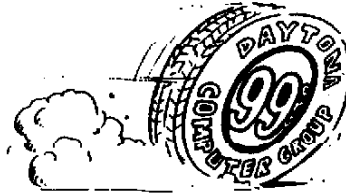


THE DAYTONA 99'ers

Post Office Box 4594
South Daytona, Florida 32021

AUGUST, 1983 NEWSLETTER



A users group dedicated to the Texas Instruments brand of home computers.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE....

So, tell me, how did you like last month's (July) meeting. I told you it would be different in last month's newsletter and I think you could agree that it was that. For all of you who couldn't (or didn't want to) make it last time, we did indeed handle the meeting a little differently. For a change, we got the meeting started within 5 minutes of its designated hour and briskly moved through the business portion of the meeting. The big difference was that ALL of the business including our question/answer periods, flea market, news, club affairs, etc., was taken care of by 8:00 p.m. This was done in order to make the rest of the meeting more productive and enjoyable for everyone. That is, by 8:15 p.m. we split up into special-interest groups with everyone migrating to the one that best suited their needs and desires.

Of course, when you think about it, that all makes sense because the whole idea of a user's group is to provide a helping environment for its users, right? RIGHT!! At any rate, the meeting seemed to be a smash and, as a result, we hope to be able to continue this new format at future meetings.

One subject that I need to bring up is that of individual's computers. In order to provide this kind of "workshop" environment for everyone it is necessary to have several computers on hand. Last month several of our Steering Committee members volunteered their equipment and services for everyone's benefit. Unfortunately, it is quite a job to transport all that stuff to and from the meeting and, therefore, it's not fair to expect these same people to do it every month for us. So, we would like to have some volunteers to supply individual pieces of hardware for the meetings. You don't have to bring your whole set-up, of course, just a computer, or a television or a cassette player, or an expansion box, or..... You get the message. This way we can provide ourselves with all of the equipment we need without a few people having to carry the whole load. So, if you're interested (and I hope you will be) please let someone know at the meeting so we can make plans for upcoming meetings. We'll all appreciate it.

A few more quick things..... We had another rambunctious Steering Committee meeting recently. Much of the club's administrative duties have been taken on by Steering Committee members, one of whom is Sylvia Cope, our new Newsletter Editor. Be sure to look for Sylvia's article on the inner pages for some interesting news about the Steering Committee. We still need lots of help and Sylvia's article concerns everyone currently sitting on the sidelines. Please take interest.

Also, the new program catalog update (#2) should be available by the August meeting. It includes over 90 new programs of all kinds. Be sure to pick yours up at the meeting. SEE YOU THERE!!!

THE STEERING COMMITTEE

by Sylvia Cope

At the last meeting of the Steering Committee there was a very long discussion about the function and organization of the Steering Committee and we all felt that it would be a good idea to explain in detail in the newsletter the purpose and working operations of the committee. The Steering Committee is a group of eleven members of the user's group who meet once a month to discuss and decide the future course of the group and the agenda for the next meeting. The four elected officials of the user's group (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary) are automatically members of the committee and the President appoints the other seven members from members of the user's group who have expressed a desire and willingness to become active in taking on responsibilities in the group. From time to time members of the Steering Committee will leave the area and their positions will be filled by the President from available volunteers. Although some may feel that it is a lifetime appointment, this is not true. It was agreed at the last meeting that we should dissolve the current group, other than the elected officials, and make openings available to interested members. As I had just started attending the committee and had not yet become a member, Al Fox appointed me to join but there are still five positions available for those members who wish to become a more active voice in the direction of user group activities and direction.

At the last meeting Ted James was elected Chairman of the Steering Committee. It was decided that a quorum of five members would be necessary to pass on new recommendations. If we cannot make that quorum, no changes will be made. A committee member can be replaced at any time by the Committee's request and the President's decision.

There may be some confusion about who is eligible to attend the Steering Committee meetings. Any member of the user's group may attend the meeting and make comments, suggestions or just inform themselves as to what actions are being discussed. It was felt that although the user's group was open to non-members, the Steering Committee will not be. Although interested members are welcome to attend and engage in discussions, only the eleven Steering Committee members may vote. The President will exercise the swing vote in the event of any deadlock. Please feel free to attend Steering Committee meetings which are scheduled to be held at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at a location to be decided upon soon. We hope to make these meetings a stimulating and productive way of keeping the Daytona 99'ers perking along.

AN ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE SUBROUTINE (CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTH)

By John Dow

The last newsletter included a listing of a subroutine which is called from Basic (using the Mini Memory Module) to sort a numeric array. Below is a modified version of that subroutine. It has been revised to be assembled with TI's Editor/Assembler. It is now designed to be called from Extended Basic. It therefore has been renamed XBSORT.

