



OSHAWA TI
99/4A
COMPUTER
USERS GROUP

O
C
T



1
9
9
0

**OSHTI
SEPT
OSHTI
MEETING**



The Sept. OSHTI meeting was a good example of how fast time flies. It seems just the other day when we sat around the pond enjoying the summer. We are already experiencing our first frost (Sept.17), last nights unexpected frost did my cucumbers and squash in.

We discussed a letter from the Canadian Paraplegic Ass'n. re: help for paraplegics with computers. Our club can help, if the user has a TI of course, but as far as wheel-chair access, well we will need a drag parachute to stop a wheel-chair from going into the pond.

We have a number of volunteers for the Bowmanville Computer exhibition. Tom, Guy, Bernie, Rob, Keith and Ray volunteered. See the article later on the times of the exhibition.

We viewed one of the LIMA video tapes; Barry Traver showing JUMP PEG games. Has anyone got Volume 3 of the TRAVELER DISKAZINE ?

Guy mentioned that we now have a node for FIDO NET BBS and we can link up with others at NO CHARGE.

Gary Bower of OPA in Toronto has developed an 80 column card. It is a 9958 video chip. Apparently you can put it into any console.

The only problem (if you think it is) is that the output is RGB. The cost has been estimated at \$150. This is welcome news since I just read in the DALLAS newsletter that the DIJIT APUC card is no longer available. Leave it to Gary to develop another new TI product.

Up-and-coming FLEAMARKETS : LONDON OCT.14(Sunday) and NEWMARKET Nov.10(Saturday).

COMPUTER FEST is at the CNE Oct.12,13,14 (Fri.-Sun.) coupon in the TORONTO COMPUTES Sept. issue, thanks to Guy.

The TORONTO June DOM was demonstrated. It is probably the BEST ever produced. The SCRABBLE GAME (with printed instructions) is excellent. The Chequebook ledger is also first class. Wordcount also let us know just how eriodite our newsletter is. Sorry about all those 3 letter words.

Keith came up with some excellent quotes the night of the meeting, I only wish I could remember them. Maybe Keith could help by putting them down on paper for us all to remember. I demonstrated the programme that I am working on...HYPO CARD -an idea processor. This programme makes use of the new fast Assembly routines found in Harry Wilhelm's MISSING LINK.

Needless to say the hour got late and the old coffee pot dwindled. There is that enough longer words.

As they say in EAR, enough of this WAFFLE.

Tom



RELATIVE FILES

Another thing that I discovered whilst (take that EAR 99ers), going through my TI USER'S REFERENCE GUIDE concerns RELATIVE FILES.

When you OPEN a RELATIVE FILE for the first time, you DO NOT have to specify the total size of the file. For example, they usually show this in manuals.

```
120 OPEN #12:FILENAME$,  
RELATIVE,50,INPUT,FIXED,  
INTERNAL
```

The use of the 50 is to create space for 50 records. If this is what you want then go ahead. However, you must WRITE something into each record in order to be able to READ(INPUT #) or WRITE(PRINT #) to these records. This means that you would use extra time when you first create a file by writing in some extraneous (WAFFLE WAFFLE) material such as the letter "A" etc. Again the solution to this problem is to read the guide. It says that the number of records is OPTIONAL. You can create a file with no records in it and then write in what you need when you need it. Of course you will have to save the total number of records somewhere. The SOMEWHERE is in record #0. Record #0 is the FIRST record the file pointer will come to. Put in the information you need for the rest of the file here.

For example, you could put in the #of records, the date, the file name, etc. As long as you are within the length (FIXED) of your record. By the way, if you simply say FIXED with no number, the length will be 80 bytes for a disk drive.

I suspected this was true

when I first started using TI-BASE. You notice that you can add records (APPEND) with very little time needed for disk access (if it's a relatively small structure). The reason for this has to do with the PAB (Peripheral Access Buffer) file Buffer in the UDP RAM.

Another case for reREADING the manuals.



WINDOWING TIPS-T.M.L.

When making windows using the MISSING LINK use columns which are divisible by 8. Also make the width a factor of 8. The reason for this is the fact that colour pixels can only be assigned for columns which are 8 pixels wide. The height of the window does not affect the performance, however, if you are using characters which are 8 pixels high(default) then it is also a good idea to keep the height a factor of 8, but then add 1. The following programme segment illustrates the use of this.

