



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

NEWSNET99ER

VOL 8 NUM 7

JULY 1990

**NEXT MEETING :
SATURDAY
AUGUST 4TH**

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 7E1 24HRS

457 7043

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

----- Net99er Officers -----

President: James Crosson (817) 498-8746 MC-167788
 Vice President: Tom Collins (817) 738-2428 MC-232653
 Secretary: Charlie Bathman (817) 485-3230 MC-12426
 Treasurer: Lee Deforest (817) 237-9745
 Member At Large: Barbara Massey (817) 292-3554 MC-298806

----- Net99er Staff -----

Newsletter Editors: Barbara Massey (817) 292-3554 MC-298806
 Membership Chairman: Bill Duncan (817) 498-0587
 Meeting Facilities: Bill Duncan (817) 498-0587
 Net99er BBS SysOp: Tom Collins (817) 738-2428 MC-232653

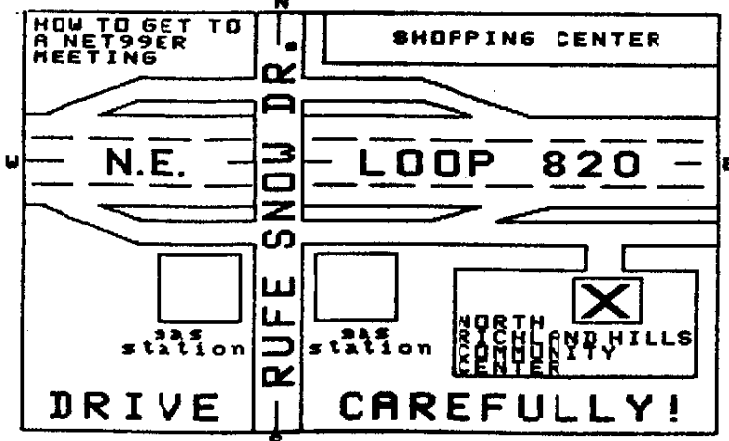
----- Net99er Library Staff -----

Chief Librarians: Ken Dominiec (817) 656-8076
 Lending Librarians: Ciro Lopiccolo (817) 297-1002
 Cassette Librarians: James Crosson (817) 498-8746 MC-167788
 Newsletter Librarians: JoNell Thompson (817) 237-5447

----- 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. If you have a question late at night, Barbara Massey stays up late and you can call her up to midnight. The MC-numbers are StarText mail codes.

The Net99ers meet the first Saturday of every month at the North Richland Hills Community Center. The meeting begins at 9:30 am and ends around noon. Visitors are welcome! Bring a friend! NRCC is located at the Rufe Snow exit on NE Loop 820.



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

There is so much to tell this month that I don't even know where to begin. Recently I received a message from Gary Higgs that he forwarded to me from Delphi, it stated that the conference being held was with Gary Bowser of a company he owns known as DPA.

To summarize a long and informative conference with a number of the "more informed" of the TI and 9640 environment, I will try to encapsulate the conversations as much as possible. The topic of main concern seems to be the new TIM board, this little board will supposedly replace the 9918 video chip with a new 9958 video chip that will have on board 192k of video ram which will replace the old composite monitors of the TI for the RGB monitors of the Geneve with VGA quality. If I am reading between the lines properly, I think that they are saying that with this upgrade that it is possible to utilize the ram of the Horizon and the new Rambo for pageable memory, much like the 9640 does. If this is true, it would be a major break thru, just like the Horizon was, the possibilities are endless.

Next on the list of goodies Mr Bowser mentioned a board that is used on the 4a that has eight slots for modules, the difference between this and the Navarone widget is not the eight slots as much as the fact that it has the ability to play mix or match with the modules, yes, I mean that he said that you could have the Mini-memory and the TE-2 and the EA carts all in memory at the same time as a combination, neat huh. Also, he has some software out for the Rambo, called Recallit, it will work only with the Raabo which is attached to the Horizon hardisk. The purpose of the Recallit program is a very fast data base for the TI, Gary said it will handle 4000 records and sort in one second, you read it right, one second, hmmm, I'll have to see that.

