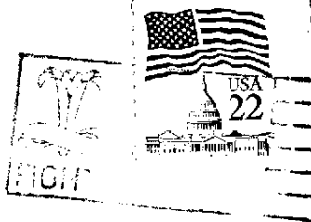WE PROUDLY PRESENT
FOR YOUR
DANCING AND LISTENING PLEASURE

Studebaker's lounge

300 West Main Street
Norton, Massachusetts
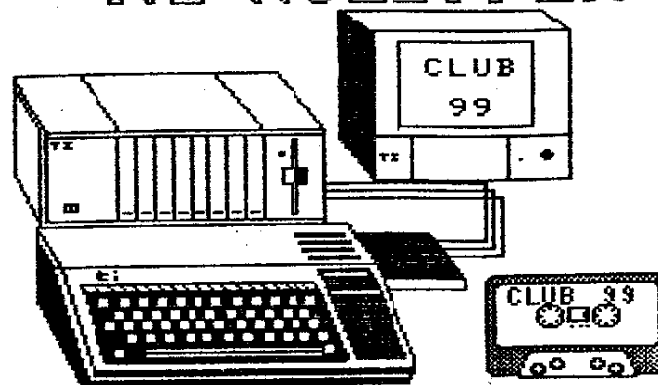(At The Wading River Golf Course)
222-9883

CLUB 99
34 FOREST ST.
MAIL STATION 1-0
ATTLEBORO, MA. 02703

CENTRAL ALABAMA 99/4 GROUP
551 LARKWOOD DR.
MONTGOMERY, AL 36109

***** NEXT MEETING WILL BE 3/30/87, 6:30PM *****

NEWSLETTER

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MAR 1987   NEWSLETTER   50 CENTS
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LIBRARY: FRANK BILLERI   NEWSLETTER: EDGAR LECUYER (617) 384-8638
          JASON DAVIES   THE TI WRITER SIG:
          MIKE BATES   BILL NIEVERA / MIKE BATES

==
A COOPERATIVE EFFORT OF THE ATTLEBORO USERS GROUP
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ED'S MESSAGE

Is the back page something you take for granted? Do you bother looking at the ad denoting our monthly meeting place? Did you ever notice that the date of the next meeting is printed under your address label? Now the is a NEW ATTRACTION to the last page. Your membership number is now printed above your address. IF THIS NUMBER ENDS IN 86 THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER. Use the membership form on page 11 to renew your membership. If your number is 0000/87 you are a users group. If your number is 9999/87

you are a new member in the middle of some paperwork. Your permanent number will arrive shortly.

Paul Sullivan is attempting to get computer genius J. Peter Hoddie to attend our March meeting. He is a very talented person and I look forward to meeting him. However he is a very busy man. We do not know at this time, if in fact he will be here. Come to the March meeting and see.

Last month in this column I mentioned a swap meet. It was noticed and mentioned at the last meeting...How about some more discussion about this meet?
Late Spring would be an ideal time for a meet of this sort.

As promised in the Feb newsletter, you will notice more information on the Tritch Turbo XI...All my questions were answered, hopefully all yours were also...One last thought, If you purchase anything at the faire, how about letting the club know thru a review in the newsletter, or a small demo at the regular meeting.
-EDgar Lecuyer-
-EDitor-

The following interesting and sad but true artical was first printed in the LA-99ers Topics Newsletter and reprinted by the MUNCH Users Group. Please take heed and don't sour any more good FAREWARE programmers.

EDITORIAL
(Or how to kill the TI-99 in one easy lesson)

Those of you who read this newsletter regularly will know that we have long taken a public stand against software piracy. Up to this time Terrie has been the most vocal (or most read) but she has full support. It is time for me publicly state my position, borne of bitter personal experience.

I had never touched a computer before I got my TI. It was originally a toy for me as it was for many of you, buch such a toy! It quickly became a learning tool, and was not only a means to other ends, but an end itself, as I learned the joy of programming. I am largely self-taught, through a lot of HARD work, and the help of my friends, and I have achieved a position I never thought possible just a few years ago.

My first "extensive" venture a few years ago was a combination XBasic and Assembly graphics utility called EASYSPRITE. I vainly tried to market it, without any real financial backing and therefore limited success. When I first heard about about FREEWARE (which I now think of as "STEALWARE") I decided to go that route. For your information I have recieved payment for LESS THEN one out of TWENTY copies that I have sent out.

My last venture was DISKASSEMBLER. Since I thought that my main problem was public awareness of my efforts (i.e. advertising) I felt that going with Miller's Graphics would be more succesful. Let me tell you that I worked long and hard on that program (11 months, the gestation af an elephant), trying to make it perfect ON THE FIRST VERSION to be released. I have a wife and two children who wish they had never heard of it, and wondered if they would ever really have me back again.

