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TI NORTH ALABAMA TEXAS INSTRUMENTS 99/4A USER'S GROUP VOL 3 NO 11
UG P. O. BOX 11204. HUNTSVILLE. AL 35814

FROM THE PRESIDENT: GINDY KIRBY

I am now writing the president column. As you can see we are still in need of help. I have appreciated all the help and support I received since taking office. Things have been getting busy for us.

For the next monthly meeting I have invited the Osborne Users Group to meet with us at our place. The topic will be MODEMS and PROTOCOLS. We will have a TI and an Osborne set up. Please bring all those questions with you, I'm sure someone can answer them. Our next meeting is May 8, 1986 at 7 p. m.

Be sure and read your newsletter carefully for more upcoming events.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING APRIL 10, 1986

The meeting was called to order by Charles Becraft. The new officers were introduced and assumed their offices.

Jim Smith was appointed Chairman of the Cassette Library and Charles Becraft took over as the Chairman of the Membership and Recruitment Committee.

Albert Boyett reported on a full system for sale. All interested parties were to contact him. (Update from the Pres. The system was sold at the 4th Thursday meeting.). If you need specific items for your system please contact Albert so when the next system becomes available we can have another joint sale.

A basic class will be taught by Eric Steenburn starting the 3rd Thursday in May. Anyone interested sign up with me at our meetings.

Committee members and articles for our newsletter are in great need. Volunteers please sign up at our meetings.

Charles Becraft has a disk manager program available. Please contact him if you would like one.

Bill Ellicott won this month's door prize - a disk flip file.

Sixteen members were present. 4th Thursday has been chosen as Software Library night. Please come out and help with our library.

P. J. Hux, Secretary

BASIC CLASS

Since several people have expressed an interest in learning the Extended Basic Language I have volunteered to conduct a class. I realize we have members in the club that need help with the basic operation of the 4A and related peripherals such as a disk system, printer and modem. I also realize that there is quite a diversity of expertise when it comes to programming skills. With this in mind I plan on having a "progressive class". This class will start on the ground floor and slowly progress upward until we are studying advanced programming techniques. The idea is for you to join the class when it has progressed to your level of expertise. If you plan on attending, please sign up at our meetings.

Eric Steenburn

SEE TI PAGE 4 FOR MAP TO MEETING PLACE.

BITMAC

A REVIEW BY OTHA H. VAUGHAN JR.

THIS PROGRAM IS BY FAR THE BEST GRAPHICS PROGRAM I HAVE SEEN FOR THE 99/4A COMPUTER. WITH A SECOND COMPUTER BITMAC CAN PLOT SATELLITE DATA, COMPUTER GENERATED ART, STATISTICAL DATA, AND ANALOG SAMPLED DATA.

BITMAC WAS DEVELOPED TO RUN IN EDITOR/ASSEMBLER, MINI MEMORY, OR EXTENDED BASIC AND CAN USE EITHER JOYSTICKS OR TRACKBALL. PRINTERS THAT ARE SUPPORTED BY BITMAC ARE TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, GEMINI OR EPSON TYPE WITH GRAFTRAX TYPE DOT GRAPHICS SUPPORT. DISK FILES CREATED BY BITMAC CAN BE MANIPULATED WITH THE TEXAS INSTRUMENTS DISK MANAGER MODULE (VERSIONS I OR II) OR USED BY USER CREATED FORTH AND ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE PROGRAMS. THESE DISK FILES ARE ALSO FOR MODEM FILE TRANSFERS BY THE TERMINAL EMULATOR PROGRAMS.

BIT MAC OFFERS ICONS INPUT THAT ALLOWS YOU TO POINT TO THE ICON YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE. THE "COMPUTER WISE" WILL FIND BITMAC TO BE A VERY PRODUCTIVE TOOL AND A REFRESHING CHANGE FROM THE CRYPTIC RELATIONSHIPS THEY MAY HAVE HAD WITH A SCREEN EDITOR.

BITAC IS WRITTEN ENTIRELY IN TMS9900 MACHINE LANGUAGE AND RUNS AT "WARF SPEED". IT IS A PRODUCT OF VAUGHN SOFTWARE OF ARVARD, COLORADO. NOW LET ME DISCUSS WITH YOU SOME OF THE UNIQUE CAPABILITIES THAT HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED IN BITMAC.

