President

Jo Lambert

Vice-President

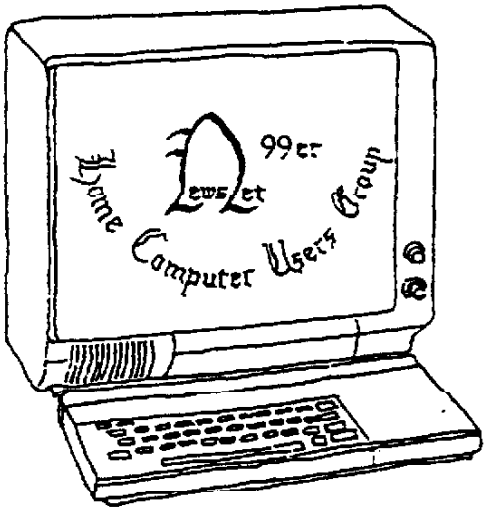
James Crosson

Secretary

Charles Clines

Treasurer

Charles Bathman



Editor

Gary Fuquay

Reproduction Staff:

Sam Weller

Marilee Catalano

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 4 April 1985

Northeast Texas Home Computer User's Group

Devoted to the

TI-99/4A

Presidents Page

Springtime is here and the grass is growing. Hope we don't lose anyone because of a need to mow the grass. We couldn't have asked for a better turnout at the April meeting.

A great big thanks to Christine Russell for her presentation about STARTEXT. I did not realize we had so many using STARTEXT. A good price considering the time that you can be on line. I am enjoying the Starmail very much.

A thanks also to the many members who renewed their membership. With the additional new members we are continueing to grow. We welcome the new members and hope we can share with them information, assistance and good fellowship.

I know we owe a thanks to James Crosson. He certainly stayed busy at the membership table.

I hope with the addition of Danny Thomas as a librarian that we have made it easier for the people living toward Dallas. A thanks to Danny and his sister for taking on the library.

Jim Yingst and John Creviston are due a thank you for all their work on the library.

Congratulations to Ruth Neidholt for winning Super Sketch.

Program for May will be presented by Sam Weller and it will be a video presentation of a Chicago Computer Fair by Don Bynum. We will also have a demonstration on Star printers if possible.

Next month's meeting will be at a new time and date: Sunday, May 5th, at 2:00 p.m.

Jo Lambert

==========

NET 99er HOME COMPUTER USERS GROUP
Minutes, April 13, 1985

President Jo Lambert called the meeting to order, and treasurer Charlie Bathman followed with a financial report. He said the group had $513.81 in its account, but said that about $300 will be spent for the disk drive and case for the CorComp 9900 system that will be used at the monthly meetings, and also by the head librarian.

Christine Russell of StarText was the guest, and gave a demonstration of the Star-Telegram's online news service.

She said future plans for StarText included Special Interest Groups, and StarText currently is negotiating to add an encyclopedia among its information services.

Electronic mail, uploading and downloading were among the StarText features demonstrated.

A buy, sell and swap session followed.

It was announced that a BBS (bulletin board service) for 4A users now is in operation in Dallas. The number is 214-995-3054, and it usually is in operation from about 4:30 p.m. until 7 a.m. on weekdays and 24 hours on weekends.

The East branch of the group's library is now being operated by Danny Thomas of Irving. His phone number is 214-255-1213.

After a drawing was held for a SuperSketch, 13 Home Computer magazines , tennis balls, golf balls and carpentry aprons were auctioned.

It was announced that Gail Foster plans to hold Basic classes for children and adults in the near future. More information will be given at the next meeting.

Treasurer Bathman said a suggestion box had been proposed, and added that sessions for beginning users of the 4A are being considered.

President Lambert then adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charles Clines, Secretary

==========

TIMELESS TECHNICAL TIPS

I hate to start off this way, but when you make mistakes, you have to confess sooner or later. In the last newsletter, I thanked John Taylor and mentioned that he had been president of the Northern Alabama TI Users'Group. I was WRONG. He has been president of the Shoals 99ers in Florence, Alabama. I apologize to John.

