

# NEWSNET99ER

VOL 8 NUM 3

MARCH 1990

NEXT MEETING :  
SATURDAY  
APRIL 7TH

9:30 AM at the  
NRH Community Center  
Loop 820 at Rufe Snow Dr.

## CLUB OFFICERS

James Crosson	President
Tom Collins	Vice Pres
Lee DeForest	Treasurer
Charles Bathman	Secretary
Barbara Massey	NL Editor
Tom Collins	BBS Sysop

NET99ER BBS 300/1200 7E1 24HRS  
457 7043

Newsletter of the North-East  
Tarrant County TI-99/4a and  
Myarc 9640 Computer Users Gr.

-----THE PREZ SEZ-----

In the last year there seems to have been a drought of new software for the 99/4a, but here recently there seems to be a sudden rush of new software aimed at the 4a in particular. I recently recieved a box full of new stuff, and frankly, I am over whelmed. Two months ago if someone was to tell me that I would suddenly have more that I could say grace over, well, you know, but hey I'm not complaining, I am just having a little trouble believing it.

This coming meeting be sure to attend the meeting, because Tom Collins is going to set up two systems to demo from both points of view what is going on with the BBS, oh by the way we should be going to 2400 baud by the time you read this. We have recieved some pretty good press just recently for the fine board the club is running and I think that reflects one heck of a good job done by our sysop, Tom Collins. If you haven't tried the new BBS, I think you will be pleasantly surprised. Heck, the system does just about anything from uploads, downloads, docs, files, except for free income tax checks, maybe we will get to that next month, who knows?

While things are looking a little better for the 4a, they are looking a lot better for the 9640. Recently a new version of M-dos was released called 5.0H for the hard drive, it really looks promising, in fact I am in the process of changing over to it.

Disk Only Software has been selling the MFDC card for 179.00 plus shipping and handling for about a month now, I don't know if it is still a good price, because when I called Myarc, they told me that they were still asking 330.00 for the card, which I paid for mine over a year ago. This seems to me to be a very good buy since it works well as a floppy controller in double density or even 80 track for the Geneve, I love mine and wouldn't take for it.

It's getting late so it's time to hit the sack, hopefully I will see everyone at the next meeting of the NET99ers on April 7, 1990 at 9:30 am in the Community Center of the N Richland Hills Library Complex located just off the corner of Rufe Snow and 820 Loop. See ya then.##James##

-----VP/SysOp's RAMBLINGS-----

We now have a definitive BBS program that allows us to Upload and Download with our hard drive. We have a 10 Meg Seagate and have been adding files at a steady rate. As of the next meeting, we will have the Textfiles area open to the members. I called Wolfgang and he let me download the patch for the program. In all, I spent over \$25 on long distance calls, to obtain information and help from the author in order to get it running. It seems to be running nearly flawlessly, but there are several things I would like to see. One would be SysOp upload access to ALL subdirectories, another is

textfiles viewable by all while online, and finally one we all would like - WORD WRAP! It seems that the author would rather you compose your messages offline and then upload them later during your call. Hmmm.....sounds good but, I don't really have the time to call, log the messages, answer in TI-Writer and then call again to upload my reply. That seems a bit too much for me. Word wrap would make online messages cleaner and better looking on the screen. As for the U/L & D/L areas, it seems to be perking along fine. Several people have uploaded some very nice files, and we have been downloading them too. Thanks everybody, for the participation and support! I hope everyone likes it. My son and I are working to get some more items on the menu, some of which I already mentioned. We are working to get the GAMEROOM and CASINO working with this program. I would like to see it online. It boosts usership and is very entertaining. I also hope to have the 2400 bps modem online by the next meeting too. Then I can get Charlie Bathman his Avatex 1200HC! I'm sure he is anxious to use it! Time to LOGOFF!!!\*Tom Collins\*\*

---MINUTES OF NET 99er MEETING  
of 3 March, 1990---

President James Crosson called the meeting to order at 09:45 AM, Saturday, 3 March, 1990. Approximately 20 members were present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by the secretary. The treasurer's report for February 1990 was also read. Motions were made and both were accepted by the membership.

New business included: The group BBS which is now maintained by Gary Owens at (817) 457-7043 has been upgraded by Tom Collins using a new program from the Miami user's group which Tom had to upgrade extensively. Major item is that the BBS is now 7,E,1 so set your terminal programs accordingly and USE our BBS -- It's GREAT.

James Crosson had collected a number of items, both personal and a few of the group's and, with authorization of the members present, they were either sold to members or raffled-off. The items included; two SSSD drives, one working and one not, four 35 track SSSD drives, one 5 MB hard drive, and two SuperCarts, only one of which was sold. All \$45.00 collected was donated to the group. A great big THANK YOU to James for his goodwill.

