

KAWARTHA KRONICLE

PETERBOROUGH, ONT.



The monthly newsletter of
The Kawartha 99'ers

× Summer Issue ×

C/O G. Daniels
R.R. #5 Peterborough
Ont. Canada K9J 6X6

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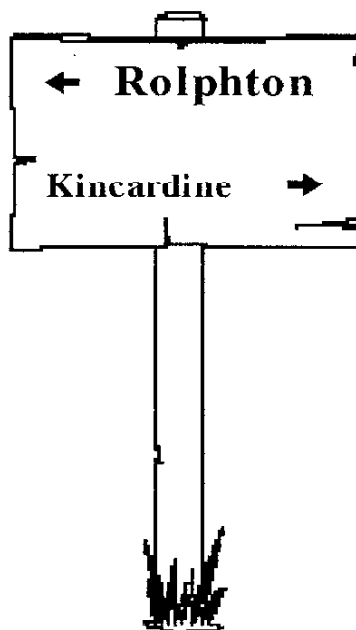
Console-ing The Orphan

All In A Day's Move!

Being a member of a TI User Group has many advantages that one doesn't realize at first. Just recently, our family moved to a new location in Peterborough. After fifteen years of collecting treasures (190+ boxes worth!) it was going to take more than a casual effort to relocate, even if it was just across town. What one forgets are the important, one time jobs that have to be looked after immediately upon moving. Things such as putting beds together so that they won't collapse, making sure that the new cupboard knobs are put on correctly (the screw goes on the inside) and hanging blinds so that the pull cords don't face the window! That's where my TI Buddies came in. Since a few of the TI'ers in our group are "retired" (they claim they work full time but just don't get paid for it) I invited them to help me celebrate moving into my new home by having them look after the aforementioned tasks the day of the move. I am very kind hearted by nature and thought that they would enjoy the excitement! So on moving day Glen Daniels and our other buddy, Dick Bulmer arrived to attend to business. Boy was I glad to see them! Within a few hours their efforts allowed us to open our new cupboards, have some privacy and finally get to bed. It sure pays to have a membership in a TI group, there certainly are a lot of side benefits. Thanks fellas for all of your help!

Speaking of technology being a tool, how about this scenario:

I needed to contact one of the builder's workers to move some insulation so that the inspector could check some gas lines in our new



home. I found the real estate agent two doors away who used her cellular phone to call the builder's office some 90 kilometres away. They in turn used a radio telephone with a microwave link to contact the supervisor who was at another building site across Peterborough. He then contacted the worker by radio who, by the way was only four houses away from me. Five minutes later the worker arrived and the inspector could get on with his job. Neat, EH?

Comdex / Windows Show

In mid July the Comdex & Windows show will take place at the Metro Convention Centre in Toronto. The cost is \$25.00 CDN for entry to the vendors' exhibits. This is supposed to be one of the largest consumer electronics and computer shows of the year, I hope a few of us can make it. Apple have some new goodies in the works, rumour has it that their "pen-based" technology is soon to be announced and that voice recognition technology is soon to be marketed, perhaps later this year. I recently witnessed a demo of a PC voice recognition system and it was impressive. To think TI did this 10 years ago!

Keep on Console-ing the Orphan - Phil

**** PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS ****

KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP

FOR USERS OF THE TEXAS INSTRUMENT 99/4A HOME COMPUTER
c/o G. Daniels - R.R.#5
PETERBOROUGH, ONT.
CANADA K9J 6X6

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DISK LIBRARIAN	GLEN DANIELS	705 740 0153
TAPE LIBRARIAN	JOHN ACHESON	705 743 7751
MODULES LIBRARIAN	JOHN ACHESON	705 743 7751
PRINT LIBRARIAN	LINDSAY BROWN	705 932 5295
NEWSLETTER LIBRARIAN	DICK BULMER	705 799 6111
NEWSLETTER TEAM	DICK BULMER	705 799 6111
	PAT MCGILLEN	705 742 8374
	PHIL TOWNSEND	705 745 3757

Meetings are generally held on the SECOND Wednesday of each month (Sept. to June) at the PETERBOROUGH POLICE DEPT. meeting room, located at the intersection of Water St. & McDonnell St. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

Membership fees are collected on an annual basis at the annual meeting. Fees are \$24.00 per annum. New members joining part way through the year are charged the rate of \$2.00 per month for the balance of the club's fiscal year. The group's annual meeting is held in March at which time elections for the group's executive is held. Memberships can only be held in an adult's name, though interested children / teens are welcome and encouraged to take part in club meetings and activities. Out of town members are most welcome.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily of the KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP.

Advertisements and contributing articles for this newsletter may be given to the newsletter staff or sent to the group's mailing address. Articles may be submitted in print, disk or electronic format

The KAWARTHA 99ers would like to thank those groups who exchange information and newsletters regarding the TEXAS INSTRUMENT HOME COMPUTER with us. We endeavour to recognize and credit original authors and sources of articles of information which we reprint or make available to our membership.

The KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP is a non-profit group who welcomes any individuals who have an interest in the TEXAS INSTRUMENT HOME COMPUTER.

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Secretary's Summary

At the May meeting, all eleven of us talked about the club picnic. Then, we discussed ideas for improving our group.

We had the 50/50 draw and the winner was Glen. Next, the group helped the Trotter family drill ventilation holes in their console.