I made a few additional changes. For instance, I eliminated the variables MB, JB, IB, and LB in favor of registers R6 through R9. Also, at our meeting last month (Sunday before the PUG meeting), we decided that there were two bugs in Jerry's version: change 712A to 712C at locations 08A and 0C6. (In the version listed here, I eliminated those statements altogether by having multiple move statements.)

Last month's version was produced with the Dow Editor/Assembler. You can compare that listing with the one below to see how easy it is to convert from using the Mini Memory Module to a full system (with disk and expansion memory).

```
* CALL LINK("XBSORT",N,A())
*
* DERIVED BY JOHN DOW FROM JERRY ROWELL'S SHELL SORT
* SUBROUTINE WRITTEN FOR THE MINI MEMORY MODULE.
*
* THIS VERSION IS TO BE USED WITH EXTENDED BASIC.
*
* REGISTER USAGE:
* R0 TEMP FOR SUBSCRIPTS ETC
* R1 =2 FOR NUMREF
* R2 N/2 ETC
* R3 N-MB
* R4 FAC POINTER
* R5 X18 POINTER
* R6 LB
* R7 IB
* R8 JB
* R9 MB
*
DEF XBSORT
FAC EQU >834A
NUMREF EQU >200C
NUMASG EQU >200B
XBSORT CLR R0 GET 1ST ARGUMENT: SIZE OF ARRAY
LI R1,1
BLWP @NUMREF
MOV @FAC,R1 CONVERT TO INTEGER
CLR R2
MOVB R1,R2
SWPB R2
CI R2,>41
JNE L0
SWPB R1
CLR R2
MOVB R1,R2
SWPB R2
LI R4,100
MPY R4,R2
MOV R3,R2
MOVB @FAC+4,R0
SWPB R0
A R0,R2
```

LO	JMP L1	
	SWPB R1	
	CLR R2	
	MOVB R1,R2	
	SWPB R2	
L1	MOV R2,@N	
TOP	SRL R2,1	
	JEQ DONE	
	MOV R2,R9	M8=INT(N/2)
	MOV @N,R3	R3=N-M8
	S R2,R3	
	LI R8,1	J8=1
L2	MOV R8,R7	I8=J8
L3	MOV R9,R6	
	A R7,R6	L8=I8+M8
	MOV R7,R0	
	LI R1,2	
	BLWP @NUMREF	FAC=A(I8)
	LI R4,FAC	
	LI R5,XI8	
	MOV *R4+,*R5+	XI8=FAC
	MOV *R4+,*R5+	
	MOV *R4+,*R5+	
	MOV *R4,*R5	
	MOV R6,R0	
	BLWP @NUMREF	FAC=A(L8)
	LI R0,4	
	LI R4,FAC	
	LI R5,XI8	
COMPAR	C *R4+,*R5+	COMPARE FAC WORD TO XI8 WORD.
	JGT L4	
	JNE LPO	
	DECT R0	4TH WORD YET?
	JOC COMPAR	NO.
	JMP L4	YES, ALL EQUAL.
LPO	MOV R7,R0	FAC IS > XI8. SET A(I8)=FAC
	BLWP @NUMASG	
	LI R4,FAC	
	LI R5,XI8	
	MOV *R5+,*R4+	FAC=XI8
	MOV *R5+,*R4+	
	MOV *R5+,*R4+	
	MOV *R5,*R4	
	MOV R6,R0	
	BLWP @NUMASG	A(L8)=FAC
	S R9,R7	I8=I8-M8
	JGT L3	IF I8>0 GO TO L3
L4	INC R8	FAC<XI8. SET J8=J8+1.
	C R8,R3	
	JLE L2	IF J8<=R3 GO TO L2
	JMP TOP	GO TO TOP
DONE	B *R11	
N	BSS 2	
XI8	BSS 8	
	END	

AUGUST, 1983 NEWSLETTER

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 18th, 1983, 7:00 p.m.

7:00-8:00 Business Meeting, conducted by the President, Al Fox, dealing with general announcements concerning items of interest to the user's group. During this portion of the meeting we will be honored with a demonstration of the T.I. Professional Computer (sometimes called the "Pegasus") which is the IBM-compatible, business computer. David Davich of Atlantic Business Computers, Inc. in Orlando, Florida will show us this powerful machine and some of the software available for it, possibly including the 1-2-3 program, which is a combination spreadsheet and word processor. Also during this hour will be the Computer Roundtable and flea market.

8:00-8:15 Break

8:15 to ? Special Interest Groups. During this portion you are encouraged to find help with special areas of interest by participating in discussions in different areas of computers including telecommunications, business, educational or beginners, etc.

We would like to welcome to the Daytona 99'ers User's Group the following new members:

Gene and Edith Hill
Larry O'Neill

Dorothy Dreves

Roscoe C. Jennings

Welcome and let's try to seek out other T.I. owners to get involved.