I have used Tom Freeman's CHECKSUM programme to aid in typing this out. You should use the 16 color mode of TML to see the full colour effect.

The programme starts by clearing the screen (CALL LINK("CLEAR")) and then sets the screen colour to dark blue (CALL SCREEN(5)). The window frame colour is set in line 110 to BLACK(2) foreground and transparent background(1). The pen is set to DOWN using CALL LINK("PD") otherwise the next line will not show a black border.

Line 120 sets the window from row 1 to 82 (81 rows) and the width is (66 rows or from column 16 to column 82). The number 1 at the end sets

the border condition ON and draws the black box on the screen.

Line 130 resets the pen colour to blue (foreground) on a white(16) background.

Line 140 sets the pen to erase and line 150 does the actual erasing. Notice here that the erasing starts at 1,1 and goes to a width of 64 with a height of 81. This erases the contents of the box(if there was something in it) and prepares it for writing.

Line 155 is the start for the printing loop which will print 10 rows.

Line 160 prints "ROW" in the window starting at the beginning of a line (1) and moving down a line (8 pixels) using (I-1)*8+1 to define the proper start. Here I am using the default character size of 8 high by 6 wide.

Line 165 prints the value of I (line #) in the window to the right of "ROW". You will notice that you can only "PRINT" ONE THING at a time to the window(screen). However, you have excellent control over where it is to be printed.

Line 170 ends the For-Next loop

Line 180 waits for a key press.

Lines 190-210 clear the screen of the window and rerun the programme.

You might think that it is easy to clear the screen, but in actual fact you have to set the penhue to the reverse colours

(CALL LINK("PENHUE",16,5)-line 200 and reset the window to full screen(don't use parameters in the call Link("WINDOW") statement-Line 190. The call link("FILL") in line 210 clears the entire screen, but we could have done it faster by just clearing the area used(1,16,64,82).

This tutorial may be helpful in seeing how to

set-up and write to a window in TML. What you should do is try it and then experiment with it by changing a few things. You will find that if you change line 150 to simply call link("FILL") that it does not work as well. Try it and experiment !

Tom Jakabfy
Aug.1990

```
1 ! SAVE DSK8.WINDOWS <101>
2 ! TOM JAKABFY AUG.10,90
                                     <12>
100 CALL LINK("CLEAR"):: CAL
L SCREEN(5) <79>
110 CALL LINK("PENHUE",2,1):
: CALL LINK("PD") <212>
120 CALL LINK("WINDOW",1,16,
82,82,1) <181>
130 CALL LINK("PENHUE",5,16)
                                     <43>
140 CALL LINK("PE") <98>
150 CALL LINK("FILL",1,1,81,
64) <29>
155 FOR I=1 TO 10 <105>
160 CALL LINK("PRINT", (I-1)*
8+1,1, "ROW") <35>
165 CALL LINK("PRINT", (I-1)*
8+1,24,I) <224>
170 NEXT I <223>
180 CALL KEY(O,K,S):: IF S=O
THEN 180 ELSE 190 <0>
190 CALL LINK("WINDOW")
                                     <169>
200 CALL LINK("PENHUE",16,5)
                                     <43>
210 CALL LINK("FILL") <246>
220 GOTO 100 <179>
```



PRINTER PROBLEMS

A note to the SW99er's and anyone else using the STAR MICRONICS COLOR PRINTER with the CORCOMP RS232. There is a CABLE FIX for this incompatibility problem and there may also be an EPROM chip fix (via STAR MICRONICS).

See the last month's OSHTI article (SEPT.90) or the LA Topics(MAY 90) for details.



TI BASE REPORT TIP/bug:

In this issue you will find a REPORT FILE that I wrote for my TI-BASE data base. It was NOT EASY to set up the report so that it did exactly what I wanted. It takes time to generate a report which you can live with for some time.

Of particular interest will be the BUG that I found in the generation of the print out. As far as I can make out, this is somewhat minor but significant for those of us who want to generate long print-outs. Maybe I should not underplay this BUG since it took me the better part of a day and a half to realize that it wasn't me, but the programme that was in error.

