

K-TOWN ^AK 99'ER

NEWSLETTER OF THE K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP
AND THE ATHENS COMPUTER CLUB



OCTOBER 1992

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COMMENT

The K-Town 99er is published monthly for the benefit of the K-Town 99/4A Users Group membership specifically and the TI Community in general. The Articles in this newsletter to the best of our knowledge are factual but nevertheless the views expressed are the views of the author and

are not necessarily the views of the K-Town Users Group. Any article, unless stated otherwise, may be copied by other users groups and published in their newsletter providing credit is given to the author and the K-Town 99er.

K-TOWN OCTOBER MEETING

The K-TOWN 99/4A Users Group will meet at the home of E. M. Smith. We will continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. OCTOBER 8th is our next meeting date. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? Art Gibson is working on an update of his NEWSLETTER PRINTER PROGRAM. Art will demonstrate the new features

of his updated version if it is completed by our October meeting date. John Bull will have a reserve program available if Art can't make the October deadline. Only John knows what that might be and so far he isn't telling. So plan "B" may be announced in the President's Forum. Read it for a bulletin scoop.

DUES / MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the K-Town 99/4A Users Group is open to any owner or user of the TI-99/4A Home Computer. Dues are TEN DOLLARS per year and subject to our fiscal year which begins April 1 and ends March 31 of each year. Dues are clasified as family memberships. New memberships are prorated at

the rate of ONE dollar per month if less than a full year, except for the last five months of our fiscal year. There is a minimum fee of five dollars. Memberships are not prorated for current or former members. We welcome visitors.



PRESIDENT'S FORUM

It is good to have someone like Bill Sheridan who checks out the latest in hardware for us. The MOUSE was a revelation for me. I had never seen one in action and can now fully appreciate its advantages, especially for graphics. It is several times as convenient as a joystick and a hundred times better than (f)X, E, S, and D. Thanks, Bill, for the demo.

Your Prexy left K'town the morning after our last meeting for points east and south. First, some light-hearted celebration at a family wedding in Greensboro and then on to Fawley's Island for a week of romping in the champagne-like surf and sitting in a rocker on the porch with a foolish novel. Good fun and good

relaxation but no time was left for computering. Sooooo, I have nothing to write about.

At this writing the program for October is still up in the air but the good news is that we have two excellent possibilities. Please, all of you, keep your thinking caps on and give me your suggestions of things that you would be interested in seeing and hearing at our meetings. Also, newsletter articles are most welcome. We just hardly ever turn one down.

I will see you all on Thursday, October 8 at 7:00 at 3506 Garden drive. Ron Hatmaker and Jack Garrison, we miss you!
John H. Bull

POTPOURRI

BY BILL SHERIDAN

The following appeared in the Sept. issue of WORDPLAY, the newsletter of the Portland, Oregon U.G. The little XB program below will generate colors that one can not ordinarily make with BASIC or XBASIC. This is done by mixing colors. The original idea is by an unknown author. The version below is by Earl Raguse.

```
100 DISPLAY AT(10,1)ERASE ALL:"This program displays colors not
ordinarily possible with BASIC or XBASIC."
110 INPUT "FOREGROUND COLOR NUMBER:":F
120 INPUT "BACKGROUND COLOR NUMBER: ":B :: PRINT
130 CALL SCREEN(16):: FOR I=8 TO 12 :: DISPLAY AT(I,1)SIZE(32):: NEXT I
140 CALL CHAR(40,"SSAASSAASSAASSAA")
150 CALL COLOR(13,F,F)
160 CALL COLOR(2,F,B)
170 CALL HCHAR(2,1,128,64)
180 CALL HCHAR(4,1,40,512)
190 CALL HCHAR(18,1,128,64)
200 CALL FAX :: GOTO 100
210 SUB FAX
220 DISPLAY AT(24,1)SIZE(30):" PRESS ANY KEY TO PROCEED"
230 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF S<1 THEN 220
240 SUBEND
```

To get a nice shade of orange, try Light Red(10) for the foreground color and Light Yellow(12) for the background color.