There is nothing concrete to report on this time--I can only tell you how good it's going to be. There are two projects that are on the burner here. The first is a replacement connector for the GROM (that's the cartridge) port. The original connector is either tin or nickel-plated and on one of mine the tin is worn thru to the copper. This results in poor contact some of the time. At the request of a STARTEXT reader, I am researching a good replacement connector for us to use. I am looking for one with gold-plated contacts to increase the lifetime. Watch this space for further developments.

When I attended the "Computer and Camera Fair" (notice the quotes)

several weeks ago I was able to purchase a couple of interesting items. The first was a numeric key pad. I plan to add this to one of my remote keyboards to enable easier numeric entries. I need only to find a suitable box for the main keyboard and the number pad. Then it is a straightforward job to parallel the switch contacts for like keys. Then presto! it looks even more like a pc(notice the lowercase).

The other item I purchased was a MiniVac. It was sold for cleaning cameras and keyboards and whatever else you could think of. I do some photographic work and thought that would justify part of the expense. I also felt that it could be used to clean paper bits out of my printer. I discovered that "mini" was still too big. I couldn't get the vacuum brush or wand into the areas in my printer that I needed to clean. It was a good thought anyway. I can always clean out cameras with it.

I have been asked about how good a deal the Qume drives selling for $100 really are. The drives are good quality half-high DSDD units. They will fit in the P-box. I have several out-of-state friends who run pairs of them. However, they are not half-power. The P-box power supply must be beefed up to power a pair of these drives. The other alternative is to add an external power supply for the second drive. The modification has been developed before by Ben Clark of the Northern Alabama UG. He wrote an article for an earlier newsletter of theirs which is probably in our library. I have copies of the article and will be happy to advise anyone who wishes to attempt this modification. If you are interested the company is Octiplus at 214-239-6950.

LeRoy Thompson

==========

CHARLIE'S CHATTER

Well, another month has transpired, and we can now officially say that the NET 99ers Home Computer Users Group is two years old.

I really enjoyed the STARTEXT presentation that Christine Russell provided us with. It's great to meet people that you've been communicating with. The follow-on demonstration about the use of TI related telecommunication equipment and programs also helped make the meeting a huge success. I believe that every one there certainly learned "All you ever wanted to know about TELE COMPUTING". Well, almost everything.

In view of the STARTEXT demonstration , I thought it would be beneficial for the group if we provided a list of which of our members are current subscribers to STARTEXT. This list is taken from the STARTEXT listing "INFO8". There are many other TI Users on STARTEXT. The OTHER FOLKS are primarily members of the DALLAS TI USERS GROUP. Yes Gang, there is another TI Users Group in the area.

Listed below are some of the more important TI related STARTEXT files

which will provide additional information for those 99ers just getting started on STARTEXT. Also there are a few words about other STARTEXT and Tele-Computing related "goodies".

INFO8 - a listing of all TI 99/4A subscribers that wish to be listed.

HELP.TI - a list of items to help you set up your system for use on STARTEXT.

TISET - Allows you to SET the proper parameters for your system.

TI - TI2 - TICHAT - 99/4A related columns.

MINIMUM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

Console, RS232 Stand-Alone unit, 300 Baud Modem, Connecting cable (see below), Telephone (Touchtone type) and TE II cartridge. This system will allow you to communicate, view communications on the screen but not upload or download files.

RECOMMENDED SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

Console, Peripheral Expansion System (PES), either TI, CorComp or Myarc, with RS232 Card, 32K Memory Expansion, Disk Controller and one or more Disk Drives, Modem (300 or 1200 Baud), Connecting Cable (see below), Telephone (Touchtone type), Terminal Program (TE II or PTERM) and a printer (optional). This system will allow both Uploading programs from disk as well as Downloading programs to disk or printer.

TERMINAL PROGRAMS:

There are several Terminal programs that can be used to get you on line. The two most commonly used by our members are listed below:

The TERMINAL EMULATOR II (TEII) cartridge is the simplest by using the normal defaults except LOGON. When the cursor gets to the LOGON default, just press the space bar once and then "ENTER".