Besides these little wonders there is rumors of other great feats, like for instance, I called Myarc the other day and talked to Susan and she told me that they were having trouble with the bare boards for the HFDC cards, but Lou had some more made that was good and they would be shipping within a month. Also, the one thing that we have needed has finally come down the pike, no not a million dollars, but a program that would enable us to turn a program into ASCII and upload it to Startext or whatever service we use and the recipient would download it and decode it back to program image again. That means that you can now with the use of Clint Pully's program called GED, have the ability to upload and download programs by way of Startext or any other service,.....now thats what I call great, thank you Clint Pully.

There is more, but due to lack of time and space I will expound more at the meeting, now hows that for a come on!! Actually there is more, but we can go over it in the meeting and save some for the next newsletter, gettin good,

huh? I have heard by way of the land line that one of our kind is just about to order one of those TIM boards, so maybe next meeting we will be able to show one as well as talk about it, got your attention yet, well what ever you do, don't miss the next meeting of the NET99ers, due to happen August 4, 1990 at the usual place, and no I am not going to tell you where it is, you'll just have to find it on your own, ha ha ha! See ya there-if you can find it about 9:30 a.m.###James###

PS Just a little hint, N.Richland hills, just off Rufe Snow and 820 Loop, maybe that will help a little bit, see ya.

-----VF/SysOp's RAMBLINGS-----

This month has really snuck by me. Where did it go? Most of it at work, as is the same for most of us. The BBS hasn't changed, except for an 80 column 2400 bps intro screen. The message base traffic is down. I don't know what people expect to see there when they call, if they don't choose to be a part of the conversation. Perhaps its the downloads. Yeah, that's the ticket. Well the ticket will be pulled shortly. We will wipe all the DL areas clean and start anew, very soon. So if there is a program or GIF you really want, better do it soon. When this is done, the Members Only section will be back and available to all Club Members.

We have some rather surprising news from several sources. We all have read the advert for the Rave 99 P-Box. I think it is wonderful for a company to still be supporting the TI in a hardware sorta way. To produce a card for the system is one thing, but to actually take the gamble and produce a major piece of hardware, Rave really shows its devotion to the Tiers of the world. I own a Rave 99/XT keyboard adaptor, and the quality is top rate. Another item of note is the TIM. It is a small card that actually converts any TI console to 80 column operation. Released by OPA, it replaces the 9918 video chip inside the console, with some soldering required. Be advised that full implementation of such a device requires a monitor capable of displaying 80 columns of text, and higher resolution graphics than the TI currently displays. A monitor can set you back a few bucks also, usually \$79 for a new monochrome all the way up to \$400 for some of the exotic color analog RBE type. The initial cost for the TIM device has been mentioned to be \$150. This device reportedly measures 3" X 4", is a 9958 video chip backed with 192K video ram. This hardware will make the TI into a real contender, in my opinion. How many people will actually spend \$150 plus a monitor to upgrade their TI? Time will tell. I will say this, one is in my future.

Time to wrap things up.....NO CARRIER###Tom Collins###

-----MINUTES OF NET 99er MEETING
of July 7, 1990-----

We had sixteen guests sign in, including our new member Gale Jones, and Lynn Jennings who was here visiting from San Antonio. The meeting was called to order and the last meeting report was read by Barbara Massey and approved. James Crosson read the treasury report and it too was approved.

Jim Lesher, a member and TI vendor, commented on The Missing Link, TI Base, TI Artist Plus and other items he had for sale then gave a demonstration of The Missing link. Included were some "Turtles" Jim made. A very good demonstration.

James gave the demonstration of the DOM for the month. The DOM was about Assembly Language and included a book called the "Fundamentals of TI-99/4A Assembly Language".

There was a brief break after the Buy Sell and Swap.

Jim Stewart then gave an excellent demonstration of the TI Base program.

This month the demonstrations were recorded by Barbara Massey on a video camera. Those who would like a copy of the meeting, please bring a VHS tape to the next meeting and she will gladly make you a copy.

Submitted by your substitute secretary###Jo Nell Thompson###

-----TREASURY REPORT-----

The month of July was kind to us as we spent \$4.80 less than we took in. We collected a total of \$98.00 and spent \$93.20. This leaves the club with a grand total of \$663.83 at the half way point of the year.### Lee W. DeForest###

-----RENEWALS DUE-----

Members who need to renew their membership in August are: David Carper, Brent Cooper, Lee DeForest, Robert Klemp, Peter Rokkas, and Tom Woodard. Please be sure to check your address label, if your membership expiration date is incorrect please let me know.