The BUG I am referring to is in the SETTING of the PAGE length command. I SET my PAGE to 47 in the initial SETUP part of the REPORT (see the accompanying print out). If I did NOT include the PRINT (CM) (1) in the SETUP record then the first page would accept 48 PRINT statements before a top of form would be generated. Subsequent pages would be fine (ie. 47 print statements before a top of form). This drove me around the bend until I realized that there was an extra PRINT line allowed for the first page of your report.

So, I included the PRINT (CM) (1) in the SETUP record of the report OH1 which gives me the 48th PRINT for page 1. This works fine and helps setup the printer with CONDENSED PRINT in case I had forgotten to do so.

By the way, if you are interested in the THIS OLD HOUSE PBS series and want to know what has been on them since 1979 (I missed 1980), then drop me a line.

Another feature which I used in the REPORT file was one you shouldn't forget. This is the use of any feature on your printer that can be accessed through the PRINTER file. I used (UL) to underline TOPICS in record 2 of the BODY.

In record 3 of the BODY you will notice that ");MOVE;" is printed on the next line. The reason for this is that there is a LINEFEED after the "(1" on the line above. When the printer tries to output this line it naturally puts in the linefeed. The linefeed is put in by holding down the CTRL button and typing "010" ie. control 10, which is a line feed on most printers. Of course, the linefeeds DON'T COUNT when considering the PAGE LENGTH.

It was a real experience using the REPORT feature of TI-BASE Vsn 3.01, but after using it I can appreciate its power and idiosyncrocies. I hope that this will aid someone who has had trouble with PAGE LENGTH and TIBASE.

Tom Jakabfy OCT OSHTI

REPORT : OH1

```

BODY 1 PRINT TITLE, (3), "PART", PROG_#,
      (3), DATE, "TAPE #", (5), "COUNT
      ER ", COUNTER;
BODY 2 PRINT (5), (UL) "TOPICS", (NN) (
      CM) " ", "TOPICS;
BODY 3 PRINT (5), "TOURS ", TOURS, (1)
      ;MOVE;
CLEANUP CLOSE;SET HEADING=ON;SET RECNUM
      =ON;SET TALK=ON;
FOOTER PRINT (30), "END PAGE -", PAGE,
      (1-);
HEADER REPLACE PAGE WITH PAGE+1;PRINT
      (20), "THIS OLD HOUSE CATALOGUE
      P.", PAGE, (1);
NEXT 13 DISPLAY "*****", PAGE;
SETUP SET PAGE=47;SET HEADING=OFF;SET
      RECNUM=OFF;LOCAL PAGE N 4;PRIN
      T (CM) (1);USE T/O/H;
  
```

CREATED 11/04/88 CHANGED 02/29/90
FIELD DESCRIPTOR TYPE WIDTH DEC

FIELD	DESCRIPTOR	TYPE	WIDTH	DEC
1	TITLE	C	030	
2	PROG_#	N	003	00
3	COUNTER	C	004	
4	TAPE_#	N	003	00
5	DATE	C	008	
6	TOPICS	C	120	
7	TOURS	C	020	



NO JOY IN THIS STICK!

This past summer, I bought an ATARI compatible joystick which was ON SALE for only \$6.00 CAN. I have an adapter on my TI for this type of joystick. It looked nice and had a lovely hand action to it. It also featured CONTINUOUS FIRE for those really hot games.

Well I got home and tried it out on PARSEC. The continuous FIRE wasn't and the space ship would not go DOWN ! I tried a little programme that I had written in BASIC to see if the joystick was working. Well, it sure wasn't. So I took it back to the store (CANADIAN TIRE CORP.). I exchanged my non-functioning joystick for another of the same ilk.

When I got home, I again tried PARSEC. Now the space ship would not go to the left. Sure enough, on my joystick test programme, it would not go to the left either. I was now 2 for 2. By the way, the continuous fire did NOT work on the second joystick either.

Well, I had learned my lesson. I returned the second joystick and got my money back. When I mentioned to the girl that I was sorry that I didn't want a 3rd replacement, she said, "Don't worry, these haven't been the only ones returned." ARRRGH!

The name of the joystick was : QUICK SHOT II imported by SUI SPECTRAVIDEO.
BUYER BEWARE!

Tom.

**H
A
P
P
Y
T
H
A
N
K
S**



**G
I
V
I
N
G**

OCT. 8, 1990
(in Canada, eh)



NEW...NEWS 80 COLUMN ADAPTER!