Now I know what the TI community thinks of efforts such as mine. It wasn't long before DISKASSEMBLER was in the traiding routes and even on BBS's. What do those of you using pirated versions really think you are accomplishing?

And I am by no means the only victim of this vicious practice! The TI-99/4A, being an "orphan", is in a peculiar position. Currently manufactured computers have an ever-expanding market, as new users come on line. Therfore software authors can count at least on sales to those who do not yet have access to pirated versions. The TI, on the other hand, since the rush of new users who bought at the "close-out" sales, has a relitively stable market. It has been said that there are several million 99/4A's out there, but I recently heard an estimate that there are probably only 250,000 or so acutually in use, rather than in the closet. Many already know the good sources of software are. I stongly belive that those who are trying to make even a little money on this computer, and the VERY few who are trying to MAKE A LIVING with it, will shortly be getting out of the market, unless the piracy stops.

You may have noticed that there really isn't that much software produced anymore. There are a lot of good programs that are constantly being revised, as the bugs are noticed and worked out by the users. You need umpteen disks and a lot of patience to get a properly working version. Software of serious commercial quality takes TIME, and the motivation to make the time comes from rewards, both monitary and personal. It really galls me to see the pirates not only steal the programs, but even take the authors name off them, so he unwitting recipient does't even know who to thank! And here's another amazing idea to consider. Even when you BUY the programs being marketed for the TI, you are paying 1/3 to 1/10 the cost of similar programs for other computers! In other words, you are already getting a bargain - why destroy it???

Recently a major software producer annouced that he would stop producing for the 99/4A because of piracy, in paticular because he had found his programs on bullitin boards. A great hue and cry went up and he did rescend his decision. But I have still seen his programs on BBS's for free downloading. You sysops MUST police your boards better!

Now let me som this up. As implied by the statement under the title, the continued well-being of the 79/4A is UP TO YOU. Unless you are willing to suppor the continued production of quality software by paying the very reasoable amounts that the authors and software companies charge for their programs, you will see the market disappear. PLEASE DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN!

Happy computing anyway.
Tom Freeman

LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

Your library is in the process of ordering some graphic software such as "Graphics Grabber" "Master Painter 99" and "3D World". You will be hearing more about these programs when they arrive and they are reviewed. Anyone interested in helping to review software or would like the library to aquire other types of programs should contact me at the next regular meeting or call 617-76!-7245.

Disk #53 Review

The following catalog discribes what programs are on this disk. Each catalog contains the filename and a brief desciption of what each program is all about.   One additional feature is the mode or languge used for each program.
DISKNAME = 53-LIB-00
====================

```
FILENAME   MODE

==========  =====================================================  ====
BIBLE2     TALKING BIBLE QUIZ HAS 3 LEVELS                        X
BIORHYTHM  FIND YOUR GOOD OR BAD DAYS WITH BIORHYTHM CALENDAR    B OR X
CARS       CARS & CARCASSES GAME USES KEYBOARD                    B
CATALOG    CATATLOG                                              B OR X
CLOCK      LARGE CLOCK DISPLAY ON SCREEN                          X
KALIED     COLORFUL KALEIDOSCOPE                                  B
MASTER     MASTERMIND GAME OF STRATEGY                            B
NIM        GAME                                                   B
OBSTICLE   GAME - DO NOT BUMP INTO WALLS                          B
PRESIDENT  LEARN ABOUT AMERICAN PRESIDENTS                        B
ACHMOD     GAME                                                   B
STOCKTRANS STOCK TRANSACTION MONITOR                              B
TELLCARDS  FORTUNE TELLER    -PRINTER OPTIONAL                    X
WORDSEARCH WORD SEARCH       -PRINTER OPTIONAL                    B
GUESSPHRSE GUESSING GAME                                          X
-->Frank Billeri
-->Librarain
```

DISK REVIEW
by MIKE BATES

This month's review is of a disk in the Club library labled TEXTNET-2. It is a disk full of games for all you incorragable gamers out there.

#004-B: In this game you are driving a car and trying to run over monsters without hitting any trees. Your car only turns left so it is not quite as easy as it sounds. There are four levels of play.

#006-B: This is a computerized version of a craps game. It is somewhat slow but still pretty good.

#031-XB or B: You play the computer in a game of "NIMS" and try to remove the last stick. There are three levels of play in which the amount of sticks are changed and five kinds of opponents for you to compete against.

Aircombat-B: A multi-level war game in which you pilot a plane of the future. Use the joy stick and fire button to attempt to destroy enemy aircraft.

Battleship-B: This one uses a 10x10 grid to play a computerized version of the classic strategy game.