BIT MAC HAS THE FOLLOWING ICONS IN THE OPERATING MODE:

- 1 SLIDE SHOW
- 2 DRAW
- 3 COMPUTER ENHANCE
- 4 COPY
- 5 LINES
- 6 CIRCLES
- 7 RECTANGLES
- 8 VAULT
- 9 SCRUB
- 10 TEXT
- 11 COLOR

THESE ICONS ARE LINED UP ON THE LEFT HAND OF THE SCREEN AND ARE VERY EASY TO USE. THESE FUNCTIONS ARE VERY EASY TO USE AND CAN BE ACTIVATED BY USING THE FIRE BUTTON ON THE JOYSTICK THRU A SEQUENCE OF CLICKS OR BY HOLDING DOWN THE FIRE BUTTON. THESE FUNCTIONS CAN BE ACTIVATED IN ONE OF THREE WAYS:

- 1 ONE CLICK
- 2 TWO CLICKS
- 3 DRAG

WHEN ONE DESIRES TO SELECT A ICON HE WILL MOVE THE CURSOR OVER TO THE ICON TO BE SELECTED AND THEN HE WILL PRESS DOWN THE FIRE BUTTON. ONCE THE CLICK HAS BEEN INITIATED THEN ONE WILL DRAG THE ICON TO ITS STARTING LOCATION AND A RELEASE OF THE FIRE BUTTON WILL CAUSE THE COMPUTER TO BE IN THIS OPERATING MODE.

THE SLIDE SHOW MODE ALLOWS ONE TO WORK WITH PREVIOUSLY SAVED BITMAC DRAWINGS ON A DISK. UP TO 26 DIFFERENT SLIDES CAN BE PRESENTED EITHER IN THE MANUAL OR AUTOMATIC MODE.

THE DRAW MODE OPERATES IN THE "FREEHAND " MODE. THIS ALLOWS ONE TO DOODLE OR TO DRAW MOST ANY TYPE OF DRAWING THAT ONE WOULD LIKE TO DRAW. THERE IS A "SWAPBITS " FUNCTION THAT ALLOWS ONE TO SWAP WHEATHER A BIT IS ON OR OFF AND CAN BE AVERY USEFUL TOOL WHEN ONE IS DOING A DRAWING AND WOULD LIKE TO CHANGÉ IT.

COLOR CAN BE SELECTED ON OR OFF, THERE ARE 5 CURSOR OPERATIND SPEEDS FROM VERY SLOW TO FAST. THERE ARE 4 CURSOR TYPES THAT ARE AVIALABLE AND THE LOCATION OF THE CURSOR CAN BE DISPLAYED BY USING THE LETTER R KEY. THERE ARE 9 BRUSH SIZES THAT ONE CAN USE EITHER TO PAINT OR TO ERASE AS DESIRED. YOU CAN ALSO SAVE THE DRAWING TO A DISK AT ANY TIME WHILE YOU ARE IN THE DRAW MODE. THERE ARE 4 ARROW KEYS, WHEN USED WITH THE FUNCTION KEY ALLOWS YOU TO SCROLL YOUR DRAWING BY A SINGLE BIT IN ANY OF THE 4 CARDINAL DIRECTIONS. SCROLLING AFFECTS ONLY THE BIT PATTERN OF THE DRAWING AND NOT THE COLOR INFORMATION.

BITMAC HAS A SEPARATE SET OF ICONS THAT CAN BE USED TO ENHANCE THE DRAWINGS AND AND IT CAN BE USED TO EITHER ENLARE THE DRAWING OR TO REDUCE IT'S SIZE. THE ICONS THAT CAN BE USED ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 LIFE 1
- 2 LIFE 2
- 3 SWAPBITS
- 4 ENLARGE
- 5 REDUCE
- 6 FILL
- 7 ROTATE
- 8 MIRROW

THE LIFE FUNCTIONS ARE A RATHER UNIQUE SET OF FUNCTIONS AS THEY ALLOW A POPULATION SURVEY OF THE AREA YOU HAVE SELECTED AND DECREASE OR INCREASE THE BITS IN THAT AREA. THE FUNCTION TO AVERAGE THE NUMBER OF BITS. THE LEND TEXTURE TO THE DRAWING. THESE AREAS OF THE DRAWING TO BE OPERATED ON ARE SELECTED BY A "FLUID RECTANGLE" WHICH HAS A VARIABLE SIZE AS SELECTED BY THE OPERATOR. THE ROTATE ALOWS ONE TO ROTATE THE IMAGE THROUGH THE 4 90 DEGREE ANGLES. THE COPY FUNCTION IS USEFUL BECAUSE IT ALLOWS ONE TO COPY A PART OF THE DRAWING AND THE MOVE IT TO ANOTHER PART OF THE DRAWING.