Gary Bowser, OPA in Toronto should have an 80 column interface into production before the CHICAGO TI faire in November.

Gary will be demoing this system at the Sept. meeting of the Toronto 9T9er's on the 29th. I hope to be in attendance to see how this works.

The system will be socketted into the old 9918 chip area and need only one wire soldered elsewhere. There will be a 25 pin micro plug there which can be attached to a cable with a 9 or 15 pin DIN so that it will be output to an RGB monitor.

Gary suggested that the MAGNOVOX monitor advertized by TEX COMP for \$130 US would be suitable or any good quality RGB monitor (Amiga etc.). Gary is also hoping to be able to import some MAGNOVOX colour monitors and retail them thru OPA for a more reasonable price than an Amiga monitor (\$429 Can. on sale).

The price of the 80 column up-grade will be only \$150. This is better than the AVPC by DIJIT and the MECHATRONICS by ASGARD. Both of these are not available. The AVPC will no longer be produced by DIJIT and ASGARD isn't sure when the MECHATRONICS one will be available. At any rate Gary has the right price even though you will need an RGB monitor.

Oh yes. The best news is that the OPA 80 column card will be compatible with all existing software.

We need to support this venture by OPA to ensure that there will be 80 column cards for the TI.

P.S. This card will also work in the Coleco ADAM and a number of other 9918 UDP socketted machines.

OSHTI-OCT-90-5

IBM ----->



Did you know that you can hook your IBM or clone to your TI and exchange text (ASCII) files ?

According to an article in BITS, BYTES, & PIXELS (Lima TI USERS) all you need to accomplish this is TI-WRITER and an RS232 cable to the 'OTHER' machine.

According to Charles Good, you can purchase the cable from L.L.Conner (in the US). I suspect that one could be put together from scratch using the details of the RS232 card book.

Using TI-WRITER or a clone (Funnelweb or BA-writer) you type in LF for LoadFile and type RS232.CR for the file name and press enter. The console will appear to lock up but it is only waiting for the other signal from the other computer.

On the other computer, SAVE or SEND a text file from memory specifying the RS232 as the save file name. Text will flow from the other computer to the TI. When the transfer is complete press FCTH/4 on the TI and the file will be displayed and can be edited and saved in the usual manner.

I believe, there was also an article in MICROpendium to this end, but I'll have to search my files.

Thanks to Charles and the LIMA group for this tip.

Also, congrats go to the LIMA group for their excellent and original newsletters each month.

Sorry Gramma ?

This is a brief apology for some of the poor GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURE in the

SEPT. OSHTI newsletter. Although the newsletter was spell-checked with SPELL-IT, some problems with grammar and sentence structure occurred. I also found out that SPELL-IT does not do hyphens. My apologies for these inaccuracies.

I hope that future newsletters will be a little more readable with regards to the GRAMMAR and sentence STRUCTURE.

Thanks for your patience. Tom.

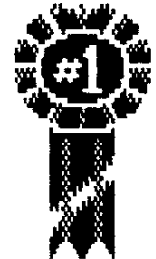
Pen Pal KIDS...



Kids, or rather young adults, attention. Do you want to become a pen pal with someone from Jolly ol' England ?

Mish Allen from the EAR 99er's group is looking for articles or just correspondence. Write to MISH ALLEN at :

17 Bank Street
St. Columb Major
Cornwall
TR9 6AT



For All EARS:

Whilst mentioning MISH ALLEN above, I would just like to say that the EAR 99er newsletters is an excellent one. They use PAGE PRO to produce it and the mix of text and graphics is excellent.

I concur with their sentiments of BEST WISHES to the serviceman of the USA and BRITAIN which is their cover page to their Sept.90 newsletter.

Canada is also involved in sending men (and women) from our small, but well-trained navy and air force.



CHICAGO INT. T. I. FAIRE

The CHICAGO TIMES newsletter (summer issue) arrived a few weeks ago. It mentions that their annual Chicago TI FAIRE will be called the Chicago International World Faire. It will be held on Nov. 3rd at the

Holiday Inn, 3505
Algonquin Rd.,
Rolling Meadows, IL

For more info write to:
Hal Shanafield
Faire Manager
Chicago TI 99ers Grp.
P.O. Box 578341
Chicago IL
60657

or phone
(708)864-8644(2-6pm

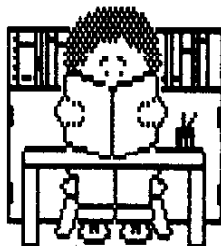
Central time)

My condolences and that of our group go out to the editor of the Chicago Times, Bob Demeter on the loss of his younger brother this summer.