PTERM is a disk-based terminal program that allows you to use either the EXTENDED BASIC or the EDITOR/ASSEMBLER cartridge. This program seems to be the best to date, will work at either 300 or 1200 Baud and allows very easy Uploading (sending) or Downloading (receiving) of files to disk or printer.

MODEMS:

There are many brands of modems that will work with your TI system, however the choice depends on the Terminal program being used and cost. At present the Terminal programs available will support only 300 or 1200 Baud transmission rates. Modems range in price from about $40 (see below) up to about $300 for an Auto Answer-Auto Dial 1200 Baud unit. Using 300 Baud is usually cheaper to buy but takes longer to Up or Down load programs. This can be costly if you are using a BBS (Bulletin Board System) that charges by Connect Time. Although a 1200 Baud modem costs more and 1200 Baud BBS Connect Time

costs almost twice as much as 300 Baud, the Up or Down load time at 1200 Baud is only one quarter as long as 300 Baud. The choice is yours.

For those of you that want to get onto STARTEXT but are in need of an inexpensive Modem, Radio Shack has its TRS-80 MODEM I on sale at most local Radio Shack stores for only $59.95. This is a direct connect modem that requires a connection from the RS232 serial port to the modem. A cable can be made to connect two DB 25 Male connectors together using five wires each about three feet long to make the following pin connections:

