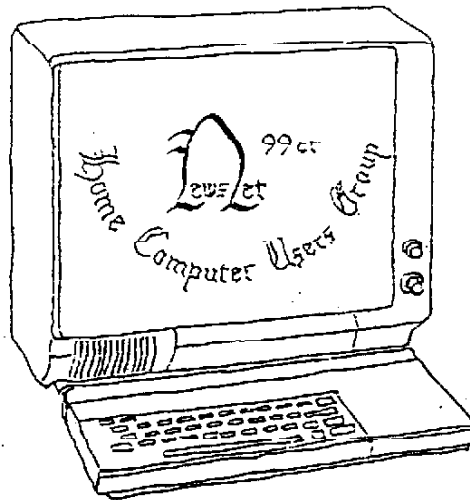


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March 1985

President's Page

As I read Charles Bathman's column in the March newsletter I felt right at home. My thoughts at times are hard to follow. So please don't give up, we may find some order, yet. I know that was the longest meeting I have ever attended. My mind kept me in that meeting for the rest of the weekend. I have listened to speakers and wondered why there were side conversations going on as this did make it hard to hear what was being said by the speaker. I apologize for being one of those persons. In my efforts to be on top of things I did let my attention wander away from the speakers. Please join with me in an effort to be considerate of our speakers and really listen to what they have to tell us.

I would like to welcome James Crosson as our new vice-president. James Crosson will attend to all our needs at the meeting concerning membership and any visitors to be recognized. If you have a visitor you would like to be recognized please make a note of name, address and any other thoughts and give to James Crosson. Membership applications and renewals should also be given to James. Please make a note of a change of address or telephone number and give this to James also.

A compliment was given to the club by a visitor from Temple. A Mr. Charles Moore expressed a very sincere compliment and a fact that we are known as far away as Athens, Greece. In answer to a question from Mr. Moore, it cost \$3.00 for a monthly newsletter. I hope Mr. Frank Cross will pass this on to Mr. Moore.

Congratulations to King D. Bell for winning the Multiplan. I wish it could have been me.

Our program for April 13 will be a presentation by Gerry Barker of STARTEXT. April meeting will be April 13, 1985.

NET 99ER HOME COMPUTER USERS GROUP

March 9, 1985

President Jo Lambert called the meeting to order, and Treasurer Charles Bathman followed with a financial report. After expenditures and income, the club had \$429.02 in its account last month.

Members voted to have Bathman seek a good deal on disk drives for the CorComp expansion system that the club has purchased.

James Crosson was installed as vice president by a vote of the members.

Bill Duncan made a motion that the club purchase name tags with officers' positions and names, and the motion was passed.

There was little news from the SIGs (Special Interest Groups), however, it was announced that the Assembly Language SIG would resume meeting at the First Baptist Church at the corner of Loop 820 and Haltom Road. The group usually meets the first Tuesday after the regular Users Group meeting.

Mike Bowen reported that there hasn't been much interest lately in the Multiplan SIG group, and that if the next meeting isn't any better that it would be disbanded.

Following a swap and sell session, Gerry Myers requested everyone who had Call Load statements to send them to him so he can compile a list of them for the group.

Larry Ulmer then showed the group a 99/8, the computer everyone expected II to come out with before the company went out of the home computer business. He also showed a new card for the expansion box that could combine several programs.

A drawing was held for a Multiplan software package and King D. Bell won.

Leroy Thompson demonstrated a mirror utility program and Disk-Aid, a disk utility program that costs \$20.

He also demonstrated a disk-based program, Sketch Mate, that allows saving Super Sketch drawings to disk and dumping them to a printer. It requires the Navarone Widget, Editor-Assembler cartridge and memory expansion to operate.

The next meeting was announced for April 13 at 9 a.m. at the Hurst Public Library.

TIMELESS TECHNICAL TIPS

Once again I have been reading from the wealth of other newsletters that we receive. This is one of our greatest resources and I have chosen to quote some of the more interesting data here.

There is a good article on disk drive doctoring in the Central Iowa 99/4A UG Newsletter written by Ron Rutledge. His article has good pictures accompanying it which might not reproduce well here so I will only refer it to you. He tours you around a typical Shugart full-size drive, pointing out areas of interest. He explains how to set the speed using a bare minimum of tools. If you have an interest in this area, I recommend that you look up the January 85 issue in our newsletter collection.

Since publishing one of the WHEW series from the Lehigh newsletter, the response has been amazing--aka zilch. I thought that it was interesting and worth sharing. It would be nice to hear at least some comments on it.