BILL LAMENTS:

Several newsletters have included a lengthy article by Bill Gaskill on the demise of two more computer magazines, PC RESOURCE and PERSONAL COMPUTING.

Although these are basically IBM magazines, Bill goes on to mention all of the magazines which the TI once had supporting it. This makes for interesting reading for all.



SUPPORT

MICROpendium

Subscribe to MICROpendium. It is the only professionally printed and nationally distributed newsletter for the TI user.

You can get 12 issues for only \$32.50 (US funds) and it will bring a great deal of information to you every month.

As a subscriber for 4 years, I can attest to its value.

Don't let the opportunity to support this newsletter GO BUY!

I have included an order form for you as well.

You can even put it on MC or VISA to avoid the need of purchasing a money order at the bank.

Fill it out and do it today. Cost of a stamp for the US is only \$0.45.

Send me the next 12 issues of MICROpendium. I am enclosing \$ _____ in a check or money order in U.S. funds. Or bill my (Check one)

Exp. Date _____

Card No. _____

Minimum credit card order is \$9

Signature _____

(required on credit card orders)

Mail to: MICROpendium, P.O. Box 1343, Round Rock, TX 78680

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

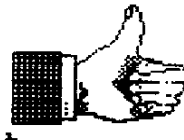
State _____ ZIP _____

The numbers on the left of your mailing label indicates the cover date of the last issue on your subscription.





SUPER MARIO BROS. not so super..



T.I.P.S. IS O.K.

PUG PERIFERAL a newsletter put out by the Pittsburgh User group has a review of SUPER MARIO BROS. It seems that it isn't such so super.

Gary Taylor ordered Super Mario Bros. from an ad in MICROpendium (which I mentioned in a previous newsletter). It seems that it takes a long time to get it via the mails (Gary says 5 weeks and 1 phone call).

Super Mario is also copy protected and won't work at all on a MYARC HFDC (disk controller). TURBO COPY will copy the disk on a NON-MYARC controller, bad sector 1 and all.

To get it to work on a MYARC controller, Gary copied the sectors over to a newly initialized disk and RECOVERED the files with DSKU. A long, slow process. But it worked.

Gary compared Super Mario Bros. to the Nintendo game, "It's graphics are poor and the speed of the game is slow." Gary adds, "All in all, it was a bad purchase." He goes on to say that the documentation was unreadable and it looked like the tenth generation of a xerox copy.

When Gary ordered Super Mario Bros. he also ordered Super Games Pack. He said that his was the only saving grace for this company. The only problem with the other games is that they are a "bit buggy and tend to crash occasionally but not in the same spot."

BUYER BEWARE!

SPIRIT of 99 (Central Ohio 99ers Grp.) had an excellent reprint of an article by Ed Machonis of the QB MONITOR on TIPS.

TIPS is a mnemonic of TIPrintShop. It is the baby of Ron Walcott of the Central Westchester 99ers Club in Shrub Oak NY. It is FREEWARE and can be had from the C.W. group for a copying or diskette charge.

It will make BANNERS etc. as you would expect from a PrintShop type programme. But its real contribution is the 3 223 graphics (pictures) that it adds to the TI machine. I have been using some of these excellent graphics in each newsletter. These graphics come from the IBM and APPLE format and were translated to the TI by Ron Walcott.

This has generated even more programmes, namely those which will take the pictures and convert them to other formats, eg. TI Artist or PAGE PRO. All of my graphics have been changed to PAGE PRO using a short utility programme.

I hope to demonstrate the TIPS programme at a future meeting.

A big
**THANK YOU TO
RON WALCOTT**

The TIPS programmes can be had for the cost of

\$7 + \$2.00 S/H
(DSSD)

The Central Westchester
99er Club,
P.O. Box 812,
SHRUB OAK, NY
10588

The files are ARCHIVED and will yield 17 DSSD or 33 SSSD diskettes.