Pin #2 to pin #3

Pin #3 to pin #2

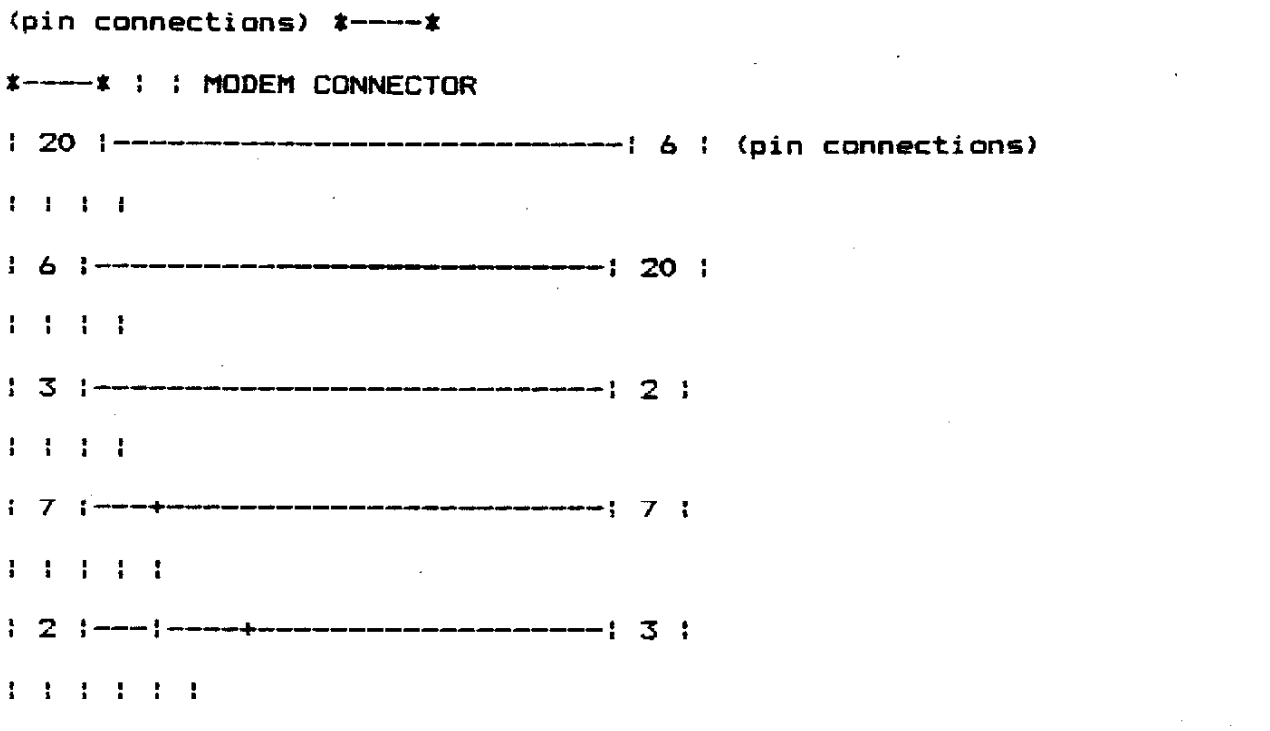
Pin #7 to pin #7

Pin #6 to pin #20

Pin #20 to pin #6

Another option for a Modem connecting cable allows you to both Serially (using the RS232 Serial Port) communicate and Serially print to a serial printer at the same time. A switch allows the printer to use either the normal (N) data path or to look at the directly received (DR) data coming from the modem. This cable requires three DB 25 male connectors. The switch can be installed in the RS232 DB 25 connector hood if a very small switch is used. Wire the cables as shown below:

RS232 CONNECTOR



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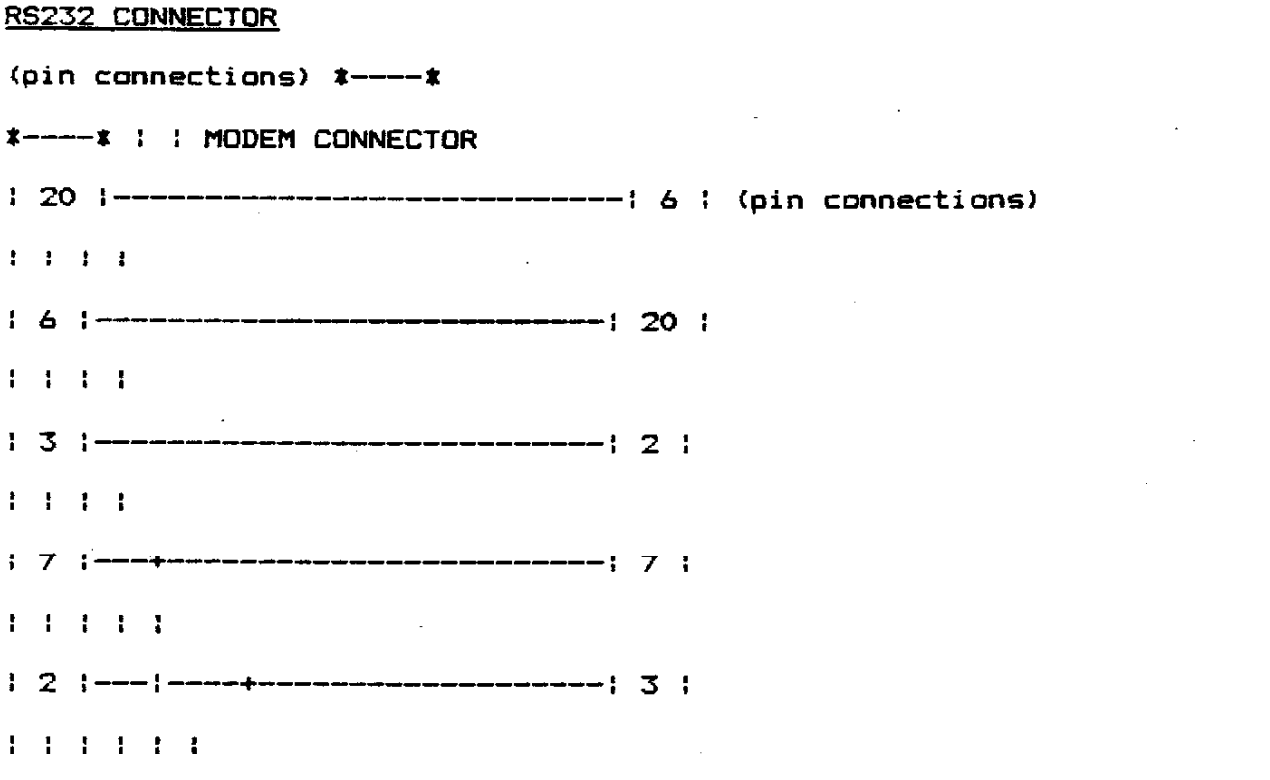