CENTERTERBOX - XX
BY BOB BUEHLER

"SECOND HAND ROSE"

A few K-Towners, and other ancient readers, may remember the lyrics:

"Second-hand Rose, second-hand Rose,

Every one calls me, Second-hand Rose."

It was a lilting, lively tempo tune of some 30-40 years back, maybe more; Sung in a homespun way by Rose whose Daddy managed the survival of his needy family by buying second-hand, notably, "second-hand clothes for Second-Hand Rose." It was melancholic, nostalgic, humorous, humble, but unashamed. Sort of reminiscent of my early years in a small county seat of a farming region, but with a significant difference. There we didn't buy and sell second-hand clothes. We either wore 'em out or outgrew 'em. In the latter case they were handed on down to a younger brother, sister, cousin, or kids of family friends. Second-hand to be sure, but with friendship and caring, not for money. Really a happy, practical way of recycling. And there was yet a final recycling step.

Always there were firm sound parts of second hand clothes that could be cut into strips, sewed together, rolled into large balls, and carried to the local weaver to be turned into colorful rag rugs. This was a happy ending. I've never seen a worn out rag rug!

This lengthy tale is merely a sly introduction to:

Clothes For Charity.

The secret ingredient in Clothes for Charity is **STYLE**. Rather merely **Change In Style**. Change does not mean improvement. Change means only different from last year. Impudent, shameless, wasteful difference. Difference that renders quality, like new apparel improper in "polite society." Wasteful, inconsiderate society! So off to Goodwill they go or other Charity. At least

that much is good!

Yet such as this generates a sorry sort of humor;

Round And Round It Goes.

Wife Evelyn and I attended a seminar a month or so ago a segment of which was given by two young men wearing 'different from last year' suits. After exchanging whispered opinions, we boldly asked to make sure, because trousers were pleated, full cut legs, with cuffs. Like we remembered from long, long ago except cuffs were soooooo narrow. We smiled almost out loud in smug recollection. "Yes," we were told, "These were the latest!"

Gosh I didn't case the neckties; My error. Were they the narrow knot, the wide Windsor knot, or inbetween, and how narrow or wide the cloth, and how long. I have all kinds in boxes in dead storage, not even good enough for charity!

There's no EXTENDED WARRANTY on clothing style!! Good thing too because:

AN EXTENDED WARRANTEE IS FOR THE PITS!!!

I learned inexpensively. Bought a window air conditioner for my consulting office after TVA fired me for having a birthday. 5000 BTU for \$100 in those days. (I just now looked it up to make sure.) After about one year an Extended Warranty was offered for about \$7.50 for a year. Without thinking I took it. Another offer came a year later for about \$9.00. I began to think. It must be a lousy product if it costs about 10% its first cost to keep at running for a year, so, no dice to that! It's still running 17 years later without any maintenance.

I've bought three more for upstairs rooms in my 1949 home. (Central air was rare in those days. Actually an exhaust fan drawing in cool night air is even better during that important part of a day.) Extended warranties at

ever increasing cost were declined; no maintenance expense on any. See a later story about a bigger window air conditioner.

The big gulf about Extended Warranties came when we replaced a 40-yr-old Sears Roebuck kitchen range with a smaller General Electric to gain space in the kitchen. About \$1000, including a new microwave in elevated position above the cooking surface. It has been inferior in most respects to the 40-yr faithful. In about a year the Extended Warranty offer arrived. About \$120 for a new year, and would increase every year as I well knew by that time. I would be buying that punk product all over again in about 7 years. It made me so disgusted I drafted my opinion to the President of GE, himself! Never got around to polish and send, so now I'm telling you and ask that you pass the word! Thanks a big hunch!

INSUFFERABLE COMMERCIALS - DISGUSTING, SLY TIMING.