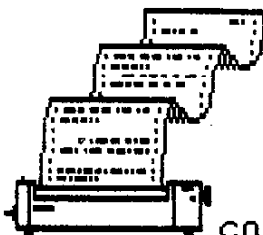
You can also order the 110 page catalog (showing the pictures etc.) from the C.W. club.

\$9.00 + \$2.00 S/H

This is well worth the cost of time and paper needed to print out the pictures and documentation. If you printed it out yourself it would take you about 25 hours.

Every club should consider this purchase for their library.

COLOR PRINTER NOTES:



STAR MICRONICS COLOR printer owners note. There is a way to add colorful words to your text print-outs without using a transliterate (< a what ? > file from TI-Writer (or clones like Funnelweb and BA-WRITER).

Dan O'Quinn of Waterboro SC provided the answer in the SEPT LA Topics newsletter. Here's what he has to say:

"Write your document as usual with a maximum right margin of 65. Next, run your program through the FORMATTER and out to DISK" not to PIO.LF etc.

"Next, load the file back in from disk and turn off word-wrap (CTRL 0). Now use RS (Replace String) and replace the words you want highlighted with the color command (< a double open parenthesis the command letter (C) a double closing parenthesis and the color number) then the word and finally the color command to turn off the color.

Obviously, you will save this file with its file name and then go to printer via the formatter.

However, when you go to print it out, use .CR instead of .LF. Your text should be

nicely formatted and the highlighted words should be in the colour of your choice.

Dan also mentions that if you look around in the states you can buy a color printer for about \$190 to \$200. I paid \$275 Canadian on sale.

He also mentions that the COLOR CARD and FLYER programme from COMPRODINE works very well with the color printer. I agree with Dan on this as well.

Now for the \$64 question, how do they get 7 colours from a 4 color ribbon.

The answer will be given next month.

Below is a simple transliterate file which will print selected words or line RED. You can use different colors by changing the color number in the 'C' definition or you define another character ('|' for blue) to give a new color. Notice you only need the one character '3' to return to black print.

Be careful when you type in transliterate definitions. The SPACING is very IMPORTANT !

```
.CO C START RED COLOUR
.TL 123:27,114,1
.CO 3 END RED COLOR
.TL 125:27,114,0
.CO |(FNCT A) BLUE colour
.TL 124:27,114,2
```

```
(TEST RED)
|TEST blue)
(CRED) and |BLUE) on the
same line.
```



NOT THE END OF THIS RAINBOW!
...but the end of this
newsletter!

NEXT
OSHTI MEETING

Mon. OCT. 15th

7:30 pm

Tom's Place : See map

-HOPEFULLY GARY BOWSER
WILL BE ABLE TO DEMO
HIS NEW 80 COLUMN
CARD AND TALK ABOUT
NEW PATHS FOR THE
TI 99/4A COMPUTER

-KAWARTHA MEMBERS
INVITED !

TO PORT PERRY

	N	
		660
S i m c o e	Winchester Rd. (6th)	R d. G i v e n
S t . N	Conlin Rd.	(5th) R d. .
	Taunton Rd.	S PT. MALL

- O - S - H - A - W - A -

**OSHAWA TEXAS INSTRUMENTS HOME
COMPUTER USERS' GROUP**

CHAIRMAN: RAY BLODGETT
(579-1767)

VICE CHAIRMAN: JOHN EASTHAM
(728-9994)

TREASURER: GUY LAFONTAINE
(576-5910)

LIBRARY/SEC.: DOUG BURLEIGH
(579-5109)

**NEWSLETTER
EDITOR:** TOM JAKABFY
(725-7298)

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: -----

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

The OSHTI membership is \$15 per family per year. Members receive ten(10) newsletters per year.(Jan.-Jun. Sep.-Dec.). Members also have the use of the club library (CASSETTE + DISK). VISITORS to club meetings are WELCOME. Copying charges for disks-of-the-Month are \$1(your disk) or \$2(our disk).

MAILING ADDRESS:

OSHTI
c/o Tom Jakabfy
660 Given Rd.
OSHAWA, Ont.
L1G 8L7

MEETING TIMES:

The OSHAWA TI USERS' GROUP (OSHTI) meets between the hours of 7:30 and 10:30 pm Location to be named in the newsletter.

The OSHTI Users' Group is a Non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging the continued use of the TI/994A for education, entertainment and data management. The club also supports the MYARC 9640 or GENEVE(TI compatible) computer.

Oshti

