

# NEWSNET99ER

VOL 8 NUM 6

JUNE 1990

**NEXT MEETING :  
SATURDAY  
JULY 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

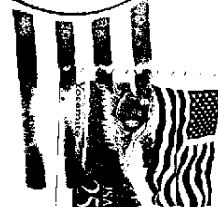
NET99ER BBS 300/1200/2400 TEL 24HRS  
457 7043

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



NET99ER HCUG  
P.O. BOX 534  
HURST, TX. 76053

Dallas TI Home Computer Group  
P.O. Box 29863  
Dallas, TX 75229  
EXCHANGE



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

Without a doubt summer is certainly here, but not too long ago I remember people saying I sure wish summer would hurry and get here, now what do you think their saying.

We have some wonderful surprizes for the up and coming meeting, you say what surprizes, welllllllll, what would you say to having Jim Stuart of the Dallas group and former member of the Net come over and give us a hands on demo of how to get started using TI-Base. Jim has worked with TI-Base since it first came out and I think that he may be able to shed some light for us that are still looking for the light at the end of the tunnel.

Also from the Dallas group and our very own is Jim Lester, who will be showing us a few things on Missing Link as well as some of his own wares.

If there is enough time, I plan to show some of the things I use to keep up my disk drives and how to clean them. If there is enough interest I may show some of the tests that I perform to check drives for their accuracy and capability.

I understand that we had one or two people join our club in this last month, so everybody welcome our new people at the meeting and if they need some help please say then feel at home and not be afraid to ask questions.

For those that bought the fans and want them installed don't forget to bring them to the meeting, that also goes for the consoles if you need a group installed.

Recently I have been asked if the 9640 computer is likely to take the place of the 99 4s, I can't really say, but I think it has a very good chance. While the 4s is starting to slip away the Geneve is starting to catch on, even though the machine is not IBM compatible it is very capable on its own and I have seen some really amazing things come from it, besides being compatible with the 4s. I am all in favor of having a 515 group for the 9640 if there is enough interest, just let me know.

The future for the 4s and 9640 is not clear, nor is it for the clones, not only is the XT and orphan now, but so is the AT and probably the PS/2 before long. Right now I can't see what will happen in the future, but this I know, the 99/4s has been a faithful friend and has done nearly everything that I have asked of it and it's limitations have been filled with the 9640, for me at least, I just can't think of a reason that I would need any other computer any time soon. I have a clone and I am not impressed, good business machine, but poor personal machine, long live TI.

Your in good hands with TI -<1>-

By the way, I hope to see everybody at the meeting, this promises to be a good one, so don't miss it, you know the 4th of July is in the middle of the week so no excuses. The meeting will be Saturday July 7, 1990 at 9:30 a.m. at the N. Richland Hills Community Center just behind the Mobile off 820 Icop and Rufe Snow drive, come join us, see ya there!! ##Janestt

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

Howdy fellow members. A bit of news about the BBS first..... My son, Jeremy, is no longer the Software Manager. We had a bit of a falling out. For now, I will handle the Software Manager duties. The BBS is still moving along, albeit kinda slow regarding posting. I would like to see more posting between all users. It doesn't have to be concerning the TI, computers or anything electronic. Pick a subject to discuss and I'm sure you will get some response from some other user. Another item we need to bring up here is the purchase of two items for the BBS. First being the BOOT option.....this is a hardware modification made and sold by Wolfgang Reisterer. On powerup of the computer, it emits to the console a keypress of two to start Extended Basic on its auto-load procedure. It is VERY handy in areas where power outages are prevalent, such as is our BBS location. We are now calling Gary whenever the system needs to be reset. So far this hasn't been too much trouble but it does cause unwanted downtime. And there are times when we cannot reach Gary due to his service related duties. The price for this modification is \$35 plus S&H. I feel we should take a club vote to purchase it because of the expense. The other is a clock for the BBS. We will build this device at very little expense, and it will help keep the time correct on our system. I have a board and Ron Miller has the chips and other components.

Other news - I have to report that the Tandy CM-8 Monitor I recently tried with my Geneve either did not work, or my Geneve did not work on R6B, I am not sure which. I was able to swap the monitor for a 3.5 inch drive and a few other items. So I am still looking for a monitor to use with the Geneve. The green screen works okay for now and I can live with it. I will keep my eyes open for an R6B that will work with the 9640.

And now back to Club news. We all know that with declining membership and of course the dwindling popularity of the 99 system, our club has to tighten it's belt to survive. We have a fair sized treasury, and we must all do our fair share to keep the club going. We need to express our thanks to several members of the club. Barbara Massey has the newsletter and she has a done fantastic job. Ciro Lopiccio has volunteered to take the Club Lending Library duties from member Joe Torres. Gary Owens has opened his door to the BBS and JoNell Thompson took on the awesome task of newsletter librarian. And of course our old stardbys.....well, ya'll know who you are..... Thanks everybody! If anyone was left out, please let us know and we will get your name in the newsletter.##Tom Collins VP/SysOp###

-----MINUTES OF NET 99er MEETING

of June 2, 1990-----

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by James Crosson with 12 members present.

It seems there was a delay in getting the newsletters printed and they were not mailed out to members.

James recapped the last meeting minutes from memory and explained the

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delay of the Newsletter. Minutes were accepted. Lee gave us a corrected treasury report and it was accepted.

It has been expressed that we need to increase attendance to the meetings. Suggestions are welcome and needed. SIG meetings have been suggested, but poor past experience haven't shown much attendance.

James explained that he has the quiet fan for the PBox, and he will install the fan for \$5.00 for the fan and \$5.00 paid to the club to install it in your PBox. Also, we have GROM parts available for \$10.00 each (not installed).

Before we could move into the DOM, Bill Duncan slipped out to get a monitor cable. The CEO of the DOM included DBASE- comparing it to the various other DATABASES for the TI, Battling Banjos- a music program and software authors were discussed among members, and DIFF- a utility for 9640 users to compare DVBO files.

A Question and Answer session dealt with members software problems, Maillist and Multiplan, mainly. Then we had a Buy, Sell and Swap, after which a break was held. Jim Lesher was present as a vendor.

PBox fan installation was held after the break. James installed a fan in JoNells PBox. JoNell had gotten her Newsletter electronically so she knew of the fan installation.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30.

Submitted by your substitute secretary\*\*Tom Collin\*\*

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

The club started with \$662.70. We had an income of \$83.05 and expenses of \$39.50 leaving us with a total of \$656.25 through the month of June. Treasurer\*\*\*Lee DeForest\*\*

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

We want to thank those who renewed their memberships last month. June does not seem to be a good month for getting new members. Members who need to renew their membership in July are: Clyde Haggard, and Cirio Lopiccio. Please be sure to check your address label, if your membership expiration date is incorrect please let us know.

Members whose renewals are now past due are: Fred Deaver (5/90), Donald Hammonds (5/90), Glenn Lindley (5/90), Arnold Fraly (3/90), Tom Hall (3/90), and Sharon Jolliff (3/90). If you are unable to attend a meeting, you may send your \$20.00 membership fee to NET99er HCU6, c/o Bill Duncan, PO Box 534, Hurst, Texas 76053.

We also have MICROpendium subscriptions that need to be renewed this month. Check with Lee DeForest for your expiration date.

#### -----TI NEWS-----

by Tom Hall

Entrepreneur, CHRIS BOBBITT, young owner, operator, programmer of ASGARD SOFTWARE will be in the D/FW area in September. Chris is one of the main

X0 = Use Smartmodem 300 result codes  
X1 = Enable "Connect XXXX"  
X2 = Enable "No Dialtone" #1  
X3 = Enable "Busy" #1  
X4 = Enable "No Dialtone" and "Busy" #1  
Y0 = Long space disconnect disabled  
Y1 = Long space disconnect enabled  
#1 Not available on early models

=====

There is a set of single character commands that controls the dialing of a phone number by a modem.

D = Dial a phone number  
T = Use touch tones  
P = Use pulses instead of tones  
, = Pause for one second

=====

The Hayes command set also allows the user to control various other functions of the modem's operation by putting appropriate numbers into a set of control registers.

The registers are designated as follows:

S0 = selects which ring to answer on  
S1 = ring count  
S2 = define Escape code character (0-127 Ascii)  
S3 = define Carriage Return character (0-127 Ascii)  
S4 = define Line Feed character (0-127 Ascii)  
S5 = define Backspace character (0-32, 127 Ascii)  
S6 = wait time before blind dialing (2-255 seconds)  
S7 = wait time for carrier/dial tone (1-255 seconds)  
S8 = wait time for comma in command string (0-255 seconds)  
S9 = carrier detect response time (1-255 1/10th seconds)  
S10 = time between carrier loss and hangup (1-255 1/10th seconds)  
S11 = duration/spacing of touch tones (5-255 milliseconds)  
S12 = escape code guard time (20-255 1/50th seconds)  
S16 = test mode 0 = terminate test  
1 = local analog loopback test  
2 = not defined  
4 = digital loopback test

Available on Smartmodem 2100 only:

S18 = test timer  
S25 = ITR change detect time  
S26 = RTS to CTS delay

These 8 Registers are also commanded by an AT command.

These commands may be of some use to users of Hayes compatible modems. I do not guarantee that they will all work for your modem, and cannot be

shakers and movers of the TI99 Community.

Chris's visit is sponsored by the Dallas TI Home Computer Group for the benefit of the North and Central Texas TI99 Community. A dinner/reception is planned.

All interested TI99'ers are welcome and there is no admission charges, nor parking charges. Computer ware vendors will be available. This includes the full time TI99 dealer - Jim Lesher.

-----BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS-----

Gary Ownes called me the other day to inform me of a store that carries discontinued books for \$1.00 each. BOOKS FOR \$1.00 is the name of the store and according to Gary they have books on the TI that he had never seen or even heard of. All for \$1.00. At that price it is well worth the trip. The store is located in the shopping center between Rufe Snow and Grapevine Hwy next to the Home Depot and BizMart. Myself, I plan on buying two of each book that I don't have. The books cover assembly language, games, database management, basic and then some. Thanks Gary for sharing your find with us.

-----HAYES MODEM COMMANDS-----

by Tom Collins

AT = The command that is used to get the modem's "attention." All commands that go to the modem start with AT  
B0 = CCITT V.22 1200 BPS carrier select  
B1 = Bell 212A @ 1200 BPS  
C0 = Carrier off  
C1 = Carrier on  
E0 = Commands not echoed to the terminal  
E1 = Commands echoed to the terminal  
F0 = Characters are not echoed to the terminal  
F1 = Characters are echoed to the terminal  
I0 = Check modem ID code  
I1 = Compute ROM checksum  
I2 = Test internal memory  
L0 = Low speaker volume  
L1 = Low speaker volume #1  
L2 = Medium speaker volume #1  
L3 = High speaker volume #1  
M0 = Monitor speaker always off  
M1 = Speaker on until carrier detect  
M2 = Speaker always on  
M3 = on until carrier detect except while dialing (2400bps model only)  
Q0 = Send result codes  
Q1 = Do not send result codes  
V0 = Display result codes as digits  
V1 = Display result codes as words

responsible for any lost data should you try these and they don't work. If you have any additions to the list or changes please do send them and we will add them after we check them out. Also be aware that some programs require the use of some characters listed here and will cause conflict in some of those programs. A list of such programs is not available.

-----THE MISSING LINK HINTS-----

by Jim Lesher

This Missing Link program is for us very beginners. It is important to know that you are working on a grid with 192 rows and 240 columns of pixels. A sheet of graph paper with 1/4" squares on an 8 1/2 by 11" sheet works quite well, counting 4 pixels per square. This will help you see exactly what numbers to use. For example to draw a line from one point to another. A much shorter program could be written to do what this one does but this one will be more illustrative. If you have trouble with it call me. Jim Lesher (2:4) 821 9274.

```
5! STIX
10 CALL LINK("LINE",00,120,192,120)
20 GOSUB 130
30 CALL LINK("LINE",30,186,162,54)
40 GOSUB 130
50 CALL LINK("LINE",96,024,096,216)
60 GOSUB 100
70 CALL LINK("LINE",30,54,162,186)
80 GOSUB 100
90 GOTO 10
100 CALL LINK("CLEAR?")
110 RETURN
```

-----HINTS, TIP ANSWERS (HTA)-----

TI-WRITER

(or equivalent)

*copied from the Southern California Computer Group 3/90*

1. Outdenting-This is the reverse of "indenting". It will allow the first line of a paragraph to be started farther to the left than the remaining lined in the paragraph.  
eg - "LN12:IN7:RM71" causes the first line to start at column 7 and subsequent lines to begin at column 12.
  2. When using REPLACE STRING you must be in the same MODE (Word wrap or Block) that the original document was produced in.
  3. This is for use in Funnelweb Text Editor mode (note: it may work for regular TI-Writer but I'm not sure). Want to convert the character case (UPPER to lower; lower to UPPER)?
    - i) UPPER to lower - depress CTRL and "." (period).
    - ii) lower to UPPER - depress CTRL and ";" (semi-colon).
- By keeping the keys depressed the autorepeat function will take affect and

every character the cursor passes over will be converted.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: I could not get this to work on the 9640 and MY-WORD)