One rare day we chose some hours of television entertainment; on a well working, good sized quality set. But it preceded the days of remote control. That day, like most others, commercials were so insufferable that I finally vowed to stop all TV viewing until with remote, to mute or change stations. Feeling was so strong that the improved product was ordered by phone and installed the same day. And it's with us still.

So I learned that with remote I could do justice to a primary program and fair justice to a second, during commercial breaks on the primary.

UNTIL.

Those disgusting, sly, advertising executives apparently joined forces, even across TV channel lines, mind you! Now commercials on opposite channels appear to be timed to coincide. At least closely. Closely enough so I have a tough time watching two simultaneous shows.

Oh well, I still have that mute button. I can read the comics during commercials; an

improvement over the alternative.

THAT BIGGER AC

It was July 1966, and HOT. We were finally willing to spring for air conditioning. But air conditioners were hard to get wholesale. That's the only way we bought in those days. But a co-worker had been pulling wholesale strings diligently and what do you know? He wound up with two but only wanted one. I was a willing buyer of the other and he delivered to my driveway. About \$300 for a 20,000 BTU window unit Fedders. With grunts and groans wife and I dragged that sucker up a step, across the porch, over a threshold, across carpeting to the window, and upped it into place.

It's kept us cool for 26 years without any Extended Warrantee, with only modest maintenance by Hunley Turner Service Co., 689-6508. Try them for home appliance repair. You'll like them!

Finally, in August, now 1992, --It Stopped short - never to run again - when the old thing died! Couldn't be fixed this time. That late in the season air conditioners are "sold out," but again Hunley Turner to the rescue. One was found and installed the same, sort of rainy, day, working late.

Then, guess what!

The 230 volt plug has been so improved that it wont fit the 230 volt receptacle that served so well those 26 years. It was next day before I could buy and install a new 'improved' one. Hunley Turner isn't licensed to do that.

WITH TRUTHS LIKE THESE, WHO NEEDS POETRY?

Dogs welcome people with their tails wagon.

I wouldn't go to the moon if it was the last place on earth.

I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.

Some people have a great frame of mind, but no picture.

An optimist believes the horesfly is trying to get out.

I can't take my problems one

at a time. They refuse to get in line.

Remember, opportunity knocks at temptation too!

If you can't win make the guy ahead break the record.

Money isn't everything, but it does have great bargaining power.

Need humility? Look into a three-way-mirror.

RECIPES

I'd say it's time to remind you about some good past recipes in Chatter Box. Whenever my son or daughter visit, always too briefly, I serve Welsh Rarebit (ChatterBox-V) and make enough for left over in a carton to take back cold. It's a better cheese spread than on any grocery shelf. Why not try it?.

Now's the time for fresh cream of tomato soup (Chatter Box-VI). With tomatoes in such abundance, why not make a lot extra to freeze for winter. Just the tomato part, not the cream sauce. Please note, EM, this time I spelled tomato correctly.

Ham hocks are common as a stock base for bean and split pea soup and delicious these are. But I'll get to soups another time.

Now to a hock feast I've never seen outside my Mom's kitchen, here now revealed!

Boiled Fresh Pork Hocks and Boiled Potatoes.

Two fresh hocks per person
Potatoes to match

Generous fresh ground pepper

A bay leaf per hock

Some salt (These are fresh, not ham)

Boil hocks in bay-leafed, peppered, salted water to cover until the sweet meat nuggets are ready to pop out of their sockets and encasing fat and hide are tender and only a rich broth remains. Save this! Golden beads of fat will float as the boiling stops.

Boil potatoes separately until fork tender and drain.

Hocks are easy to eat with knife and fork. The nuggets are super! I even eat snippets of the fat and hide. Break potatoes with fork and pour on the golden beaded broth.

For dessert, take another helping until gone.

I simply must fix these soon as I can find nice fresh hocks!!