BITMAC ALSO HAS FUNCTIONS TO DRAW LINES, CIRCLES, AND RECTANGLES OF VARIOUS SIZES. THE FUNCTIONS ARE ACTIVATED BY SETTING A POINT AND THEN DIRECTING HOW THE LINE ,CIRCLE, OR RECTANGLE IS TO BE DRAWN.

BITMAC ALSO HAS A SCRUB BRUSH TO ALLOW ONE TO SCRUB OUT CERTAIN AREAS THAT YOU HAVE SELECTED TO BE MODIFIED.

BITMAC HAS A ICON CALLED THE VAULT AND IT ALLOWS ONE TO DO THE FOLLOWING THINGS:

- 1 STANDBY
- 2 IN/OUT
- 3 MONO
- 4 COLOR
- 5 JOYSTK #1
- 6 JOYSTK #2
- 7 PRINT
- 8 COPROCESS

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THE PRINTERS THAT BITMAC WILL SUPPORT ARE GEMINI, EPSON, AND TEXAS INSTRUMENTS TYPE DOT MATRIX PRINTERS. THE OUTPUT CAN BE SENT OUT TO A RS232 OR PIO PORT. THE PROGRAM ALLOWS A NUMBER OF SCREEN DUMP FORMATS EITHER A SMALL SCREEN DUMP OR A LARGE SCREEN DUMP AND EACH DUMP CAN BE IN DIFFERENT STRIKE FORMATS.

BITMAC ALSO HAS A BOOLEAN OPERATOR FEATURE THAT ALLOWS FOR SPECIAL GRAPHIC EFFECTS. THESE OPERATIONS ALLOW YOU TO OVERLAY A SET OF SCREEN GRAPHICS OVER A SET OF SCREEN GRAPHICS THAT HAVE BEEN STORED ON A DISKETTE.

BITMAC ALSO HAS A VERY UNIQUE FEATURE THAT ALLOWS ONE TO USE ANOTHER COMPUTER TO CP-PROCESS DATA FOR YOU. BITMAC WILL HANDLE ALL THE ELABORATE GRAPHICS WHILE THE SECOND COMPUTER CAN CONCENTRATE ON MANIPULATING THE DATA.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST BITMAC ALSO YOU TO COMBINE TEXT WITH YOUR GRAPHICS. THE REDUCE, ENLARGE, ROTATE, AND THE OTHER FUNCTIONS WILL ALSO OPERATE IN THE TEXT MODE.

WELL I HOPE THAT I HAVE GIVEN YOU A GOOD REVIEW OF BITMAC AS I SAID BEFORE I THINK IT IS THE BEST BY FOR THE MONEY \$18.95.

OFFICERS:

President	Cindy Kirby	882-3599
Vice President	Jim Smith	723-4281
Secretary	P. J. Hux	881-5760
Treasurer	Charles Becraft	534-9796

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Hardware	Albert Boyett	852-7673
Cass. Library	Jim Smith	723-4281
Disk Library	Earl & P. J. Hux	881-5760
Education	Eric Steenburn	533-0299
Technical	Brian Kirby	882-3599
Documentation	Virgil Burrer	772-9597
Editor	Cindy Kirby	882-3599
Membership	Charles Becraft	534-9796

MEMBERS: If you are receiving your last newsletter it will be underlined in red. Renewals are due now in yellow.

Thought For The Month; WHICH IS YOU?

This is a story about four persons named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it and Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. In the end, Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody blamed Anybody.

-Executive Review

FOR SALE: Computer Desk with shelf \$50.00; posture chair \$20.00 Call P. J. or Earl at 881-5760.