Checkers2-B: The ever popular game of checkers. You might have to use a Call Files(1) if you get a memory full message.

Go-Home-B: In this one you try to move your marker "home" which is the upper left space. You can only move 3 ways and can move any number of spaces as long as it is in a straight line.

Lexical-B: This is a word game called Lexicality, in which up to four players try to build words of as many letters as possable using random letters supplied by the computor.

Puzzle15-B: A 4x4 grid is filled with numbers from 1-15 (one blank space). The object is to re-arrange the numbers in correct order. There are four levels of difficulty to challenge you.

White/Hole-B: In this one you have a laser gun which you use to track and destroy mysterious "white-holes" which have escaped during an experiment. It uses keyboard or joystick input and has four levels of play.

Zap-a-Ball-B: You use a joystick to move and fire at opposing targets in this one.

HELLO

Our names are Kenneth Tait and Joseph Costa III. We finally figued out how to hook up the EPSON Homewriter10 printer to a TI99/4A Computer. The pin out is as follows:

TI(PIO) 16 PIN	CENTRONICS(36 PIN) HOMWRITER 10
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10	11
11	17
12 N/C	
13	13
14 N/C	
15 N/C	
16	19-30

We hope this info helps someone out there in computer land!!!

THE LAST MEETING...

The February meeting of CLUB99 was held on Feb. 23, 1987. The meeting was called to order by VP Ken Tait. A roll call of officers was held, followed by the monthly reports of the VP, secretary and librarian. All reports were accepted as read. New membership cards were distributed to the new members in attendance. The tech advisor gave his report, which could have been subtitled 'buyer beware", something that is pretty evident to most all by now. The up-coming computer faire was discussed and as mentioned we need people to help man the table the club will have. The date for the faire is April 4.

A problem concerning underlining thru TI WRITER was addressed to the floor by a member. The resolution of the question was that the Epson RX-80 printer can not underline as received from the factory. Needed is a different chip available from Epson for approx. $70.00. Any one interested in this chip may contact the Epson dealer located in Mansfield, @ the corner of 106 and the old 140.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46PM.
Respectfully submitted,
Bill Nievera, secty.

THE IBM CONNECTION

The following anouncement from MG was reprinted from the February NUTMEG TI-99ers.

ANNOUNCEMENT

IBM COMPATIBILITY FOR THE 99/4A
Technical Info:

1. Two part system. A TURBO XT and a small bridge box that connects to the side I/O port on your 4A.

2. The TURBO XT is an 8 Mhz, 4.77 Mhz (switchable) motherbord, power supply, XT style case, CGA color graphics card (both RGB and Composite) Floppy Disk Controller 1 half high DS/DD disk drive, Parallel port and 256K of RAM on the motherbord. The motherbord has sockets for up to 640K of RAM. There are 8 expansior slots, two of which are used by the CGA card and the Floppy Disk Controller.

3. The bridge box has inputs for 4A Vidio in, XT Vidio in and outputs for the XT keybord out ard Monitor out. It also contains the software for Keybord switching between 4A mode and XT mode and the software to convert 4A key stokes into XT keycodes. It also has a pass through so you can keep your P-box or the Periphrials hooked up.

4. Mode switching from 4A to XT can be done through Basic or X-Basic with CALL XT or by holding FTCN CTRL ENTER or power up of the 4A.

5. Mode switching from XT to 4A is done by pressing FTCN CTRL ENTER.

6. The ONLY items shared by the two systems are the 4A keybord and your current monitor or TV. Yes you can get 80 columns out of a composite moritor, but it is easiest to read with the color turned off in 80 mode. The XT allows MODE 40 whitch also gives you 40 column mode. Graphics programs, such as games and drawing programs work fone in 80 column and most otter software that doesn't combine wierd forground and backgrcund text colors are also quite readable.

7. By not sharing the disk drives it is possible to do concurrent processing on the XT. Example: Go into XT mode, start up your COMMUNICATIONS software, log on to a BBS and start and start a down load. Now you can switch modes back to the 4A and do whatever you would like in 4A mode while the XT is still down loading form the BBS!!!

8. We have tested this system on a number of 4A system configurations and have found it very compatable with both IBM software and IBM HARDWARE. Yes, you can add ANY IBM cards you would like to the system.

9. The minimum 4A system requirements: A TI99/4A console and a monitor or a TV set with RF modulator.

General Info:

1. This system is being marketed by Triton Products Company in San Francisco, CA. They are also handling the production of the bridge boxes and they have contracted for the Turbo XT clones to their specifications.