BB 9/3/92 & 9/14/92

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 1992

Everyone present expected the likely another surprise sortuv promised in the meeting announcement, but wondering if "another" had some quaint meaning or was a miss spelling. We never did learn because conditions weren't just right, according to Master of Surprises, EM Smith. So we yet have that another surprise to anticipate. Darn, I'll be in Wisconsin during the October K-Town meeting!

Of the recent regulars, Paul Blevins was the only one missing, but gave prior notice. (Might that be why another surprise didn't happen?) I phoned Paul from home that night and got his answering machine. His later call back explained that Subaru's

engine had konked! He had shoved in a better engine only to learn that the transmission had also konked. But he'll have Subaru running for October and will pick up an operating console from Ron Hatmaker. Maybe by November he'll have a modem running so the Newsletter can be sent to him in Rugby by telephone, for him to down load, print, copy, and mail. When all this happens Paul just better be given an exulted title on the last page of our Newsletter. How about. "Digital Downloader, Printer, Duplicator, Mailer."

Not long into the meeting, Art Gibson pulled one of his tricks, this time a bag of

chocolate-chip cookies for passing about. I was sitting next to Joe Simmons at the time. Again he reminded that I, the Recipe Kid, should be bringing in the cookies. Well, some day I may if it can be another surprise. If I'm not carefull I'll forget how to spell 'another.'

EM announced to our flabbergasted astonishment that Central Ohio 99'er (or some such place) is cancelling Newsletter exchange with K-Town because ours is inferior! Each of us contributors to K-Town Newsletter looked about wondering, "Is it I?" Then EM explained further we were merely duplicating from other exchanges. **WHAT RUBBISH!** The only duplication is highly selective good stuff that Bill Sheridan studiously extracts from other Newsletters for our special attention. It's a service to our group which I much appreciate and encourage. We agreed to overlook Central Ohio's **INSANITY**, and will send ours to them 'till hell freezes or our treasury hits minus zero! We might even raise our dues to \$10.50 per year, up 50 cents, if necessary!

Our program was Bill Sheridan demoing his new MOUSE. It's nothing but a rectangle of plastic about an inch thick with a long tail that I expect plugs into the Joy Stick port. (Editors note:

Mouse connects through the RS232 Card.) Moving the mouse about on a special pad causes a line to be drawn on the monitor, or a picture if one is skilled. Obviously that pad must be special to make this thing work, but no. It is only a convenient size area with a non-skid surface. Then the mystery unfolds. There is small rotatable ball in the belly of the mouse. Rotation is caused by friction on the non-skid surface of the pad. Direction of ball rotation determines direction of the line on the monitor. The remaining mystery of how this all happens I leave with you. I've provided the basics. Bill also showed how the mouse could be used in conjunction with TI Artist and on to the printer in four degrees of magnification. Also how the mouse could be used to play solitaire by placing cards from the deck as long as plays are possible. I'm sure it must have kept score, but I failed to notice.

About when Bill was getting set up for this demo, sounds appeared from the monitor with pink background. They were familiar sounds, but to make sure we understood, there were labels too. 'Washing cycle' 'rinse cycle' 'spin dry' Sure beats the old ringer-dry days!!

Bob Buehler, Secy,Treas.



STUMBLINGS

BY
JOE SIMMONS

Have you ever stumbled on to a new technique either at the computer or in another club's newsletter? If so, this column is for you. The geniuses will be so deep in thought that they will never know that they missed these stumbles! Enough gibberish.

One has to take a step to stuable! Lately, I have been going down old ruts without venturing off onto new pathways. As some of you know, our daughter Katherine is back from Germany. She had a grand time and is bubbling over with the sights and people she met. Also, at home we have a German Exchange student whose name is Tanja Hoegel

from near Stuttgart in southwest Germany. She and Katherine are becoming acquainted and they appear to becoming to be good friends.

Back in 1988 or 89 I obtained a copy of Steve McMatty's Labeler program and since then have use it to

make the majority of my address labels since it utilizes Dave Rose graphics. Now with German friends with both Deutschland names and addresses it has become desirable to print their alphabet on both the labels and via II-Writer.

