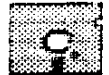




# NET99ER NEWSLETTER



TEXAS INSTRUMENTS 99/4A

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1988

Next meeting FEB. 6th  
At the North Richland Hills  
Community Center at 9:30 AM

President: Bill Duncan	Treasurer: Lee DeForest
Vice President: Doc Graves	Secretary: David Shivers
Editor Tom Collins	Newsletter Staff Doc Graves

The reviews, evaluations and opinions contained in articles in this newsletter are the authors' own and do not reflect the views of the NET 99er MCUG.

----- FROM THE PRESIDENT -----

I hope that 1988 will bring you success and happiness. I do not claim to know much about our TI99/4A but do want to learn. I am retired and have plenty of time to devote to our group. My phone number is METRO 498 0587 and I am on STARTEXT MC80077. Let me know any suggestions you have to make our group better: questions for me to find answers to; what you can volunteer to do. Lets let everyone know that the 99/4a is alive and active. See you at the next meeting on Feb. 6th at the North Richland Hills Community Center at Loop 820 and Rufe Snow Drive. Bill Duncan

----- FROM THE EDITOR -----

It looks as if the newsletter will be late in coming. The reason is that Ken and I haven't been able to get together due to conflicting work schedules. This first newsletter will probably be a small one. As I get more experience in doing the newsletter and am able to find the time to get it done it will be on time. If anybody has some interesting articles or graphics that they want to see here please let me know.

----- NET99ER MINUTES -----

JAN 2, 1988

At the opening of the meeting James Crosson made an announcement. He announced that the Chief Librarian, Bob Linley, had passed away during the Holidays. Bob was in the hospital for heart by-pass surgery. Bob's family asked that nothing be sent to them. The club voted to send \$50.00 dollars to the Aeon G. Carter Foundation in Bob's name. The treasury report was given and accepted followed by the presentation and acceptance of minutes. Corcomp has filed bankruptcy to reorganize. They have not been able to meet their debts though they have been showing a profit recently. Roy Willis recently received July and August Newsletters from Australia. The same club where the Funnelweb came from. Anyone interested in these should check with Roy. Roy also gave us the latest on the planned TI Faire. It is scheduled for April 30th, at the Holiday Inn in Dallas. The Holiday Inn is on North Central Expressway. The Faire will run from 9AM to 5PM on that Saturday. Tickets are \$3.00 dollars at the door and \$2.00 dollars in advance or through User Groups. A dinner will be held Saturday night, open to anyone, for \$15.00 dollars. Phil Chappell suggested that a committee should be organized concerning the clubs BBS (Bulletin Board Service). This committee would help in getting it setup and determine what we want from the BBS. The Committee will be made up of Gary Higgs, James Crosson, and Phil Chappell. The elections of next years club Officers was held. All elected Officers were present except David Shivers. David let it be known through another member that he would except the position if Elected. The offices and the elected member to those position are as follows:

Member at Large -- Phillip Chappell

Secretary -- David Shivers

Treasurer -- Lee Deforest

Vice President -- Marvin (Doc) Graves

President -- Bill Duncan

After a break in the meeting, the Buy/Sell/Swap session was held. Fulton Cook said the Discovery SIG would be JAN 12th, at 730PM. Roy Willis said that the FLUG User Group is raffling off a complete system. Anyone interested could see him. The cost is \$5.00 dollars. James Crosson demonstrated the BOM on the club's system with two satellite monitors setup. Gary Higgs then completed the meeting with a demonstration of an exceptional graphics program on his 9640 computer.

-----END OF MINUTES-----

----- TREASURERS REPORT -----

This is my first report on the state of the club finances. the first report will not be such as there isn't a lot to talk about yet.

We started the year with \$400.14, we had expenses of \$63.17. and deposit of \$189.11. which leaves the club with \$526.08.

LEE W. DEFOREST

----- FER SALE -----

TI Consoles, 2 each in working order \$ 35.00 ea; TI Consoles 2 each not in working order (started to upgrade to turbo console) good for parts \$ 20.00 each.

TI MONITOR 13 inch screen color \$125.00; 1 Stand alone RS232 (does not have a PID port, 2 serial ports) \$ 50.00 OLIVETTI DAISY WHEEL TYPEWRITER, typewriter with interface cable to be used with buffer (listed seperatly), extra daisy wheel, extra ribbons. \$250.00; BUFFER, 1 QUADRAM BUFFER with serial in, parallel out, and built in 32k memory (can be expanded), \$ 75.00; TI 32K EXPANSION 1 Expansion memory \$ 50.00; TI FLEX CABLE 1 cable \$ 50.00; MODULES: 1 PLATD mod, \$25.00, \$15.00 each, 1 TI EXTENDED BASIC (no book), 1 E/A (no book), 1 MINI MEMORY, 1 MULTIPLAN (no book), \$15.00 each, DISK MANAGER II, 1 TI-WRITER (no book), 1 TERMINAL EMULATOR II, 1 HOME FINANCIAL DECISIONS, 1 PERSONAL REPORT GENERATOR, 1 PERSONAL REAL ESTATE, 1 PERSONAL RECORD KEEPING, 1 SECURITIES ANALYSIS (no book), 1 HOUSEHOLD BUDGET MANAGEMENT, 1 TAX/INVESTMENT RECORD KEEPING, 1 PHYSICAL FITNESS, \$5.00 each, 1 TERMINAL EMULATOR I, 1 WEIGHT CONTROL AND NUTRITION, 1 PARSEC. \$3.00 each, 1 FOOTBALL, 1 VIDEO GAMES; CABINET, 1 Holds eight modules \$ 3.50; CABINET 1 Holds approx. 24 modules \$8.00; CARTRIDGE EXPANDER Holds up to three modules at one time \$ 20.00

LEE DeForest 237-9746

----- MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT -----

I would like to welcome new member:

Chester R Johnson M1/89  
P.O. Box 582  
Hurst Tx 76053  
282-5293

The following members renewed their membership:

Phillip Chappell M9/88  
James Crosson M1/89  
Donald Halpenny M1/89  
Gary Hutchison M12/88  
Robert Stone M11/88

Helena Wood M11/88

Unfortunately we had some members who did not renew their membership:

Sam Bishop  
Tom D Brown  
Jeff Gatlin

The following member has been reinstated

Dr Michael McLendon M1/89  
6824 Starnes Rd  
N Richland Hills Tx 76118  
465-1189 281-1764

The following members will be dropped if dues are not paid at the next meeting:

Richard Beckman  
David Blocker  
Charles Clines  
Jerry L Colburn  
Curtis Fredeck Jr  
Charlie D Howard  
Peter Rokkas  
John Wadle  
Jim Yingst

A NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS. Look on your mailing label on your newsletter for the date that your membership is renewable, such as M1/86 is January 1986, M3/86 is May 1986, etc.. The club does not send out reminders on dues because the postage is prohibitive. If you know any of the members who did not renew, please give them a call and see if you can learn the reason. Let your officers know so they can look into the reasons. Your help on this will be greatly appreciated.

John Lambert Membership Chairman

----- THE BOSS BUTTON -----

In the continuing battle of wits between employers and high-tech workers who like to goof off by playing computer games on the job, the slackers have a new weapon: the "boss button."

The IBM version of the computer game called "Leather Goddesses of Phobos," for example tells you, "If your boss should evemalk into your office unexpectedly, just hit CTRL-B followed by ENTER, and a haraless database screen will instantly appear on your PC. "Your boss," it promises, "will never be able to tell that you were goofing off!"

Boss buttons are not widespread, but there's a growing list of games that have the buttons -- they're also known as "panic buttons" -- to help workers surreptitiously play games on the job. "In most cases, a spreadsheet pops up," explained Rachel Famighette, spokeswoman for Electronic Arts, a software company that has four products -- World Tour Golf, Golden Oldies, Grand Slam Bridge and Chessmaster 2000 -- with boss buttons. "But it's not a standard thing." In the past, the buttons were most often seen in sexually related games that might be considered offensive. "Strip Poker" has one, as does a game for Macintosh computers called "MacPlaymate." But these days, they are appearing in games designed for computers that are popular in offices, such as IBM and Macintosh. "They're probably becoming more common," said Alfred Mendes, manager of a computer store in Providence, R.I. "With more and more computers on desks, more and more people are going to play." "I think there's a demand," said Kevin Jones, advertising director at Access Software, which produces a bowling game with a boss button. "I've had people call up asking to have it on other products. If the surveys are correct that people spend about 33 percent of their computer time devoted to entertainment, I could see where that would upset the boss." "I do occasionally indulge, but I'm more likely to play in a fit of boredom or avoidance behavior," said one office worker who, for quite obvious reasons, asked not to be identified. "It's not sailed upon. But on the other hand, people take breaks." How much computerized goofing off is actually done on the job is not known. Officials at the U.S. Chamber of

Commerce and the Conference Board said they are not aware of any studies concerning the effects of computer games on worker productivity. One reason may be that the bosses themselves are playing games with computers. Epyx software did a poll of 750 executives who use computers at work and discovered that 66 percent acknowledged that they used them for nonwork purposes. Nearly two out of every five executives said they used their machines to play games. About half wrote personal letters. "Some did it during office hours; some came into work early or played during lunch," said Epyx spokeswoman Noreen Lovoi. Robert Botch, vice president for marketing at Epyx, which, perhaps not coincidentally, makes lots of computer games, argued that "taking 15 minutes out of a day provides a much-needed break and may, in fact, increase productivity." Mike Gendron of Software Connections said it's not unusual for workers to use the games to set up their own golf or bowling leagues. But league members, he said, usually play during lunch. Even that can incur some displeasure with the boss. And even the boss button can backfire. "Leather Goddesses" say promise that with its boss button, "Your boss will never be able to tell that you were goofing off," but your boss had better not examine the spreadsheet that pops up. It includes expenses for nylon rope, with the notation that "10 feet is enough; add 6 feet for each additional partner," etc. The final item is for an inflatable milkman from Male Order Mania, with the note: "Always get optional patch kit." In that case, it might be better to let your boss see you playing the game.

by: C. Eugene Eaery Jr. Providence Journal

----- MYART: An Alternative Review by C. Bobbitt

Several reviews have recently been done of Myarc's My-Art drawing program for the Geneve. Unfortunately, in all of them, the reviewer fell into a classic trap of computer reviewers - reviewing the hardware the program runs on and not the program itself.

My-Art is the only drawing program available at this time designed specifically for the Myarc Geneve computer. As such, it can't be compared to other 9640 programs since none exist. This is pretty much the same problem as trying to review Multiplan or TI-Writer for the 99/4A - since the competition is for the most part lacking. However, the CONCEPT of a drawing program (or that of a spreadsheet or a word processor, to use my analogy) is universal. Hence, a drawing program on the Geneve can be readily compared to those available on other machines in regards to features, ease-of-use, and whether it is suited for it's intended purpose - just as any program.

The job of the reviewer in this case is to separate those features offered by the program from those built into the computer. The assumption the author has to make is if other programs of this type were available for the computer this program is on, THEY WOULD ALSO CONTAIN THOSE THINGS BUILT INTO THE HARDWARE AND OPERATING SYSTEM OF THE COMPUTER.

This is a pretty reasonable assumption. It would be pretty much of a waste to write an arcade game for the 99/4A without using sprites wouldn't it? After separating those functions that are dependant on the hardware of the computer the program runs on, the reviewer can then compare the program to similar programs on other machines. In this case the reviewer is judging how well the program does the job and how it compares on a feature-by-feature basis with like programs elsewhere - not how it stacks up to similar programs on the same machine.