By the way, your new Newsletter Editor attended the Apple user's group meeting the other night to make a pitch for some LOGO courses that I'm teaching at Spruce Creek Elementary. If you'd like some information about enrolling your child aged 10 through 15 in an introductory computer course please call me (Sylvia Cope, 761-2793). I found the Apple group to be slightly better dressed than us, but not nearly as much fun. In their most recent newsletter they tell their members about a modem-accessible local bulletin board sponsored by, guess who? Daytona 99'ers and Data Junction. I guess Apple owners get lonely too sometimes.

For you Assembly language programmers, the subroutine on the next page is a reprint from P.U.G. (Pittsburgh User's Group) written by their Vice-President, John Dow. I'm not positive, but I think he's the guy whose ads you see in the back of 99'er mag for the Gazelle Flight Simulator and other programs????

Big Business! Big Money! Yes Sireee! The good life is at your finger tips if only you can learn to use the database. But, what about all those function keys, and code words mentioned but never explained? Ever have nightmares about being caught in an endless loop on TEXNET or enter the wrong letter or word but can't figure how to change it? Did you ever push the exit key in the middle of a project or lose all the files you recorded and can't understand why? Has this article added to your frustrations?

Enter REDO for a minute and let's try to make some sense out of this thing. Connecting to a database or telecommunicating with a friend involves certain hardware connections and you're ready to communicate. Since a computer can do all kinds of supposed neat things, programmers have allowed their imaginations to run wild by defining functional codes for every key in order to shortcut communications. Let us suppose you are telecommunicating with a friend and suddenly feel the urge to 'BEEP' (When I get the urge to 'BEEP', I really want to 'BEEP'). Texas Instruments in their infinite wisdom defined 'CTRL G' to send a 'BEEP'. Essentially all the control keys, function keys, and code words are shortcut actions you wish to transmit. It is necessary only to know the functions you need to: 'BEEP' someone, get out of an endless loop, or do the functions your programming experience requires. If you happen to be a computer engineer or whiz-kid ready for telecommunicating color graphics, sound, etc. you can order the protocol manual mentioned in the TE-II manual. If you are not prepared for technical information this booklet could be a waste.

Another advantage of the TE-II is that you can automatically log-on to a database or send a file prepared beforehand, etc. A big drawback is that, unlike some computers, you cannot record a continuing session on a database by dumping the information to disc or printer as it continues to appear on the screen. Instead, you must stop the screen and record each screen. Another problem is that unless you close the file you can lose all you recorded. To close a file you must open a new file, choose another RS232 device or exit the database by 'CTRL O'.

(Next month -- "The web of Texnet")

(Of course, Arne was kidding when he said Texas Instruments defined "CTRL G" to send a "BEEP." Actually the "BEEP" is a defined standard ASCII control character and all computers using the standard ASCII character set will allow the user to "BEEP" when they get the urge using "CTRL G." --Al Fox--)

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

by Sylvia Cope

I don't know about the rest of you but I've always looked forward to getting the blue newsletter from Daytona 99'ers in the mail each month. The tone of the newsletter has been chatty and informative and a lot of fun and I hope that's going to continue to be true. At the last meeting of the Steering Committee I volunteered and was drafted to become the Newsletter Editor. I was real honored until I heard someone say that being able to type and punctuate correctly were just about the sole qualifications. And I thought it had something to do with a talent for creative writing.....

One of the things that's always made the newsletter such a joy to read was Ralph Fowler's sense of humor and vast amount of information that he was willing to share with all of us. The truth is that Ralph was doing the work of about 20 people in coordinating the user's group's activities and now we are in serious need of about 20 people to take his place. This is especially true in regard to our newsletter. The members of the group are going to have to quit hiding their lights (and talents) under bushels of shyness and be willing to contribute material for all of us to share. Remember that we don't all read the same publications so if you run across something interesting in a computer mag or otherwise and you think the rest of us would like to know about it, please submit it. We are also interested in mini reviews (That's not a misprint. I don't mean several, just short.) of software or peripherals that are useful, enjoyable or difficult or a waste of money and time. After all the function of the user's group is to help each other make good choices to the mutual benefit of all. In fact, in case you've never heard this, the definition of a user's group is two or more miserable so-and-so's who bought the same brand of computer and are willing to spend time lying about what a good choice it was.

We'd also like to hear about any good reference materials you've come across that we might like to get our hands on. In that regard the local B. Dalton bookstore has several copies of the Programmer's Reference Guide to the TI-99/4A, written by C. Regena (the famous author of so many excellent articles and programs published in the 99'er mag). This is a COMPUTE! publication and very well written, so check it out!

Now that you have a bona fide editor, you may submit articles, classifieds, tips, rumours (personal gossip will not be published, only spread by phone), user group information, etc. Some of the newsletters we get from other groups contain short programs from the members that they want to share, cartoons, jokes, etc. You may also write in questions you'd like answered and I'll do my best to find someone who can answer your queries. Please help us to turn out a real good newsletter each month. After all, some of the ones we get in the mail are ONLY one page long and we wouldn't like that, would we?