Members whose renewals are now past due are: Clyde Haggard (7/90), Ciro Lopiccolo (7/90), Fred Deaver (5/90), Donald Hammonds (5/90), Glenn Lindley (5/90). 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.

-----EDITOR'S INPUT-----

Some of our members have not been to a meeting in quite a while. This is dangerous. If we want to keep the TI alive all of us must continue to support it and the user groups dedicated to TI. Come on ya'll!

*****TI NEWS*****
From Tom Hall

Entrepreneur, CHRIS BOBBITT, young owner, operator, programmer of A36ARD SOFTWARE will be in the D/FW area in September. Chris is one of the main 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 Leshar.

-EXTENDED ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE FOR THE PC-
submitted by Tom Collins

Intel's EAPx86 family of processors are what has recently become known as a CISC (Complex Instruction Set Computer). In fact they can even be customized for specific applications. (Remember when everyone said that the new PS2 series of IBMs would use customized '286 chips?') Some of the instructions for the PC family are so frequently overlooked that we really should look at them periodically. In addition to making us better programmers, this can help us understand the machine's sometimes quirky behavior.

The instruction IDPS, Ignore Disk Protect Switch, is a reserved instruction, used in low-level programming of the operation system's BIOS routines, for those occasions when the system needs to verify disk I/O problems. It is closely related to another reserved instruction, EDR (Execute Destructive Read).

RIRG (Read Inter-Record Gap) is commonly used both in OS programming, for reading and writing sector checksums against disk errors, and for database applications, where it enables the application to store housekeeping information without cluttering up the user-defined records.

A further group of instructions are provided as NOPs of various durations. These instructions are provided to allow control of memory access wait states and to accommodate the slow off-line storage devices currently available. BAH, BCIL, PLL and SFT (Branch And Hang, Branch Creating Infinite Loop, Perform Perpetual Loop and Stall For Time) all provide extended interval delays, with varying degrees of interruptability, BAH being the most

restrictive while SFT is the easiest to terminate.

BAH is related to a further group of control instructions. These allow enhanced transfer of program control throughout the system. They include the IA (Illogical And) and BW (Branch on Whim), commonly used in artificial intelligence (AI) applications, IIB (Ignore Interrupt and Branch), used for critical error handling, and JTZ (Jump to Twilight Zone) for extended program holds.

The extended instruction set includes memory management functions as well. Some of the more important ones are the AAC, (Alter All Commands), AAR (Alter At Random), SRZ (Subtract and Reset to Zero), LSD (Lose Significant Digits), CVB (Convert to Garbage) and RA (Randomize Answer).

Other instructions control I/O processes. These include RST (Read and Shred Tape), SRSD (Seek Record and Scar Disk), DAP (Deselect Active Peripheral), DHH (Destroy Sector Header) and FOPC ((set) False Out of Paper Condition).

Let you think that these instructions prove that Intel is Out To Get You, be assured that there are a number of valuable user-friendly instructions in the vocabulary. Some of these include EIOC (Execute Invalid Op-Code), an insurance instruction against scrambled files, DWIM (Do What I Mean), GEAR (Get Correct Answer Regardless) and, most important, ACQT (Advance Clock to Quitting Time).

There are also two other, more obscure instructions: BNE/BNZ (Branch NEARLY equal, Branch NEARLY zero). This is useful when programming problems where the correct answer is "Close enough for government work." Also - CF (Come From). This instruction is useful when you have to re-run a program to eliminate the last update. Come From enables a programmer to execute a program in reverse order.

-----MODEM ERRATA-----

By Tom Scott (with apologies to the
anonymous author of *Desiderata*)
From TELECOMPUTING, Spring 1990

60 PLACIDLY among the line noise and baudrates, and remember what boredom there was before BBSing. As far as possible, do not covet your neighbor's NST.

Answer your Email clearly and without typos, even to the nerds that pester you, for they have something to say even if you can't figure out what it is.

If you compare yourself with others, you may consider suicide; for there is always someone more proficient in Zmodem than yourself. Label your disks.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble; even after staying up all night downloading. Exercise caution in your business affairs; because you

need the money to pay your CompuServe bill. But let this not blind you to what enjoyment there is on your local BBS; many persons strive for the most recent shareware; and uploads get you more time on line.

