #201  
Irving, Texas 75062  
(214) 255-9832

Larry T. Ulmer  
1144 Bozman Road  
Wylie, Texas 75098  
(214) 442-3225

In addition to our new members, the following folks renewed their memberships.

Tom Brown  
Mike Bowen  
Bob Wallace  
Dave Swiedom  
Leon Dunning

Since not all our members are able to attend every meeting, I'd like to mention a few items to be sure every one gets the word.

We had three publications available for sale at the last meeting: "Programs For The TI Home Computer" by Steve Davis, "Introduction To Assembly Language For The TI Home Computer" by Ralph Molesworth and the "Smart Programming Guide For Sprites" by Craig Miller. A number of members, who had signed-up previously for these books, were not at the meeting to claim their copies. Below is a list of those who ordered books (By Title) and who have not yet claimed their copy.

"Programs For The TI Home Computer":  
A.L. Barringer  
Wayne Courtney  
Edwin Knutson  
Daniel Bernstein  
Mitch Connors

"Introduction To Assembly Language For The TI Home Computer":  
C. Capo  
J. Monterosso  
J.D. Mooney Les Long  
Norman Smith  
Bob Lindley  
Edwin Knutson  
Jim Crosson  
Leon Tersteeg  
Mike Cantu  
Curley Fields

"Smart Programming Guide For Sprites":  
Gayle Foster  
David Law  
Ward Ray  
Mike Brodie  
Kathleen Wilson

Unfortunately, a large number of our other members would also like to purchase these books. In order to be as fair as possible to all concerned, I have held out enough copies to cover those previous orders. The remaining copies, I sold.

IF YOUR NAME APPEARS ABOVE AND YOU WANT THE BOOK YOU ORDERED:-

-----CALL ME (284-5147) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND TELL ME TO HOLD YOUR COPY.

-----BE SURE TO BE AT THE NEXT MEETING TO PAY FOR AND PICK UP YOUR BOOK(S). OR HAVE SOMEONE ELSE PICK IT UP FOR YOU.

IF YOU DON'T call me before the next meeting and if you don't pick up your book(s) at the next meeting, I will have to sell them to one of the folks on the waiting list. PS: I will mail your book(s) to you if you wish.

On To Other Subjects!!!!!!

Recently, I've had two occasions to have work done on disk drives. Both involved alignment problems, one occurred after cleaning the head TOO MUCH!!!! So Beware. Anyway . . .

A gentleman by the name of Roger Hoggard appears to be our local disk drive repair guru. Roger has worked on disk drives for two of our members and we've heard nothing but GREAT words about his work. So if your disk drives are acting up, call Roger at SDF-TEX at (817)281-2608.

Although Roger is a Commodore man at heart (We're working on a conversion), he has a TI 99/4A console, Navaronne's Disk-Fixer program and the necessary diagnostic disks to do the job. However, Roger would prefer to work on your disk drive in conjunction with your PEB so that he can access the drive and check its operation through your controller card. He is also setting up the necessary extras to work on DS/DD drives. Roger's fees are very

reasonable, his work is speedy and he gives a 90 Day Warranty. He'll also make House Calls if necessary.

Since we have a number of very new members, there have been numerous requests and questions like, "What do I really need in the way of equipment to use my TI?", or "I'm really confused about some of the stuff that is said or demonstrated at the meetings, is there a simple explanation of all of it, its uses, . . .?" and so on. Well, we think that it's time for a repeat of two things we did last year, just about this time.

First, at our next meeting, we will have an in-depth discussion, aimed primarily at our new and very new TI 99/4A computer users, in which we will endeavor to answer those questions and solve those problems that are so perplexing to the new user. Lest we forget, many of these problems and questions bothered us Old Heads when we first started out.

SO . . . If you're a new member of our group, a new TI 99/4A owner or know one of these fine folks, come or invite them to come to our November 3rd meeting, with questions and problems in hand, and we'll try our best to answer the questions and start them off in the right direction.

Secondly, it's about time for another round of BASIC classes. As we did last Fall, we will have a Basic tutorial class, one evening every week for about 8 weeks. This year, there will be no textbook. We will try a little different approach and work strictly from the BEGINNERS BASIC manual and the USERS REFERENCE GUIDE that come with the computer. We will have to limit the class to about 25 folks from the ages of 16 and up. The younger folks will have their chance after the first of the year. Classes will be held at or near the Hurst Public Library, will last about two hours per session and will probably be on either Tuesday or Thursday evening, starting at 7 PM.

Hopefully there will be no charge for this course unless we must rent the Library. If we do rent the library we will ask for a small donation to cover the rental costs.

If you wish to attend, contact me for details, PRIOR TO THE NOVEMBER MEETING, at 284-5147 (6 PM to 9 PM only, please).

Here are a couple of bargains for folks who are just setting up their Peripheral Expansion Box.

FOR SALE:-

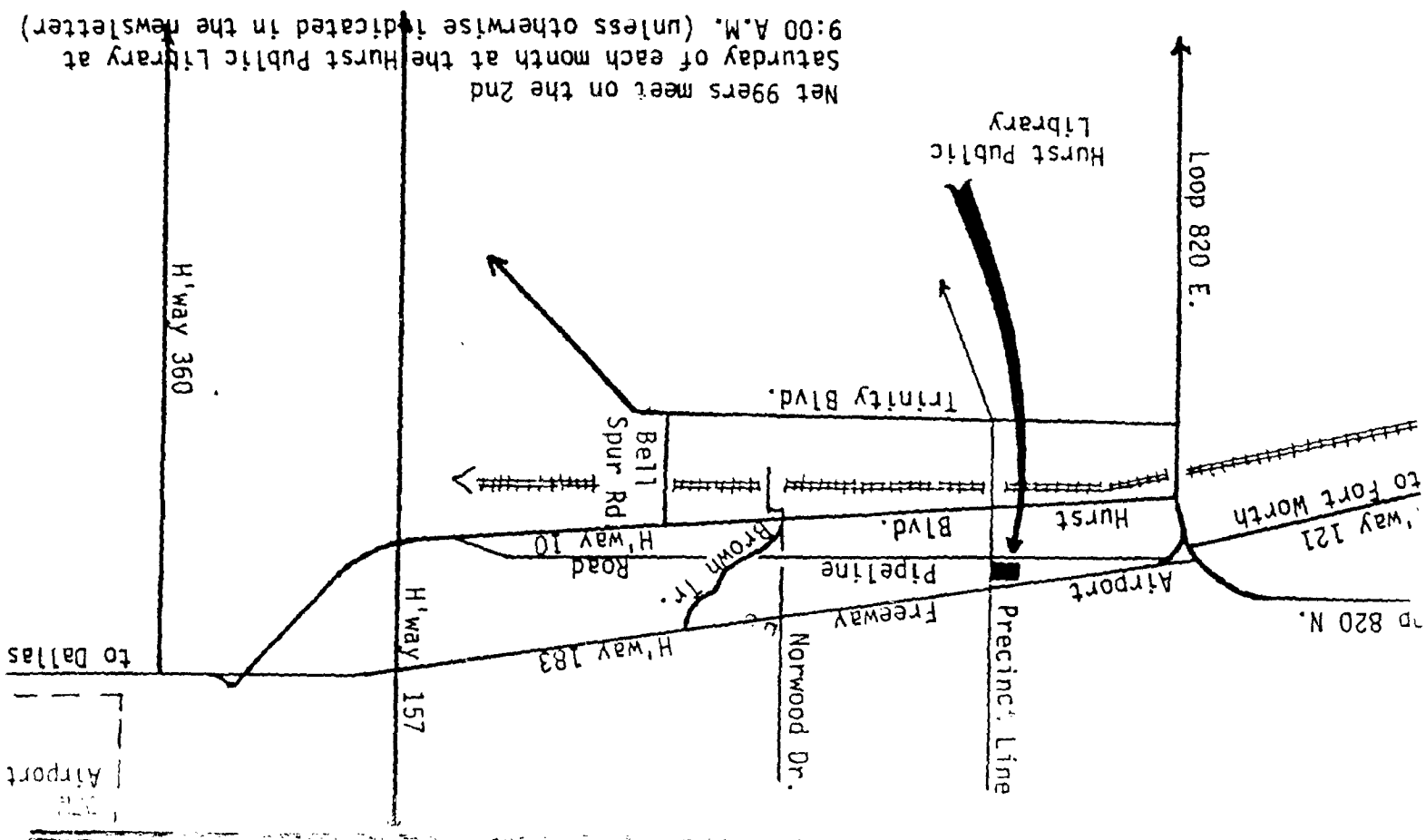
TI DISK CONTROLLER CARD  
Brand New \$80.00  
Call Joyce Williams at  
(Home) (214) 494-5844  
or (Work) 995-1907

FOR SALE:-

TI DISK CONTROLLER CARD and TANDON  
DISK DRIVE - \$200.00  
In excellent working order  
Call Charlie Pathman at  
(Work) 282-2557 or 264-5147  
(Home 6-9 PM)

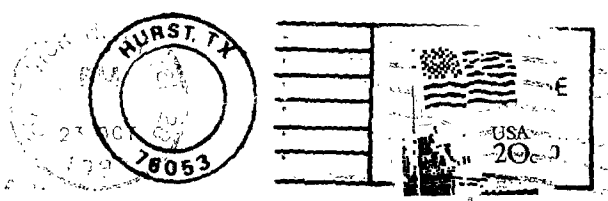
Now here's a real bargain for all of you who have wanted to get double sided/double density, 1/2 high disk drives. Our group has a source that has made available Shugart SA 455 drives at approximately \$153.00 each, tax included, if we can order 10 at one time. If you are interested, call me and I'll start a listing. When I get 10 orders, I'll call our source and order them. We will have to pay "up-front", so be prepared to pay when I call and say that the drives are available.

Well, that's it for this month. See you on November 3rd.



Net 99ers meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Hurst Public Library at 9:00 A.M. (unless otherwise indicated in the newsletter)

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