4. To save part of a document, insert in front of the filename the first line number you wish saved then either a comma or a space and then the last line number you wish saved.  
eg - 5,30 DSK1.MINUTES or 5 30 DSK1.MINUTES - will save the lines 5 to 30 inclusive, onto disk drive #1 under the name MINUTES.
5. To "get rid" of the line numbers on the left of the screen, press FCTN 0 (zero). To get them back, press FCTN 0 again.
6. If you erase a line in error, press CTRL 1 (known as "DOFS!") and your line will be restored. Note: This will work ONLY if no other keys were pressed between the erasing and "DOFS!".
7. When using the "Search" command remember that the search is only from the point that the cursor is located. Therefore, to search the total document, the cursor must be on line 1 before you go to the Command mode.
8. To backspace beyond the left margin, press CTRL Y. This will temporarily disable the left margin. There is no right margin release.
9. When using the Header or Footer command with the page number it is possible to have NO value printed (such as for the introduction, etc) by using the .PA forsal command with a value of zero. The page numbering will begin on the following page. A Using .PA at the end of each page will delay the numbering further.

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The following is Part V of a series written by John F. Willforth. This was first written back in April of 1988. Please note that the MYARC Hard/Floppy controller card now WORKS in the Geneve (9640).

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

by John F. Willforth

The MEMORY PLUS card from CORCOMP appeared on the market almost two years ago, and to date I have not seen one. I therefore was hesitant to write this article. I had to depend on an article by Scott Darling as well as information provided by Willis Richardson and the technical support at CORCOMP. I hope that it will be complete and accurate enough to merit your consideration. I have tried to be as objective as possible on all the Ram Disks reviewed.

The MEMORY PLUS comes in both a PEB unit and a stand alone unit. The stand alone unit is more flexible in that it can be used in conjunction with your 32K expansion memory, while the PEB version cannot. They both come in 256K as well as 512K sizes, again the stand alone can be configured with an added unit (two 512K units for example) and the PEB version cannot. Both units are supported by a 9V power supply to the ram disk card to support memory when a system is powered down normally. If a total failure of the AC occurs, you will loose all files on the MEMORY PLUS. This is a common failure of any Dynamic Ram based RAM DISK.

The MEMORY PLUS comes with the disk manager resident on the card, this is good for two reasons, one is that you don't have to load from a diskette, and two, it is the only one that gives you full use of the disk. The manager is called with "CALL RAMSR" for units with the newest PROM installed V3.1 or "CALL RMGR" with lower versions, a good way to tell what PROM you have in you MEMORY PLUS. The disk manager can initialize the disk, handle all disk and file functions as well as tes: the entire ram disk memory. The manager is very similar to the disk manager that comes with the CORCOMP disk controller. It has some nice features, among them pressing a "T" when selecting to copy a file that is protected, will temporarily unprotect that file until the file has been copied. The residents disk manager will also work with other disk units in the system. A total of 2048 sectors is the default for a 312K and 1920 will be the limit if you wish for the 32K expansion memory to reside in the unit (required on a PEB only set-up).

A major draw back with the ram disk is in the fact that the entire disk is called as one volume. In other words if you intend to use "TIMP" for Multiplan, that is the only name that can be used for that entire unit. You will have to take this into consideration if you are a user of software that is dependent on specific volume (disk) names. Many of the other ram disks do allow for multiple volume names within a single ram disk unit.

The MEMORY PLUS, according to Scott, is able to work in the system with a different ram disk present. This could be a saving grace to compensate for it not accepting more volume names. You will have to set up CPU addresses for your card, which by the way are >1000 and >1400 for the MEMORY PLUS.

The drive number can be set with the disk manager or under basic using a DELETE "SDx", where x is the drive # selected.

A lowercase with desenders is available for use by basic/xbasic simply by using a DELETE 'LWNER'.

There is a switch on the MEMORY PLUS which is of course located at the rear of the card (but has pins available for a remote connection) whose purpose is to assure an orderly power down of the PEB without glitching the ram disk and this switch should be used each time the PEB is powered down. A switch over of clock and flag settings will be done if this switch is pressed. I think this is a bothersome drawback.

I spoke of the Prom V3.1 which is available. CORCOMP has corrected some problems such as a density identification problem in sector C, and added the ability to catalog the disks to a serial, parallel port or to a disk.

The stand alone units are built by CORCOMP as ordered, and any pricing should be checked with your CORCOMP dealer. CORCOMP has a good attitude of support for their products. Call them at (714) 434-2993 or write CorComp Inc., 2211-G East Winston Road, Anaheim, CA 92807.

By the way, if you are still under a warranty, CORCOMP will send you a new Prom, and if your warranty has expired, \$15 will update your MEMORY PLUS. I have used all the space available this month, so check back next month for a review of the GRAND RAM. (Hopefully).