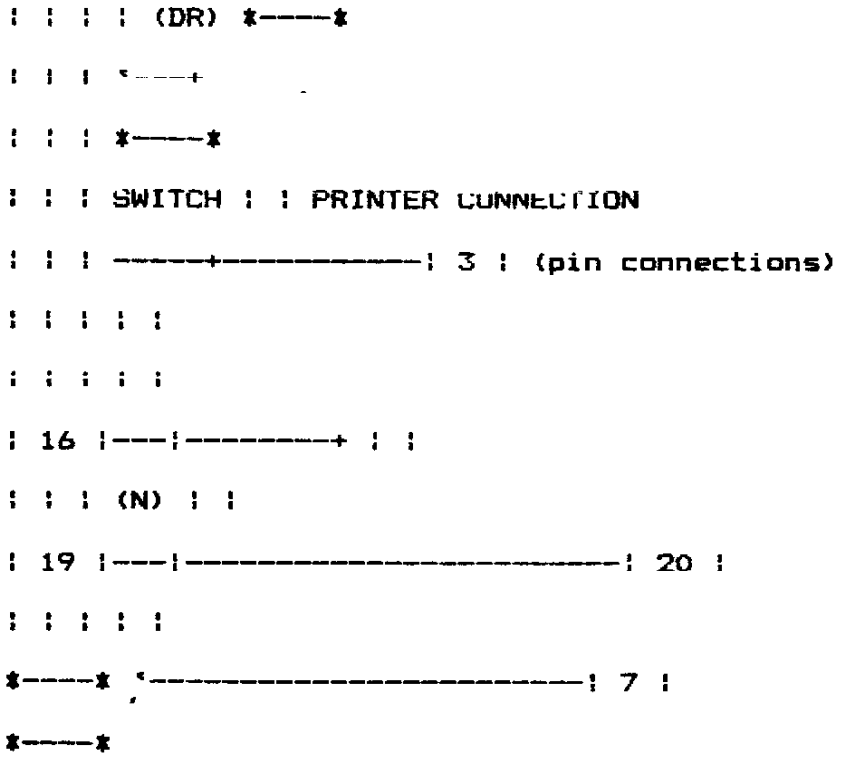

OTHER STUFF:

Some people wanted to know the settings for getting the screen to scroll downwards rather than the way STARTEXT normally does. Try the following:

Set your DISPLAY MODE to 3

Set your HOME CURSOR SEQUENCE to 12, 1

Set your screen to 24 Rows by 38 Columns

Set your delay time to 20 or 30 (seconds) and use your "ENTER" key to get the next page after reading each page

I have updated TIGS to include the mail codes (MC) of the NET 99er key personnel listed there. Look for them in the next copy of TIGS.

I strongly encourage all NET 99er members who are on STARTEXT list their names on the STARTEXT column INFO8 so that other members can chat, exchange files and programs. It also provides us a very quick method of contacting our members in the event that something important comes up or a sudden change in meetings occur.

Now some other items of interest.

We now have copies of the TI FORTH documentation available. TI Forth

is a Public Domain TI 99/4A Language that is available in the library. The documentation is quite lengthy and is contained in a loose-leaf binder at a cost of $10.

A new member, Joe Gillo who is also the VP of the Forest Lane Users Group, tells us the Forest Lane BBS is up and running from 7 PM to 7 AM weekdays and all day on the weekends.

I recently received a pleasant surprise phone call the other day from Jack Kishpaugh. Jack is one of our physically disabled members who is very active in CCAD. Jack wanted to tell us that he had been hospitalized for quite awhile and on his return home, was most happy to see his favorite TI publication waiting for him, our Newsletter. Jack soon will be having some rather radical surgery done which it is hoped will increase his "up-time" significantly. Jack is a real inspiration to all physically disabled computer users. As an avid TIer, he has been instrumental in effecting many changes and adaptations for and with the TI 99/4A to facilitate its use by the handicapped and disabled. He hopes to again, after his upcoming surgery, to favor us with another demonstration at one of our meetings. If any of you are acquainted with a disabled person who has an interest in computers, please be sure that you put them in contact with Jack or CCAD at (Metro) 429-9729. And, the BEST OF LUCK and ALL OUR PRAYERS go with you for the success of your forthcoming surgery. God Bless!