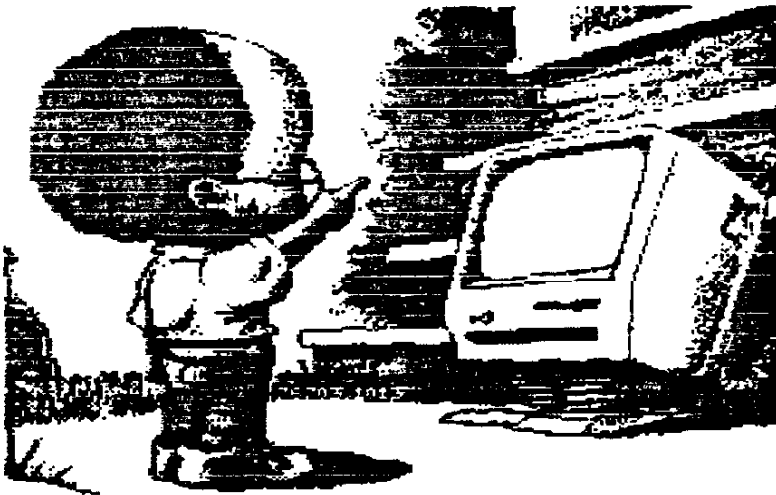
With this lengthy pre-amble out of the way, let's get to the review:

#### PERFORMANCE:

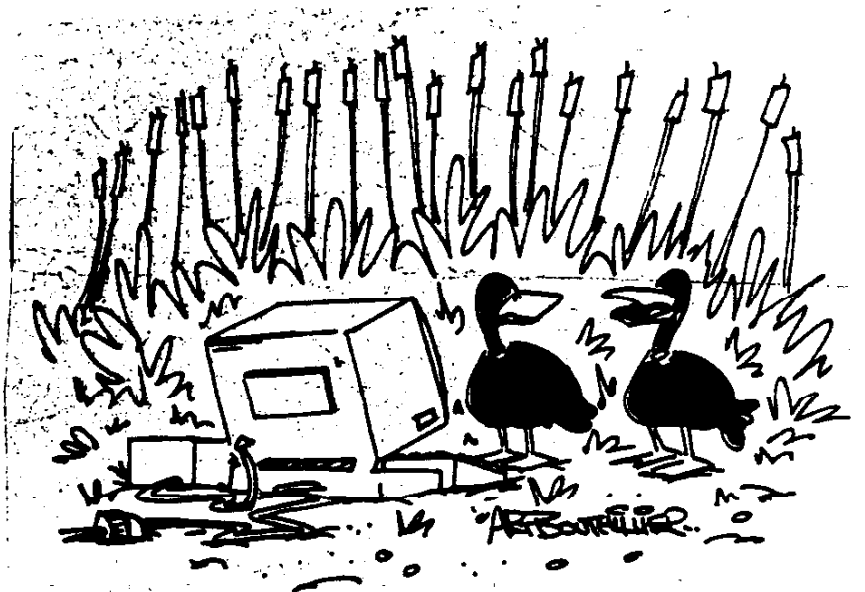
My-Art is a drawing program designed for use with the Myarc mouse that is included in the package, and the low and medium resolutions offered by the Myarc Geneve's 9938 graphics chip. Comparing this chip to the 9918A found in the 99/4A is kind of like comparing a combine to a horse-drawn plow - both of them get the job done but the combine can do so much more, so much faster and efficiently. The 9938 graphics chip has 4 major resolutions: 256 x 212 pixels in 256 possible colors per pixel, 256 x 424 in 256 colors, 512 x 212 in 16 colors, and 512 x 424 in 16 colors. For the sake of my fingers typing this, I've dubbed the 256 x 212 mode "low resolution", the 256 x 424 and the 512 x 212 modes "medium resolution", and the 512 x 424 mode "high resolution". My-Art in it's current incarnation supports both the low resolution mode and the 512 x 212 medium resolution mode. Myarc apparently chose not to support the second medium resolution mode and the high resolution mode because only very expensive color monitors can display a picture in that mode well enough to be useful.

My-Art also takes advantage of the mouse-support built into the 9938 graphics chip. What this means on a technical level is that unlike almost every other computer manufactured today (from the Commodore 64 up to a Mac II or IBM PS/2), the CPU doesn't have to do anything to move the mouse cursor around the screen! On a

Got some interesting info to share? Articles, letters, paragraphs, or words of wisdom are yours to contribute.  
Contact Tom Collins, editor. 817-738-2428. Startext MC232653  
THE END



GO FORTH AND MULTIPLY!



*"Say each shot holds 48 pellets and there are four guys  
with four guns ... what pattern should we fly?"*