Two books containing other user group's newsletters were returned from wherever. There are still several of these binders missing from the group's library. If you happen to know where any of them are, please endeavor to get them returned to the group.

In order to upgrade the BBS even more, a 2400 Baud modem will be procured. The members were advised that if at least \$50.00 could be raised through donations, an unnamed benefactor would provide the balance of the \$130.00 needed. Barbara Massey, Tom Collins, James Crosson, Chuck Tolsma,

Charlie Bathman and Chester Johnson each donated \$10.00, so the BBS will soon be capable of 2400 Baud operation.

Tom Collins provided an indepth discussion of the new BBS's capabilities, operation and uses. Extensive HELP files can be downloaded to provide reference documentation. Our BBS is probably the best locally operated BBS in the metroplex. You're missing a great deal if you're not calling it on a regular basis for the best in TI 99/4A and 9640 news, programs and whatnot.

James ran a demo program covering the Disk Of the Month, a group of over 100 sub programs in MERGE format from TIGERCUB Software.

A short break was followed by a BUY-SELL-SWAP session. Speaking of B-S-S, since most attending members have nearly Full-Up systems, the B-S-S sessions at meetings don't seem to do too well. Barbara Massey, newsletter editor, has proposed that a B-S-S section be included in the monthly newsletter. All members with items to Sell, Trade or Wanted To Buy should either call Barbara at (817) 292-3554 or contact her through STARTEXT at MC-298806 and provide her with details for inclusion in the newsletter. This should help get the word about those great deals out to those members and other interested folks who can't attend the regular meetings.

James Crosson also provided another demo of "MISSING LINK" from Texaments which the group may be able to buy in quantity at a discount.

The balance of the meeting was consumed by a general question and answer period on a wide range of TI/9640 topics. One area of interest seems to be a group purchase of 2400 Baud modems. B. Massey, Wm. Duncan, Wm. Hardy, R. Ferguson, C. Johnson, T. Collins and L. Deforest all indicated support in a group buy if a good price can be found. Perhaps more next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM when we were nicely kicked out of the meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted by;## Charles D. Bathman, Secretary ##

#### -----TREASURY REPORT-----

At the March meeting we collected a total of \$312.25. We had expenses of \$348.96 with the purchase of a new (used) monitor and the purchase of a new 2400 modem for the BBS. That left the club with a total of \$729.73 in the treasury. Which still ain't too bad.## Lee W. DeForest##

#### -----RENEWALS DUE-----

Those members who need to renew their memberships in the month of April are: Jim Leshar, Lou Stone, and JoNell Thompson. Please check your address label, if your membership expiration date is incorrect please let me know.

Members whose renewals are now past due are: Arnold Fraly (3/90), Tom Hall (3/90), Sharon Jolliff (3/90), Thomas D. Atkins (1/90), Dino Fioramonti

(1/90), Donald Halpenny (1/90), William T. Hardie (2/90), Gary Hutchison (12/89), Dr. Michael McLendon (1/90), Jeremy Pearson (9/89), Peter Rokkas (8/89), Michael Southern (1/90), Robert C. Stone (11/89), Robert Stromole (1/90), Dr. Robert J. Stuart, MD (2/90), V W Vessells (2/90), Frank Williams (1/90), Gail Young (1/90). If you are unable to attend a meeting, you may send your membership dues to NET99er HCUG, c/o Bill Duncan, P> O> Box 534, Hurst, Texas 76053.

We also have MICROpendium subscriptions that need to be renewed this month.

-----BUY, SWAP AND SELL-----

WANTED:

COR-COMP DSDD disk controller card for inside the TI PEBox,  
with or without Miller Eproms and software. Also  
AVATEC 1200hc modem with power supply. Contact Charlie Bathman  
H-(817)485-5230, W-(817)280-2945, Startext MC-12426

FOR SALE:

DM2 Module.....\$10.....Lee DeForest.....237-9746  
XB Module with Manual.....\$35.....Lee DeForest  
Multiplan Modul (no book)....\$10.....Lee DeForest  
Personal Record Keeping  
with book.....\$10.....Lee DeForest  
Roll Printer Paper.....\$6.10...Brent Cooper....498-3259  
TI Logo II cartridge.....\$15.....Charlie Bathman..H-485-5230  
with documentation...W-280-2945 or Startext.MC-12426  
Complete System including: Black and Silver Console, Extended  
Basix, TI Writer, Editor-Assembler, Microsoft Multiplan  
cartridges, Cor-Comp Mico Expansion System with RS-232,  
32K, DSDD Disk Controller, and one stand-alone SSSD  
disk drive. All connectors, wiring, software and  
documentation are included. Asking \$325.00 complete,  
will sell separately. All reasonable offers considered.  
Contact Charlie Bathman, numbers above.  
13"TI monitor designed for TI 99/4A, cables included.....\$150 or  
with above system... \$450....Charlie Bathman  
Additional TI 99/4A consoles with power supplies and  
documentation...each.\$25....Charlie Bathman  
Two virtually new full height 35 track SSSD disk drives capable  
of 310 sectors each. Will work with any TI system and  
will read 360 sector disks except for last 50 sectors.  
Asking...\$30 each, or \$60 for both and will include a  
third 35 sector drive that needs work...Charlie Bathman

-----ANOTHER 96 CHARACTERS?-----

from the Data Bus, Delaware Valley Users Group

Many Gemini printer users don't realize that they can access another 96 characters in their printers. The 99/4A uses seven data bits to send characters to be printed. The additional characters in the Gemini printer (and some others) become active when the eighth bit is turned on. Gemini engineers have provided an escape sequence that turns the eighth bit on and off "manually". In TI Writer's Formatter, ,TL 60:27,62 will make the eighth bit go on when a > is found in the text. If you also put in a ,TL 62:27,60 then < will turn the eighth bit off. Check your printer to make sure your codes are not different. (Editor's note: Many users will find that it is easier to use the CTRL-U sequence when working from the Editor, so as not to have to use the Formatter. In that case, the sequence would be CTRL-U, FCTN-R, CTRL-U, >, to turn the bit on, and CTRL-U, FCTN-R, CTRL-U, <, to turn it off.)

When the eighth bit is turned on, the characters change as follows: The eighth bit simply adds 128 to the ASC of the character you type. Consult your printer manual for the character you want to print, subtract 128, and use the ASCII character of the resulting number.

For a complete printout, enter and RUN the following program by Robert Simms.

```
100 REM PRINT CHARS 128+
105 OPEN #1:"PIO" :: PRINT #1:CHR$(115)
110 FOR X=32 TO 80 :: PRINT #1:"ASCII ";X;"is now
    ASCII";X+128;" : ";CHR$(X+128)
120 PRINTER #1:TAB(35);"ASCII";X+48+128;" : ";CHR$(X+48+128)
130 NEXT X
140 CLOSE #1 :: END
```

-----DIAL-A-WORD-----

by Joey Latimer  
LA 99ers

Quick: What was your last phone number? You can't remember? What if you had to remember a word instead, such as HIC-CUPS (422-2877) or CAB-BAGE (222-2243)?

There are many words hidden in a telephone number. Since each of the digits 2 thru 9 on a phone dial stands for three possible letters, a seven-digit phone number can represent up to 2,187 letter combinations.

The computer can work out all the possible combinations for you.

Type in DIAL-A-WORD and run it. Enter a SEVEN digit (seven only) phone number. Type the number with no spaces or punctuation like this: 5558888.

Hit enter and watch your computer generate all possible letter

combinations for those numbers. Some of the letters will form gibberish, but others will form into a word or words (maybe useful for business...as in TI-CARES). Note: neither 1 nor 0 are accompanied by letters on a phone dial, they'll remain as digits within the letter combinations.

```
10 DIM A(7)
20 A$="ABCDEFGHJKLMNPQRSTUWXYZ"
30 FOR I=1 TO 7
40 A(I)=0
50 NEXT I
60 NP=0
70 FL=0
79 !GET PHONE NUMBER
80 CALL CLEAR
90 PRINT TAB(10):"DIAL-A-WORD"
100 PRINT
110 PRINT "PLEASE TYPE IN A 7-DIGIT"
120 PRINT "PHONE NUMBER:"(IN THIS FORM: 5558888);"
130 PRINT "THEN PRESS <ENTER>."
140 PRINT
150 INPUT "NUMBER?":N$
160 IF LEN(N$),.7 THE 80
170 FOR I=1 TO 7
180 IF <SEG$(N$,I,1)>="0")*(SEG$(N$,I,1)<="9")THEN 230
190 FL=1
200 NEXT I
210 IF FL<>0 THEN 70
220 CALL CLEAR
230 FOR I=1 TO 7
240 IF SEG$(N$,I,1)>="2" THEN 270
250 PRINT SEG$(N$,I,1);
260 GOTO 280
270 PRINT SEG$(A$,VAL(SEG$(N$,I,1))*3-5+A(I),1);
280 NEXT I
290 PRINT " ";
300 NP=NP+1
310 IF NP/3<>INT(NP/3) THEN 330
320 PRINT
330 IF NP,63 THEN 410
340 PRINT
350 PRINT "PRESS <C> TO CONTINUE,": "<Q> TO QUIT.";
360 CALL KEY(3,K,S)
370 IF K=81 THEN 470
380 IF K<>67 THEN 360
390 NP=0
```

```

400 CALL CLEAR
410 P=1
420 A(P)=0
430 IF (A(P)<3)*(SEG$(N$,P,1)>"1")THEN 230
440 A(P)=0
450 P=P+1
460 IF P,8 THEN 420 :: PRINT
470 END

```

Also from the same fine newsletter source came this...