UPDATE TIGS:

TI cares

TI Technical line

MEMBERSHIP INFO

STARTEXT listings

TI GOOD STUFF
(TIGS)

NET 99ER OFFICERS AND STAFF:

President:-------JO LAMBERT (817) 232-8306 (MC 95829)

Vice President:--JAMES CROSSON (817) 281-4068

Secretary:-------CHARLES CLINES (817) 485-0407 (MC 62394)

Treasurer:-------CHARLIE BATHMAN (817) 284-5147 (MC 12426)

NET 99er STAFF:

Newsletter Editor:-------GARY FUQUAY (817) 267-2510 (MC 75814)

Prospective Memberships:-PAT DOMINIEC (817) 656-1473

Group Equipment:----------CHARLIE BATHMAN (817) 284-5147 (MC 12426)

Meeting Facilities:------DILL DUNCAN (817) 498-0507 (MC 00077)

NET 99er LIBRARY STAFF:

Chief Librarian:----------JIM YINGST (817) 478-1998 - Arlington (MC 92635)

Asst. Chief Librarian:---JOHN CREVISTON (214) 659-1912 - Irving (MC 84939)

Central Library:----------GERRY MYERS (817) 834-6138 - Haltom City (MC 63130)

East Library:------------DANNY THOMAS (214) 255-1213 - Irving

West Update Library:------BOB SCARBOROUGH (817) 244-0389 - Ft. Worth (MC 56817)

Cassette Library:--------MICHAEL TROMBLEY (214) 255-9832 - Irving

Volunteer Librarian:-----JAMES CROSSON (817) - N. Richland Hills

Volunteer Librarian:-----CLINT JOPLIN (817) 439-3388 - Haslet

Volunteer Librarian:-----MIKE CANTU (817) 461-1769 - Arlington

Newsletter Librarian:----KEN DOMINIEC (817) 656-1473 - Fort Worth

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS):

ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE SIG:---FULTON COOK (817) 284-9680

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

FORTH SIG:---------------CHARLES CLINES (817) 485-0407 (MC 62394)

GRAPHICS SIG:------------CHARLIE BATHMAN (817) 284-5147 (MC 12426)

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. STARTEXT mail codes (MC) are listed where applicable.

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.

TI CARES consumer hotline is still in operation and provides non-technical answers concerning TI 99/4A software and hardware. Call them at 1-800-TI-CARES (842-2737).

TI TECHNICAL HOTLINE is also still available to answer technical questions concerning the TI 99/4A, its peripherals and software. They can be reached at (806) 741-2263. Note this is NOT a toll free number. Hours are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Thursday and 8:00 AM to 3:15 PM on Friday. All times are CST or CDST.

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.

DISKS and PRINTER SUPPLIES:

E.A.P. Company can provide you with diskettes, disk cases, printer ribbons, reinking supplies, printer paper and other peripheral supplies. In addition, they can special order printers (GEMINI and others) at very reasonable prices. E.A.P. Company is located at 5505 B Davis Boulevard in North Richland Hills directly across from the Northeast Branch of the Y.M.C.A. Call Ed Pruitt at 498-4242 and discuss your needs with him. Be sure to tell him you're with the NET 99ers.

MAGAZINES and PUBLICATIONS:

MICROpendium is the only mini newspaper dedicated completely to the care and feeding of the TI 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.

IS IT TIME TO RENEW? ! ! !

Please check your address label. The date after your name indicates the month and year your membership expires. We wouldn't want you to miss a single issue of NEWS NET 99er.