Be yourself. Especially, do not lie about your age or looks when responding to Email from "Sexylady." Do not post messages in all caps. Neither be cynical about donations to the sysop; for in the face of all reality, he needs the money for the phone lines. Beware of viruses.

Take kindly the counsel of Phil Katz and Chuck Forsberg, gracefully admitting that they know more than you will ever learn. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you from sudden hard disk crashes. But do not distress yourself with needless worry. Many fears are born of fatigue from being connected all night to ExecPC. Register your shareware.

You are a child of the universe, you have a right to buy a 9600 v-series Hayes. And whether or not it is clear to you, the communications program is understandable. Read the docs.

Therefore be at peace with the sysop, no matter what a jerk he is, and whatever your BBS plans may be, take your wife out to dinner occasionally.

With all its bad documentation, high registration fees, and aborted downloads, it is still better than paying for commercial software. Be cheerful. Strive to pay your phone bill.

-----NEW SOFTWARE-----
by Jim Leshar

Apparently the latest thing in software is the version 3 of TI BASE. Changes have been made in the running format ie, from disk or RAM. Some other changes include, CLOSE command, SJM directive, SET, DELETE & RECALL, LEN & SUBTR, READCHAR, APPEND FROM and AVERAGE. The new version can be obtained from Texaments for \$17.45.

Spell-it is now a reality. There are 3 versions; SSSD, JSDD and an HFDC version with over 200,000 words. I tried the SSSD version and it works great. And it is very easy to use, it takes minimal reading of docs. Also you can delete words from the list and add your own very easily.

PRESS Has been shelved indefinitely. Comproline has taken over the GREAT LAKES SOFTWARE CO. and added some new companion disks for JOY PAINT. Not personally familiar with ANIMATOR I can't say for sure but from the description of the program, it is another PROGRAMMER'S utility. Pictures are created in frames like cartoons and then displayed in sequence to give the illusion of motion.

---THE MISSING LINK HINTS-PART 2---
by Jim Leshar

This month we will expand upon last month's program "STIX". We shall add changing colors to our program. And line 128 will put a small square in the center of our stix. So insert lines 6,7,124,128 and watch it go. If you want it to run faster, change the number 200 in line 100 to a smaller number but not smaller than 1. I have some numbered graph paper copies to use with your TML programming for free if you will see me at Infomart or NEXT STEP. If you need assistance call me at 214-821-9274, or Startext MC-134385.

```
5 ! STIX2
6 FOR C=2 TO 15
7 CALL LINK("COLOR",16,C)
10 CALL LINK("LINE",04,120,188,128)
20 GOSUB 100
30 CALL LINK("LINE",30,186,162,54)
40 GOSUB 100
50 CALL LINK("LINE",96,024,096,216)
60 GOSUB 100
70 CALL LINK("LINE",30,54,162,186)
80 GOSUB 100
85 NEXT C
90 GOTO 10
100 FOR D=1 TO 200
110 NEXT D
120 CALL LINK("CLEAR")
124 IF C>15 THEN 4
128 CALL LINK("FILL",90,114,102,126)
130 RETURN
```

-IBM ANNOUNCESS EXTENDED MOUSE SUPPORT-
submitted by Tom Collins

EDS Product Service Support SUBJECT: New Retain TIP
ABSTRACT: Mouse Balls Now Available as FRU

Mouse balls are now available as a field replacement unit (FRU). If a mouse fails to operate, or should perform erratically, it may be in need of a ball replacement. Because of the delicate nature of this procedure, replacement of mouse balls should be attempted by trained personnel only.

Before ordering, determine the type of mouse balls required by examining the underside of each mouse. Domestic balls will be larger and harder than foreign balls. Ball removal procedures differ, depending upon manufacturer of the mouse. Foreign balls can be replaced using the pop-off method and

domestic balls replaced using the twist-off method. Mouse balls are not usually static sensitive, however excess handling can result in sudden discharge. Upon completion of ball replacement, the mouse may be used immediately.

It is recommended that each servicer have a pair of balls for maintaining optimum customer satisfaction and that any customer missing his balls should suspect local personnel of removing these necessary functional items.