CTRL S = DATA

There is a time saving routine of using FCTN 8 (REDO) when entering long lists of DATA. EXAMPLE>:

```
100 DATA aaa,bbb,ccc,ddd <ENTER>
```

FCTN 8 creates a duplicate line on the screen...use the arrow key to change 100 to 110..skip over the word DATA and enter your new data:

```
110 DATA eee,fff,ggg,hhh
```

Chick DeMarti of the LAPPers discovered an easier system. Type in NUM <enter>/ At line 100 hit CTRL S, space bar and enter your data. Simple! The CTRL S will show a blank...but when you LIST it...you will see "DATA" displayed.

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The following is Part II of a series written by John F. Willforth. This was first written back in December of 87. Please note that the MYARC Hard/Floppy controller card now WORKS in the Geneve (9640).

-----LET'S TALK RAM DISK-----

by John F. Willforth

Last month I attempted to present a foundation for us to spring into the subject of RAM DISKS by describing what they are and what features they generally possess. This is the month that I will begin talking about specific RAM DISKS. The order in which they are presented month by month is not related to my personal preference or their public acceptance.

The HORIZON RAM DISK was not the first RAM DISK on the market, but it was the first with STATIC RAM and low power at that. This enabled the units to save the ROS and the FILES in the event of power outages and normal power-down of the PEB for long periods of time (weeks and perhaps months) with the use of only three "AAA" Ni-Cad batteries. The original capacities of the two versions available from HORIZON COMPUTER LIMITED were 104K (360 sectors) and 192K (720 sectors), the difference, if you calculate four sectors per each one K of memory, is the memory used to store the ROS (RADISK Operating System).

There were larger RAM DISKS on the market when Horizon came out, but none that offered the source code openly to any who wanted to develop new applications for this card. This decision was a factor in making the HORIZON



RAMDISK the popular unit that it is today as well as the TERRIFIC ENHANCEMENTS both hardware (Mike Ballman) and software (John Johnson) wise. More on this subject later.

The HORIZON RAM DISK (I'll refer to as HRD) was designed to operate with ALL of the disk controllers on the market (T.I., MYARC, CORCOMP, and PERCOM) and with most 32K memory expansions (T.I., MYARC, FOUNDATION, BOXCAR, etc.). The HRD is not yet able to operate in the GENEVE (9640) environment, but expects this to change shortly. With the uncertainty of this market, and the advances made every day, the areas that I talk of here are only one more rung of the ladder higher tomorrow, since we have NOT yet seen the apex of the life cycle of the TI99/4A and it's family of peripherals.

The HRD has a switch selectable CRU Address, which enables you to select it's CRU address easily. The ROS talked of earlier, is RAM, and can thus be altered easily as the need arises (improvements to the operating system or customizing). The HRD has a complete set of "CALLS" and can easily have NEW CALLS written by the user. You don't need an EPROM BURNER to implement them on the card. These CALLS are summoned in BASIC or EXTENDED BASIC. They include:

- 1) CALL DN(n)           Set drive number
- 2) CALL WD or WF       Set/Clear Write Protect on the drive
- 3) CALL MS(n)          Sets MAX. Sectors the ROS will recognize.
- 4) CALL CD or CF       Turns card on/off
- 5) DELETE "XBCALL"     Executed after CALL INIT to move all the CALL  
                          routines to the LOW 8K of expansion memory. CALL LINKS  
                          then can access them.
- 6) CALL EX             Used with CALL CD/CF allows the user to link to the  
                          ROS from BASIC.
- 7) CALL DM             Used to load a Disk Manager when the Disk manager  
                          files are on the RAMDISK.
- 8) CALL NF(n)          Only useful when CRU base isn't <1000 to enable  
                          BASIC and other programs to access RAMDISK.
- 9) CALL?              Users can create their own userdefined subroutines.  
                          Documentation incl.

The HRD can be purchased as a 192K unit fully assembled and warrantied for 90-Days from HORIZON for \$195. or as a BARE BOARD w/DOCS and SOFTWARE for \$45. or just the BARE BOARD for \$38. in any quantity. I talked with Ron Grise just yesterday, 12/25/87, and was told that the last units he sent out were set up to be easily upgraded to the HRD+ (uses 32K BYTE chips and can be expanded to ONE-MEG.). They include MENU 7.01 as well as their own operating system. BUD MILLS SERVICES provides the complete KIT assemblies for this unit and the HRD+. More on the HRD+ next month. There is just too much difference to include this month. HORIZON COMPUTER, LTD PO BOX 554, WALLBRIDGE, OH 43465 and BUD MILLS SERVICES, 166 DARTMOUTH DRIVE, TOLEDO, OH 43614.

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