==========

NET 99er Members on STARTEXT:

ANDERSON, DON-MC 26644

BANTA, JOHN-MC 42233

BATHMAN, CHARLIE-MC 12426
(Treasurer)

BENNETT, ROBERT-MC 46033

CLINES, CHARLES-MC 62364

CREVISTON, JOHN-MC 84939

DIEB, JAMES P.-MC 24440

DUNCAN, BILL-MC 80077

FUQUAY, GARY-MC 75814
(Newsletter Editor)

GILLO, JOE-MC 95249

HATTON, DICK-MC 55649

HIGGS, GARY G.-MC 51107
(Co-author TI-CHAT)

HINSON, ROSCOE-MC 50279

HOFFPAUER, ROBERT-MC 42537

KELLERMAN, SCOTT-MC 43536

KISPAUGH, JACK-MC 1303
(Affiliated with CCAD)

LAMBERT, JO & JOHN-MC 95829
(President)

LINDLEY, BOB-MC 62695

LONG, LES-MC 92939

MADDEN, LARRY-MC 55701

MANSFIELD, CHUCK-MC 55167

MAPES, JOE-MC 38953

MYERS, JERRY-MC 63130

RAY, WARD-MC 26108

RIZO, JOHN B.-MC 75789

SCARBOROUGH, RBT.-MC 56817

STANTON, HAROLD-MC 25243

TABELL, HARRY O.-MC 45561

THOMPSON, LEROY-MC 1616

WALLACE, BOB-MC 5505

WEBBER, DICK & BOB-MC 59136

WESSLER, ROBERT-MC 85483

WHITSON, RON-MC 7370

WOODARD, TOM-MC 36884

YINGST, JIM-MC 92635

NOTE: The above list may not include all applicable names since some NET 99er members who use STARTEXT have not asked to be listed

under the INFO8 listing. To determine if a member, not listed above, is on STARTEXT, request MAILDIRECTORY (MD), or if already in MAIL, at the (SEND) TO prompt, type a "?". Then, at the prompt "MAILDIR>" type the first three letters of their last name. A listing will appear that you can check for a match.

==========

REVIEW OF NEW NET 99ER SYSTEM
by LeRoy Thompson

I am impressed and everyone that I have talked to is also impressed with our new club-owned system. For those of you who have not seen it, it is a CorComp 9900 Micro Expansion System. This little box is about 6 inches square and does everything my P-box does. At the same time we also acquired three Canon DS/DD disk drives. These are 2/3 height and 3 of them fit into a cabinet made for two standard size drives.

Since I helped to assemble the system and did the checkout, I thought I might as well do the review also. The best thing that can be said about the 9900 MES is that the only difference in it and a P-box is no fan. It is really a pleasure not to have to listen to the fan blasting away all the time. One other obvious physical difference is that of the power supply "brick". It is slightly larger than the one for the computer and seems noticably heavier (maybe it should come with wheels!). The 9900 MES functions exactly like my P-box with a CorComp DDDC card in it. If you are familiar with the card then there is no difference in the performance. It has the same disk manager (now Version 2.3) with the neat file handling and the same disk utilities and the same CALLs that the card had.

I have exercised the memory with diagnostic programs and found it all to be good. I have exercised the RS232 section with modem, serial printer and parallel printer. It functions well with all of them. The poor little box looks overloaded with the serial y-cable, the parallel cable and the disk drive controller cable all hooked to it at once--but it works perfectly.

If you don't own a P-box and you want to expand, this would be an excellent approach. If this unit is any indication, you could expect very good service out of the 9900 MES.

The next area to explore is that of the new disk drives. They are Canon 2/3 height units purchased from B. G. Micro (PO Box 280298 Dallas TX 75228 214-271- 5546). These units are available for $50 each or two for $85. At this price they represent a fabulous value. They give you full DS/DD capability with the CorComp 9900 MES or DS/SD capability with standard TI hardware. They have performed flawlessly during the week that I wrung them out. I used them for everything that I could think of and they came thru just fine. The only bad things that I can say are strictly personal and you will have to form your own opinion. I think they are a little noisier than usual, but that may be due to their being mounted in a loose

fitting cabinet rather than a wind-tunnel expansion box. The other comment is that the doors are the full front and they operate with a push-push latch. That's a little different than I have been used to using.

Overall I think that the club has come up with very good value in hardware. These units are scheduled to appear at each meeting so you can look, listen and evaluate for yourself.

==========

TRADERS PAGE

Would like to buy a P-CODE card--$40 not working.
80 working.

David Gore
241-424-8261

For Sale: Rixon T103J 300 baud modem, auto-answer, with cable for 99/4a.

Gary Fuquay
267-2510

We also have a commercial listing that may be of interest to some.

COMPUTER RESET
3010 S. JUPITER
GARLAND, TX 75041

(214)276-8072

RICHARD BYRON
MONIQUE BYRON

A USED COMPUTER SHOP
PC'S HOME COMPUTERS, ETC.
NEXT TO VIKON VILLAGE

==========

* * * TRIVIA 99er * * *
Review by Gerry Myers

It's here at last! A fast-paced, quick-loading trivia game is now available for the 99/4A. TRIVIA 99er can be played by one to four players (or teams). The computer gives the player a choice of three categories. After a category has been chosen, the computer displays

the question from the appropriate category and starts the clock. The player has approximately 30 seconds to answer the question. The quicker the question is answered, the more points it's worth. A question is worth 5 points during the first six seconds, four points during the next six seconds, etc. To start the game you select one player to serve as the keyboard operator. All requests and answers are addressed to this person. When a player requests a category the operator presses the appropriate key and the question appears. When you answer the question, the operator presses any key to stop the clock and reveal the correct answer. The group of players then decide if the answer given was correct and if the points should be awarded. The operator presses the appropriate key and takes the category request from the next player. As you can see, it's getting the answer correct that counts. How fast you can type or how good you can spell has nothing to do with it!

The length of the game can range from 1 to 99 rounds of play. And, at anytime during the game, players can check scores by pressing the "S" key or can end the game by pressing the "E" key.

Questions and answers are stored under 6 categories in a 60-question/answer file. TRIVIA 99er comes with 3 Trivia question/answer files, a FILEMAKER, a REVISEFILE, a PRINTFILE and a TRIVIADOC file. FILEMAKER lets the user create new question and answer files. With REVISEFILE the user can change questions and answers or correct errors. The PRINTFILE lets the user produce a hardcopy of the questions and answers. TRIVIADOC, which can be printed with TI-Writer, explains in detail how to play the game, how to use the files, and how to expand the number of files.

TRIVIA 99er was written by one of our own NET 99ers, Robert Wessler. A copy of Robert's program is now in our library. The program is being distributed as "freeware" (or near freeware). That is, you are free to copy the program with no obligation. However, if you like TRIVIA 99er and would like to encourage more freeware programs, send Robert $5.00 or a couple of blank disks for his time and effort as a "freeware programmer."

I recommend TRIVIA 99er to everyone who enjoys a good computer-game challenge and especially to you "trivia buffs."

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Conversation with Lou Phillips 4/11/85

He visited TI in mid March to negotiate the purchase of the GROM language. He had no luck so he will develop a GROM language.

They are still proceeding full speed.

They DO NOT have any machines out for BETA testing. They don't even

have a working model for themselves.

They are now working on finalizing the hardware.

They have been working on the software since Nov 84. The hardware is only 10% of their effort.

They will have an IBM co-processor. They are working on it intensely. They are working with a company who knows the IBM architecture better than MYARC.

They did not have as good luck with MICROSOFT as they would have liked, however, they will do some business with them. MICROSOFT wants too much front money. He does not especially want MULTIPLAN for the IBM since it was not a very good TI seller.

They still plan to be at the CES show in June in Chicago.

The internal name of the machine is CYPRESS 9995. They are in bed with a marketing company and heaven only knows what it's final name will be.

They have an idea of a price but they will not announce a price until the product is finalized. Jack Tramiel has announced that the price on his machine was to be $399.95 several months ago and now the price is up to $800 and the product is not on the market as yet.

The MYARC machine will be either 128K or 256K expandable to 512K depending upon the cost of the RAM chips.

They still have not got the money to bring it to market but they are very close. They are putting the final touches on the business plan for financing.

Thay will not announce a machine like the CORCOMP PHOENIX before they are sure that it will be produced.

Thay have quite a few software campanies writing programs now. They will have 'quite a bit of software' for the machine when it is produced.

If he had $4 million in hand today, he would make an announcement. He will refrain from making an announcement until he is sure the machine will be produced.

Chuck Mansfield