P/N N33FB462 - Domestic Mouse Ball P/N N33FB411 - Foreign Mouse Ball

The following is Part VI 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

Well, it's May 1988 and I've been writing about RAM DISKS for six months now. I've only lightly covered the "BIG FOUR", HORIZON, HRD+, MYARC, and CORCOMP. Each of them is available now, and most if not all the bugs have been ironed out. I thought that if I stretched it out long enough, that DATABIOTICS would have their unit out, running, some deliveries under their belt, and be picking up steam in the RAM DISK market for the TI. Well there is STEAM!

I'm not going to get into all the details, (it's hard to know what is true) but in order to give those of you who are chomping at the bit for the "advertised" GRAND RAM, I'll review an article by a guy who has two of these rascals, Ken Hami of the User Group of Orange County, CA. He issued many of his own opinions below, and where this was done, I'll put " " around the text.

Ken says that he's been beta testing a pair of GRAND RAMS for DataBioTics, and "they have really gotten it together with the software. It has been unfortunate that this product has had so many delays in manufacture, but in a way, looking back over the last six months, I have to admit that the software six months ago was terrible to what it is now." Ken then compares the Geneve, and infers to the long incubation, nativity, infancy, and it's nearing puberty even now, as justification for the GRAND RAM's long time in development. I personally don't find that the comparison is there. It takes more to develop a machine that emulates an older technology, and maintain compatibility with all peripherals that plug into the same SYSTEM BUS, as well as is able to keep up with the best of what is being produced by the monied personal/home computer manufacturers of today than it is to follow on the coat-tails of people like Lou Phillips, Ron Gries, John Clulow, Dave Rower, and the folks at CORCOMP.

The West Penn 99'ers attempted to purchase two RAM DISKS from DataBioTics

as long ago as TWO years. We were buying them as part of the National Advisory Panel (NAP), which was set up by DataBioTics to get software/hardware into the hands of key people in the TI family for the purpose of reviewing for the mutual benefit of DataBioTics and the Users Groups. This was to tie the GRAND RAM, yes, 2+ years ago not six months ago. REMEMBER? We did get our money back about a year ago after being without it over 11 months. We just live right!

Enough, I think we need all the support we can muster, and we in turn must support those who take the plunge and invest thousands in an orphaned computer. We have to as editors of newsletters, include the complete picture so that you get the most for your dollar and are informed about what is going on in the marketplace.

Ken reports that you can use the GRAND RAM as both a RAM disk and as a print spooler, with the sizing being done by a CONFIGURE program not unlike that available for the HRD, HRD+, but having of course the added ability to configure the CLOCK, the FRINT SPOOLER as well as of course the RAM DISK. Ken says that you can have up to seven of these GRAND RAMS in a PEB, and "use them all". He set his 512K (max. unit size) card up as a 1-dsdd, 1-sssd, and a 50k spooler. A 50K spooler should be more than enough to print out most doc files, and return the TI CPU to you for further processing in less than two minutes. The printer may start to bother you after a half an hour of printing while you're playing VIDEO CHESS.

The drives can be designated 1 thru z, and this should come out to 35 logical units and if that isn't enough, you better look to a wichester drive.

The GRAND RAM has "HOT KEYS", which means you don't have call loads. "You just punch the key, and WHAM! The program you want is up and running!" This is because the unit has a built interrupt timer chip, and each card has 14 HOT KEYS. These keys do such things as turning your clock on/off, print spooler on/off, power up program on/off, as well as disabling interrupts, and seven keys (programmable) for program loading. Remember each GRAND RAM in the PEB has these 14 keys.

The unit comes with a modified "MENU" program from John Johnson, updated version of 4A Talk, and the word processor is modified (which WP, I don't know) to run on it. Disk Master I (from DataBioTics) is provided but at this time cannot access drives 7 thru Z. John Birdwell's Disk Utilities 4/8R supports this unit according to Ken, and "does it all!" I believe that if I were to get a GRAND RAM, I would write to John Birdwell at the same time I wrote the check for the hardware.

Speaking of hardware, the price is up a bunch since you read about that \$99. price last summer for a 64K version (\$150. now). Be careful about buying this unit right now. Ask the guys in Dallas, Texas. It's really expensive when you don't get the hardware!