2. The system has a 30 DAY money back guarantee and a 1 YEAR parts and labor warranty.

3. The cost for this system (Turbo XT, Bridge Box, and cables) is $499.00 plus 19.90 for shipping and handling.

4. Their toll free number for aditional info and/or a 6 page, 4 color brochure on this system is 1-800-227-6900 Monday through Friday - 6AM to 6PM and Saturday 9AM to 4PM, Pacific Time.

5. Delivery is schedualed to start on March 1st of this year. We have been useing this system for awhile now and we are very pleased with its performance. This isn't vaporware, ALL R&), testing and software is complete and the units are ready for production, so the March time frome is a reality. At last a MAJOR expansion for the 4A. We hope you are as pleased with this product as you have been with our other products in the past. As the Triton Brochure says: MAKE THE IBM CONNECTION TO YOUR TI99/4A

--------------------MG--------------------

TI FAIRE
10:00AM - 6:00 PM

As a member of United 99 (mebership consists of 99'er user groups throughout New England), Club 99 will participate in the 2nd TI99/4A Faire. Schedualed for Saterday, April 4, 1987, This year's faire will be located at Waltham Senior High School, Lexington St., Waltham, Ma. Strictly devoted to the TI99/4A Home Computer, We expect to have the participation of many well knowr names in the continuing development of its peripheral hardware and software.

Many of you will remember the name "Regena", who provided many tutorials and programs in the early days of the "99're Magazine" (the now defunct Home Computing Journal). She has just begun writing articals on BASIC language for "MICROpendium". Well, folks, she will also be attending the Faire. So you just might have the oppertunity to meet and speak with her.

My comments above are not to slight the many others who are continuing to contribute their expertise with demonstrations and as guest speakers. This is your opportunity to meet them all!!

The price for admision is $3.00 for adults and $2.00 for children under 12. Children under 5 are free. We will not have tickets availible in advance due to circumstances beyond our control.

The planning committee will meet each Sunday until March 21. President Joe Costa and I will attend and will provide updates on the status of events. As a user group, we will have a booth for our exposures and activities. You can participate in manning the booth and assisting to promote our club. We have a great opportunity to let the New England folks we exist and to earn some dollars for our treasury.

More detailed information will be availible at our March Meeting. BE THERE!!!!

Paul Sullivan
Technical Advisor

HOW ABOUT IT?...
Paul Rogers

During the February club meeting there was an expressed interest in a number of categories. These included graphics, assembly language and hardware manipulation. A number of members indicated an interest in these topics. As mentioned at the meeting, there is already a planned hardware instruction up-coming. Naturally, this will cover first time users and basic system set-up and upgrade. It is hoped that this will reach further into the intermediate level to perhaps inlclude a look at memory expansion such as 128K boards or ramdisks and other system enhancements.

Assembly language need not be intimidating. You do not have to learn how to program in it. You may just want a degree of expertise so you will understand what people are discussing.

While graphics are fun to play with, they can be put to some very practical use. There are many excellent programs out there to make graphics a lot of fun. Kids of all ages can have a real good time and learn at the same time.

If you have an interest in any of these subjects, please attend the next meeting, and we'll try to start another group or two. If you have any expertise in any of these fields please step forward, a demo may be just what is needed to get the ball rolling.

CLASSIFIEDS

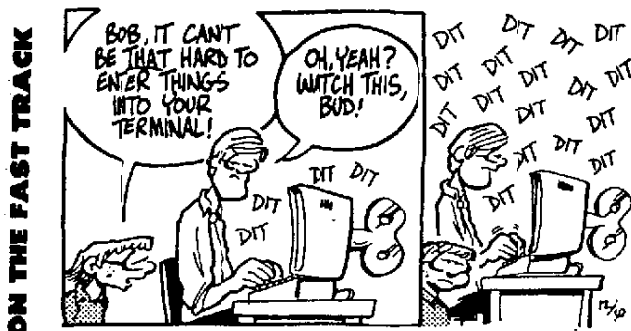TI cartridge: Picnic Paranoia, (new)-$7.00, Paul Weber, (617) 695-6572

99/4A Hardware and Software available at Narragansett flea market (old Narragansett race track) Newport Ave. Pawtucket, RI. The computer store is located on the second floor, and open between 9:00 AM and 3PM every Saturday and Sunday. Club99 members will receive a 10% discount by presenting an active membership card at the time of purchase. (offer not valid on sale or special items.)

        Day 617-699-3052   Night 617-761-7245 ...Frank Billeri

      Bob Brown of MRE Communications has offered a 10% discount to verified CLUB99 members on software he sells. You can contact him through his BBS called Techie at (401) 785-0697 or by writing to him at PO Box 8621, Cranston, RI 02920.
If you have sold your item, **please** notify the newsletter staff.

As you can see there is PLENTY of room for your ad.