This subject comes to us from Topics written by the LA 99ers. Did you really realize the power of the basic console? It is quite powerful without even loading one teeny little program. It will sort a list with almost no effort.

This requires a little thought and planning, but it is neat. You enter the names in random order using the ID number for a line number in the form: 12345 REM John Jones. When finished entering, you simply type LIST and you are sorted in numerical order. It's something to think about.

The sheet I picked up from the table at our last meeting on Myarc products looked quite interesting. These products are more than just TI clones. The 32/128K card comes with software to implement a RAM disk or print spooler. Both of these sound handy. The Myarc double density disk controller card will read/write in THREE densities (including 18 sectors/track--CorComp). In addition to these functions, it will allow you to call a directory subprogram. This is a feature similar to the DOS on PCs. It sounds nice.

If anyone owns either of these cards, please share with the group your experiences. We would all appreciate it.

Another request for sharing: If anyone of our members is a subscriber to CompuServe, would you consider sharing the TI-type data with us thru News Net 99er? I know there is a lot available that we would enjoy learning.

While this isn't exactly a technical matter, it does deserve our attention. We have received another batch of FREEWARE. This time it is from JET Software (a.k.a. John E. Taylor). John is the past president of the North Alabama 99er User Group and had previously marketed his programs thru CMS in Huntsville, Alabama. Since CMS is

no longer in business, John decided to release his programs into the public domain. He sent us two disks full of excellent Extended Basic and Basic programs. These programs are very professionally done and encompass games, educational games and music. His graphics are outstanding in all of the programs that I have looked at. These programs will show up in our library soon, if not this month. I would like to offer a big thank-you to John from the NET 99ers.

LeRoy Thompson

CHARLIE'S CHATTER

Well, another month has gone by and I'm about to get behind again. So, lest we have this month's column at the end of next month's column, I'd better get started.

Every once in a while, it's good to rehash some old stuff. So . . . later in this newsletter you'll find a one page supplement entitled TI GOOD STUFF (TIGS). TIGS has names, addresses, phone numbers, etc. of people and places every TI-99/4A owner needs to keep handy. We've made it a single full sheet so you can remove it from your newsletter and put it some place you're sure to forget it. While TIGS may be a little sparse at first, we hope to continue to add names and info to it as they can be developed. So, if YOU have a good piece of useful TI-99/4A trivia, please call me at 282-2557 (before 9:00 PM, please) and I'll add your tidbit to the TIGS. We plan to update TIGS quarterly.

By the time you read this newsletter, the NET 99ers H.C.U.G. will be the proud owners of a CorComp 9900 Expansion System. We have also purchased two CANNON, 2/3 height, Double Sided, Double Density, disk drives. Now all we need is for some Philanthropic Soul to donate a case and power supply and our system will be complete. Any Daddy War Bucks out there? Well, how about anybody who might have some used equipment. We'll even buy 'em (if we have to). Seriously Folks, keep your eyes open for a good deal for the group so we can finally have our own "full-up" system and quit wearing out individual members equipment.

Speaking of equipment . . .

Shortly after I finished last month's column, my Gemini 10 printer decided it didn't like ribbons (typewriter type, that is) and began spitting it out as soon as I could get it rethreaded. Every time it started printing, the ribbon would be ejected upward from its normal home in front of the print head. In addition when it did retain the ribbon for more than 5 seconds at a clip, there would be a black "drag mark" left on the paper as the printer printed and moved from line to line. After attempting all sorts of adjustments of print head position, rethreading, etc., I broke down and called A to Z Printer Parts, our local "Authorized STAR MICRONICS Parts, Sales and Service" folks who we had just located and spoken of in our last newsletter.

After calling and talking to Wallace Harrison, their Senior Service Representative, I decided to take my little ribbon spitter in for repairs. A to Z's location is quite easily accessible from our area (See TIGS) and shortly I arrived at a very friendly little backyard shop complete with a very professional Wallace Harrison acting, not only in his official capacity of Senior Service Representative, but also as technician, marketing manager and office staff as well.

In no time at all, Mr. Harrison had, as Senior Service Representative, diagnosed the problem as trouble with the jewels (a displaced ruby in the print head), as technician, replaced the print head, installed a new PROM (gratis for early serial number Gemini 10s), done a little adjusting here and there and cleaned Old Dusty up just great, as marketing manager, sold me a 4K additional buffer for No Longer Spitty, as technician, installed said buffer and ran an extensive series of diagnostic tests and, as office staff, prepared my bill, took my check and sent me on my way, all within one hour. I was very impressed with everything about A to Z Printer Parts, my Gemini 10 was very impressed and my pocketbook was pressed a little thinner.

I've asked Mr. Harrison to be a guest at one of our very near meetings and to give us a short dissertation on the Full Gemini line of both Dot Matrix and Daisy Wheel printers as well as a few words of wisdom on The Care and Feeding of Your Gemini Printer. We hope to see him at our May meeting. I guarantee his presentation will be well worth listening to and that here's the fellow to care for your Gemini's ills.

Speaking of meetings . . .

Gerry Barker of STARTEXT will be our guest speaker at our April 13th meeting. Gerry will present a review and demonstration of Version 3. Along with the STARTEXT folks, members of our own group will provide a demonstration of using various terminal emulator programs, modems and peripherals to Upload and Download files and programs from BBS, computer users and, of course STARTEXT. All in all, it should be a great meeting and hopefully will tell you "Everything You Always Wanted To Know About STARTEXT and Telecommunicating with your TI 99/4A.

I'd like to welcome the following new NET 99er members since our March meeting:

James Cowan
2617 Greenwood Court
Bedford, Texas 76021
283-2980

Timothy Kelly
7300 Levitt Court
Fort Worth, Texas 76148
656-4407

Joshua Fritz
Route 4, Box 2282
Cleburne, Texas 76031
(817) 645-5697

Ken Ward
1221 Crestview
Hurst, Texas 76053
284-0013

J.B. Hamilton
P.O. Box 7543
Fort Worth, Texas 76111
498-5012

Likewise, I'd like to congratulate the following members for renewing their memberships:

Fulton Cook

Jahn Creviston

Tom Hall

Les Long

Joe Monterosso

Marc Robinson

Robert Scarborough

Jon Tergerson

Jo Nell Thompson

April, 1985, marks the second anniversary of the NET 99ers. Happy Birthday to all 275 of our members representing 231 TI 99/4A computing families.

One of the suggestions most recently discussed was the potential need for a Group Historian. Now would certainly be the time to start to compile an ongoing chronicle of our group's doings and historical achievements. I have a complete personal set of NET 99er Newsletters starting with the first letter written in an attempt to get our group going. There's got to be a budding Historian in our midst who'd love to volunteer.

Speaking of volunteers, I want to thank Ken Dominec and his wife for their offer to help. Ken is now the Newsletter Librarian and as such will be maintaining the library of all the newsletters that we receive from other Users' Groups. Pat Dominec is our Prospective Member secretary and is in charge of sending out a Prospective Members Package to those folks who indicate an interest in our group. If you know the name of someone who might be interested in joining the NET 99ers or just happen to see or meet a fellow TI 99/4A owner at some store, gathering or what-have-you, just call Pat at (817) 656-1473 and give her the persons name and address. She'll send them a membership package and we'll also put them on our newsletter mailing list for three months.

Well, I think that about wraps it up for this month. Hope to see you at the 13 April meeting. The program will be great, we hope to have a little something worthy of your donations. Happy Computing.

Charlie b.

TI GOOD STUFF

(TIGS)

NET 99ER OFFICERS AND STAFF:

President:-----JO LAMBERT (817) 232-8306
Vice President:--JAMES CROSSON (817) 281-4868
Secretary:-----CHARLES CLINES (817) 485-0407
Treasurer:-----CHARLIE BATHMAN (817) 284-5147

NET 99er STAFF:

Newsletter Editor:-----GARY FUQUAY (817) 267-2510
Prospective Memberships:--PAT DOMINIEC (817) 656-1473
Group Equipment:-----CHARLIE BATHMAN (817) 284-5147
Meeting Facilities:-----BILL DUNCAN (817) 498-0587

NET 99er LIBRARY STAFF:

Chief Librarian:-----JIM YINGST (817) 478-1998 - Arlington, TX.
Asst. Chief Librarian:---JOHN CREVISTON (214) 659-1912 - Irving, TX.
Central Library:-----GERRY MYERS (817) 834-6138 - Haltom City,
TX.
East Library:-----DANNY THOMAS (214) 255-1213 - Irving, TX.
West Update Library:-----ROBERT SCARBOROUGH (817) 244-0389 - Ft.
Worth, TX.
Cassette Library:-----MICHAEL TROMBLEY (214) 255-9832 - Irving,
TX.
Volunteer Librarian:-----JAMES CROSSON (817) - N. Richland Hills,
TX.
Volunteer Librarian:-----CLINT JOPLIN (817) 439-3388 - Haslet, TX.
Volunteer Librarian:-----MIKE CANTU (817) 461-1769 - Arlington, TX.
Newsletter Librarian:---KEN DOMINIEC (817) 656-1473 - Fort Worth,
TX.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS):

Assembly Language SIG:---OPEN - We need a Assembly Language SIG Leader

MULTIPLAN SIG:-----MIKE BOWEN (817) 571-4956

FORTH SIG:-----CHARLES CLINES (817) 485-0407

Graphics SIG:-----CHARLIE BATHMAN (817) 284-5147

GENERAL NOTES and INFORMATION:

Phone numbers listed are home phone numbers. Please call at reasonable hours and not later than 9 PM at night unless prior arrangements have been made.

TI COMPUTER and EQUIPMENT REPAIR

The TI EXCHANGE CENTER continues to provide exchange service on all TI 99/4A Computers, TI Peripherals and most TI software for the 99/4A. The Exchange Center will only exchange inoperable items for new ones, at a price. They do not sell items retail. It is recommended that you call them at (214) 680-5032 prior to taking items in for exchange. The Center is located in Richardson, Texas. To get there; go North from Dallas on Highway 75 or Central Expressway, past I 635, also called LBJ Freeway which is the easiest route to use from Ft. Worth (get on I 635 at the North end of DFW Airport and go East until you intersect Highway 75). Take Highway 75 North of I 635 and exit at Campbell Road. Go Right (East) on Campbell Road about one half mile to the TI EXCHANGE CENTER which is on the North side of Campbell Road.

DISK DRIVE SERVICE:

SOF-TEX which is operated by Roger Hoggard can provide diagnosis, cleaning, alignment and repair of your five and one quarter inch single and double sided disk drives. Roger's work is professional, properly priced and carries a 90 day warranty. Please bring your disk drives and your PEB so Roger can check out both the controller as well as the drives. Call (817) 281-2608 for an appointment. Roger works in his home but will make house calls for an additional fee. To get to Roger's shop, take 820 North to Rufe Snow, go North on Rufe Snow to Oak Lawn which is the first East/West street North of Chapman Road. Turn Left or West (the only way you can turn) on Oak Lawn and go two blocks to Mickey Drive. Turn right (North) on Mickey Drive and go to 6820 Mickey Drive which is on the East side of the street. Be sure to tell Roger you're with the NET 99ers.

PRINTER SERVICE:

A to Z PRINTER PARTS is the Authorized STAR MICRONICS Parts, Sales

and Service facility in our local area and is located at 910 N. Irving Heights, Irving, Texas 75061. Operated by Wallace Harrison from 08:30 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday and by appointment on Saturdays, A to Z has proved that it can handle any Gemini service, upgrade or problem you may encounter. Call Mr. Harrison at (214) 438-5383 to set up an appointment. To get to their shop, take the North/South leg of Loop 12 on Dallas's East side and exit at Union Bower which is two exits South of Airport Freeway (Highway 183). Go West on Union Bower approximately 3 blocks to the Stop sign at Irving Heights. Turn Left (South), curving slightly SouthEast to the Stop Sign. Go straight through the intersection. On the East side of the street (Irving Heights) you will notice a large house with a white fence connecting with a chain-link fence. Follow the fences Southbound and turn Left (East) into the first drive way at the end of the chain-link fence. Proceed into the driveway to the small shop in the rear. Be sure to tell Mr. Harrison that you are with the NET 99ers.

ELECTRONIC PARTS:

DELTA ELECTRONICS, INC. is your alternative to Radio Shack and they usually have just what you want at a very reasonable price. Located in the Bedford/Hurst area, take Bedford Euless Road, about four blocks West of Brown Trail. They are located on the South side of Bedford Euless Road in a small strip mall at 305 Bedford Euless Road, Hurst, Texas 76053. You may wish to call them first at (817) 268-4800 to see if they have what you want. Remember to tell them you're a NET 99er.

MAGAZINES and PUBLICATIONS:

MICROpendium is the only mini newspaper dedicated completely to the care and feeding of the II 99/4A Home Computer and their owners. EXCELLENT and A MUST. \$15.00 for 12 issues by Third Class mail, \$18.50 by First Class mail. Texas residents add 5.125% sales tax. Write; MICROpendium, P.O. Box 1343, Round Rock, Texas 78680.

The SMART PROGRAMMER is another MUST by Craig Miller of Miller's Graphics. A programmer's dream covering Basic, Extended Basic, Assembly Language and FORTH. \$12.50 per year. Write; MILLERS GRAPHICS, 1475 W. Cypress Avenue, San Dimas, California 91773.

TRADERS PAGE

For Sale:

2 Printers

\$100 Ea.

1 Centronics-model 779 6 print sizes 80/132 col.

2 Radio Shack line printer VII par/ser, 7/8 bit, graphics

Norm Smith 496-6077