I dropped Charles Good a letter and he responded promptly with a diskette containing the German characters as well as the code to alert my printer to use the international character sets. With the German character sets I surprised our friends abroad with a letter (tho crude) in their own language with the able assistance of Tanja.

Today I finally got around to placing these character sets into McMatty's labeler program. First I had to alert my printer of the need to use the international set for the German language, i.e., OPEN #1:"PID" :: PRINT #1:CHR\$(27);CHR\$(55);CHR\$(2) :: CLOSE #1. However, I would not have been successful had it not been for Art Gibson's suggestion to define the German character sets via XB's CALL CHAR command. For those of you as unknowledgeable as I am, you can "CALL CHAR(124,CHR\$(216))" define character 124 which is function A or I to be character string 216 which on my Gemini is the German Character for "oe". Now when we want to make address labels to our German friends we can use their character sets and not appear to be unilingual. How about that?

OUT OF THE PAST COMES...

THE DR. IS IN
By D. R. Fudge

Wow! This month was laid out funny! The weeks were arranged so that between the regular meeting night and the E-board meeting and the newsletter was only one week each. That means that I have had limited time to pore (In the case of my coffee, the word is pour) over the incoming newsletters. And even the newsletters are getting harder to pore over!

We received (the editors, that is) a newsletter this month from Sweden. I cannot begin to describe the quality of this newsletter. It is in magazine style, and has graphics like I can't believe. There is included in the contents several programs and a list of fairware programs available (including one by our own Mike Dodd). Everything about this newsletter is strictly first class, except, they forgot to mail us an interpreter for the many articles included. Most of the articles appear to have been written locally (i.e. in Sweden or thereabouts) and have an air of confidence and competence about them. If anyone out there can interpret them for us, please come to our house and do so immediately. We may be missing out on some important knowledge.

Quote of the month: "Father! Father! You've done it

wrong. This is the amount" by three year old Gauss when his father erred in calculating his weekly payroll! And I have to use a computer to keep up with my own calculations! And for the math freaks among us, did you know that $e(i\pi)=-1$?

DOES anyone know what has happen to the Dr. Fudge?
OR his side kick Mike Dodd?

Inserting the above files from other programs makes one learn again the mechanics of merging files. Like the above, 75 1 38 DSK2.'6DR means that I want to load into this file after line 75 the first line through the 38th line of the file named "'6DR" on drive number 2. I know, to some this is trivial, to others it is pure nonsense, and to others it is something completely new!

Driving home after the last K-town meeting, Art revealed that the format commands after ".pl" must total less than or equal to 80 or in ".cl" they must total or equal to 132 (it may be 136 for the gemini). Tanja had been wanting to format a report for her Marketing Class with a portion of the report restricted to right two-thirds of the page. I could never get Art's program to work; so, I used Funnelweb's 80 column format (the one which you have to page across) and placed tab settings and the PrintFile command from the editor to get it to print. Now, I have tested the above out with say ".pl 20,60" and I achieve the results which Tanja needed for her report!

Art said it was in the Docs; but, who reads the docs?

MAIL BAG

Lloyd: Sorry we missed Coleen's wedding. We had planned to come but allergies intervened. The weather appeared to be breaking up to provide you all a sunny day. Were you able to have the wedding outside by the lake as you had planned?

Paul: If I had your modem and if I knew how to use it, Bill Sheridan might have this article for our newsletter. When I told you I would be up to Rugby soon, I did not think it would be over a year.

YOU: That is right. You may be the one who can help me find an XYZ plotter which will display on the screen and printer the data from either multiplan or tibase or some other data program. At work, 1,2,3 LOTUS has this feature. It saves me alot of time to see how the data plots out before I try to analyze it. Can You direct me? I hope so.

Looking over the above makes me realize that one can put together a newsletter if one just puts their mind to the task. On the other hand, did any of you enjoy the above?

On the Sound of Music they said so long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, good night!

Enough stumblings for September 19th, 1992.

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN