

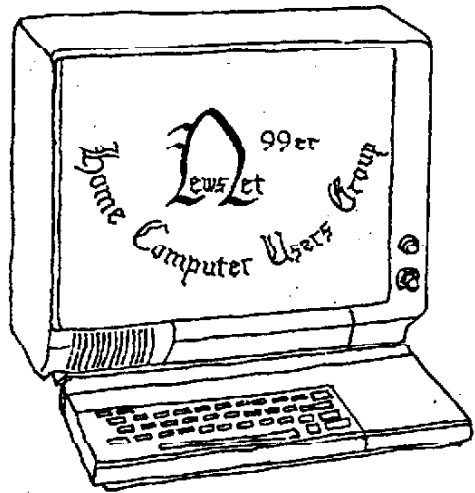
JAN 85

**President**  
**Larry Williams**

**Vice-President**  
**Jo Lambert**

**Secretary**  
**Charles Clines**

**Treasurer**  
**Charles Bathman**



**Editor**  
**Gary Fuquay**

**Reproduction Staff:**

**Sam Heller**

**Marilee Catalano**

////////////////////////////////////  
 VOLUME 3 NUMBER 1 January 1985  
 //////////////////////////////////////

**Presidents Page**

For those of you who weren't at the last meeting, my name is Larry Williams and I am your new president. I'm sure you all agree that Leroy did an excellent job during the past year and his contribution is certainly appreciated by all!!

**This year's officers are:**

Jo Lambert - Vice President  
 Charles Clines - Secretary  
 Charles Bathman - Treasurer  
 Gary Fuquay - Editor

**Reproduction Staff:**

Marilee Catalano  
 Sam Weller

**Librarians:**

Mike Maier - East Library(214-264-7762)  
 Gerry Myers - Central Library(834-6138)  
 Robert Scarborough - West Library(244-0389)

**Assistant Librarians:**

Mike Cantu(461-1769)  
 Clint Joplin(439-3388)  
 James Crosson(281-4868)

We will be reviewing the locations of our libraries in the next few weeks to determine whether or not they match the distribution of our membership.

Within a few minutes after becoming president several members indicated to me that we have some problems in the area of library locations. In some cases where a small group of people are located a long distance from the nearest library, I would like to suggest that two things be done. First, the small group should bring their personal libraries up to date. Second, the head librarian can give an update package (additions only) to a representative of the remote group who is in attendance at the monthly meeting and pick up from him the previous month's update package. This solution would have a relatively small impact on disk requirements since an update package should not be more than 10-15 disks for any given month.

Our new head librarian will not operate a lending library. If you call him, he will direct you to another librarian.

For those of you who joined the group in February, don't forget to renew your membership (that includes me..)

Last week I finally made a trip over to Sabet Electronics in North Dallas (literally in the shadow of Texas Instruments). For electronics tinkerers its a REAL BLAST! They have TI99/4A keypads packed 10 to a carton for \$22.50 (Not for one...for 10!)

Remember, we are working on a Valentines theme disk for the next meeting, so program some music and/or graphics and bring it with you. We will try to compile them before the 14th.

```
***
**
* *
** ** *
** * * *
* * * *
* * *
* * *
* *
* *
*
***
*
*
```

See, it's not hard. I know you can do it.

If any of you have a disk drive that we can use for the meetings please let me know. I have all of the equipment needed except a controller card and a disk drive. Gerry Myers has agreed to loan his controller card.

Remember that the next meeting is February 9, at the Hurst Public Library.

Larry Williams

NET 99er HOME COMPUTER USER'S GROUP

Jan. 12, 1985

The Net 99er Home Computer User's Group met Saturday, Jan. 12, 1985. President Leroy Thompson called the meeting to order. A correction was made in the last minutes. Jim Yingst is replacing Mike Meier as a librarian. Charles Bathman gave a treasurer's report.

Editor Dick Hatton is transferring to Albuquerque and Gary Fuquay will take over that position.

It was announced that Feb. 9 will be the date for the next meeting.

A Valentine project was suggested, using any language. Call Gerry Myers for help.

It was announced that Radio Shack carries an RF modulator for the TI and it's priced at \$4.95. A new paper also was shown -- Texas Computer User. Bob Wallace has access to them.

An election of new officers was held and Larry Williams was voted to succeed Leroy Thompson as president. Other officers were: Jo Lambert, vice president; Charles Clines, secretary, and Charles Bathman, treasurer. It also was determined to have more than one editor. Charles Bathman will be in charge of the mail section, Sam Weller will be in charge of reproduction. Assisting Weller will be Marilee Catalano. Assisting Gary Fuquay as editor will be Bill Duncan.

Bill Duncan accepted the role as chief librarian, taking over for Gerry Myers.

A raffle was held and a TI Logo II software package was given away. Dick Webber closed the program with a demonstration of the PLATO education software series.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Lambert, substitute

TI Runner  
Review by Bob Webber

TI Runner by E/A software is one of the best games made for the TI-99/4A. Although the graphics in it may not be as good in Runner as they are in other games, they are adequate for the game. You start out with 3 men. You gain a new one every time you clear one of the 50 screens in this game. your objective is simple. Try to get all of the treasures on the screen and then advance to the next screen. The only problem is, there are three guards on each screen. Even though you are faster than the guards, you can still be trapped in between two of them. You do have some means of protection. When you press the fire button on the joystick, a hole is made in the ground behind your man. The guards can fall into the holes you make, but the holes will eventually fill up, lifting the guards out. If you are trapped in your own hole, you will die when the hole fills up. There is a way to get to the higher screens, but I am not going to tell that to you. That would spoil the game. My personal best is the 8th level, which is not that great. If you can beat it let me know, and I'll tell you how to get to the higher screens. Good luck!

Editors Comment

Well, here we go! starting off a new year, with a new president, vice-president, and a new format and logo for the NEWS NET 99er! I hope the new format is acceptable to every one. Please feel free to express your opinion to me, that is the only way I'll know if there is something that needs to be changed.

Thanks to Kenneth Fuquay, my son, who donated his time to design our logo. If any of you can use his services in other areas, contact him at (817)283-2354. His address is 2917 Highgate Lane, Bedford, Tx. 76021.

Gary Fuquay, Editor  
408 Milam Dr.  
Euless, Tx. 76039  
(817)267-2510

## TIMELESS TECHNICAL TIPS

While reading thru the multitude of newsletters that we receive from other groups, I saw several interesting articles. The first is from the Chester County 99ers (I wish that I knew where Chester County was--I didn't copy the rest of the newsletter). They give a good tip on connecting a second drive. It follows. In some installations when the resistor pack is removed, per the TI instructions, drive 1 will not respond when addressed. In order to get drive one to respond it is necessary to insert a 150 ohm 1/8 or 1/4 watt resistor between pins 5 and 10 of the resistor pack socket.

I will be glad to help you determine which pins in the socket are 5 and 10 if you need the help. He goes on to say that guessing wrong will not damage the drive or the controller. But, continued use with multiple resistor packs will overload the controller shortening its life.

Another quirk that came to my attention after reading the newsletter from the Johnson Space Center UG. I discovered what really happened not too long ago using our very own mail list program. I was updating to print the membership list and had managed to get thru 220 of the 221 records only to achieve a file error and subsequent crash. After an hour of thrashing around, I tried what I should have in the first place--shortening the name in the pointer file. It worked. Now, I had to know why. The name in question was no where near the 40 limit of the file specification. Examination of the file on the disk with DISKO finally led to the answer. When a numeric variable (the pointer to the main record) is stored, it takes 8 bytes regardless of its size. I had a few numbers and a bunch of zeros before the name appeared. A future update of the mail list will include a STR\* command to convert the numeric variable to a string (which will take 4 bytes) before printing it to the disk file. The reverse or VAL command will be used when reading the resulting data. The result was one well-learned lesson.

I received a call from a non member who needs some help that I could not provide. He purchased some used equipment including Extended Basic. He did not get the book with it. If anyone wants to sell an extra copy, his name is Garry Geer and phone is 275-0575.

From the experimenter's XBASIC column in the LEHIGH 99ers newsletter written by Frederick Hawkins comes the following. I think we need to take it in small doses. His first program is called WHEW4. This program tries to tell the computer there's up to 255 sprites buzzing around. There isn't, of course; you can only have 32. This routine alters location >B37A (-31878). [this is the number of sprites in motion]. This location exists in the console's GPL status block. Several points that he brought out are: a) Sprites don't move because the video chip is moving them. b) Sprite motion is directed by the console ROM (yup sprites should be available in BASIC. c) The interrupt processing routine doesn't do much error checking--it just calculates the sprite's increment and writes it back out. The interrupt occurs every 1/60 of a second, and because this routine

reads from the VDP, calculates and finally writes, it is SLOW. The more sprites, the slower things get; try setting only the 28th sprite in motion and see how much XB slows down. This routine is also the reason we have the lag when sprites change direction. Back to where we were. This routine sets the base number to a range from 32 to 255. That is it tries to. As the console interrupt calculates the apparent sprite positions it eventually writes past the character color table, past the character patterns and into BASIC's number area, either the floating point or maybe the variables themselves. The loop's limit, increment and the loop counter get clobbered and BASIC figures it is finished long about 125. In the meantime, you get to watch the auto-motion routine move through the VDP. WARNING \*\*\* SAVE first -- this program crashes.

```
1 ! WHEW4
2 CALL CLEAR :: PRINT "SET COLORS" :: FOR A=1 TO 12 :: CALL
COLOR(A,16,4) :: NEXT A
3 PRINT "BUILD THE STR$" :: FOR A=0 TO 254 :: A$=A$&CHR$(A)
:: NEXT A
4 PRINT "SHOW ALL CHARS" :: FOR A=0 TO 31 STEP 2 ::
B=1+(A*B) :: DISPLAY AT(A/2+3,3):SEG$(A$,B,8);" ";SEG$(A$,B+8,8)
:: NEXT A
5 PRINT "ANY KEY TO TEST CALL LOAD"
6 CALL KEY(0,K,S) :: IF S=0 THEN 6
7 CALL INIT :: FOR B=31 TO 125 :: CALL LOAD(-31878,B)
8 DISPLAY AT(14,5)SIZE(-5)BEEP:B :: NEXT B
9 ! CALL LOAD (-31878,0)
10 ACCEPT AT(14,13)SIZE(-1):A$
11 CALL LOAD(-31878,0)
```

If this proves to be popular, there are several other programs from the same source.

This next item comes to us from the SUN COAST BEEPER and the article was written by Jean Wilcox. She writes of the problem concerning TI-writer when it fails to center properly. I know that I have had that problem and could find no explanation for it at the time. The article states that the formatter will incorrectly center when you use the DEFAULT margin settings. In other words, you had better specify '.LM X and .RM X' or the FORMATTER will fail to properly interpret your desire to center the heading. I can vouch for that. This sounds like a handy tip.

Other projects in the making include a light pen which plugs in the joystick port. This idea comes from the Atlanta newsletter. There is very little information with the diagram and obviously software support will be needed, but there is much promise for such a device.

LeRoy Thompson