So, a reminder that the picnic will be held on June 18th, 5:30 p.m. at the Riverview Zoo, Shelter #1.

Also, a reminder that our next regular meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 9th, the week before the picnic.

And keep thinking of more ideas to improve the group and attract new members.

SEE YOU THERE!

BRIAN DANIELS

[Ed. note: Thanks to Brian for agreeing to try the club secretary's job for a while.]

THINK GREEN — USE FEWER DISKS

Dick Bulmer

FLIPPIES are a clever idea conceived to overcome the limitations of Single Sided Single Density drives.

When double-sided drives became available, they were widely hailed as the answer to computer users' prayers. However, not everyone was willing or able to trash his/her single-sided drives. So, it wasn't long before some bright person(s) figured out a way to modify the double-sided disks for use on the old single sided type of drive. One of those clever ideas that looks so obvious after you have seen it ... just add another write-protect notch ... it was not long before hand-held punches were on the market. Everyone hoped that, someday, DSDD drives would become more affordable.

The DSDD drives did become more available as PC users began moving up to higher density formats. Many PEEKs had their SSSD drives replaced with DSDD types. Some makes of controller card enable full use of DSDD format, thus quadrupling the capacity of SSSD. Even the TI controller card, with its single density format, will double the capacity of your disks by using both sides.

But using double-sided formatting in single or double density may not be the ultimate for TIers after all. With no way to group related files, when you save them to disk, you sometimes have to choose between waste and confusion. What do you do when you have two or more programs with similar or perhaps identical filenames? You might have two programs, each with its own load file, so you have to use two disks. Of course, if you didn't notice it, the second "LOAD" file overwrote the first and you may not boot up the way you expected. Or, you have the new version of your favourite program, but you want to save the old back-up just in case. You could have used a new disk. Instead, you decide to add the three new files (fav1, fav2, fav3) to the old disk and keep both versions together. Whoops, the three new files have the same filenames and the old ones are overwritten. If only there was a way to store identically named files on the same disk.

There is! Enter the FLIPPIE! At first, it sounds retrogressive, after all, doesn't everyone agree the DSDD and DSDD drives are easier to use than the single-sided variety? Aren't double-sided drives "THE" drive for the TI? Aren't they more efficient? Usually, but not always. Think about it.

Using a FLIPPIE, you can store two programs with identical names. By using a FLIPPIE you can reduce the number of files listed on a directory, therefore reduce the confusion when you try to unscramble the filename eggs. The directory listing is generated a lot faster, too.

I'm sure there are more uses for FLIPPIES and now I've "rediscovered" them someone will tell me it's so basic, no one mentions it. Well, at least you know I'm thinking GREEN.

LIMA
A LASTING IMPRESSION
by
Dick Bulmer

You may recall my mentioning at the May meeting that, like most of you, I hadn't been to the Lima TI Fair before. We have all listened politely to others as they reminisce about their visits with nary a voiced regret. Well, I'm now one of the "have beens" and the only thing changed is the addition of my name to the list of Lima Fair attendees... of the five of us who made the trek together, still not even a hint of disappointment.

Though the Fair was held on Saturday May 15th, our journey began on Friday. In fact, for two of our group of five, it began in the dark of night, at 5:00 a.m., when Pat Graham and Steve Andrews of the North Bay 99ers left the comfort of their warm beds for the first leg of their trip... North Bay to Peterborough.

They arrived at Glens' home at 9:00 a.m.. I had arrived just a short while before. A quick coffee and muffin later, with our baggage switched to Glen's van, we headed for Tom Jakabfy's pond-side home near Oshawa.

Tom's son arrived just a few minutes after us, all ready to baby-sit Tom's car. With Tom on board and the compass set for Lima, we were on our way again.

Several interesting conversations and just about eight hours later, we booked in at Lima's famous Day's Inn (well if not quite world-famous, known for at least several blocks around).

A quick evening trip to Ohio State University's Lima Campus, the site of the fair, a little scouting around lining up possibilities as vendors readied their tables, then just after 8:00 p.m. it was back to the motel for a tasty, inexpensive dinner.

Saturday morning, cool but clear, an early breakfast then on to the Fair, arriving shortly after 7:00. A few more vendors had arrived and were setting up.

An enjoyable day purchasing software and hardware, made more enjoyable by the opportunity to meet and talk with so many of the legendary TIers who up until then had just been names you read in newsletters and Micropendium.

We didn't attend many of the scheduled presentations because they were being video-taped and Glen had arranged for copies to be sent to our group. When they arrive they will be available to members. If the two sessions I attended are any indication, they will be worth viewing. Get your name on the borrowers list.

A draw for prizes at the end of the day saw Pat Graham walk away pleased. By the way, a tally of registered attendees showed a slight increase over 1992.

Another early morning on Sunday. We were in the restaurant drinking coffee before the lights were turned on at 7:00 to start their day. Reversed the compass and headed back, a stop at the border for duty-free medicine, lunched near London, dropped Tom off at his place, back at Glen's about 5 o'clock. More shuffling of baggage and goodies, then Pat and Steve were on their way.

It was a busy, enjoyable weekend. I know I learned a lot, all I have to do now is remember what. The camcorder videos I took will help refresh my memory. One highlight I do clearly recall is Steve Andrew's modified TI which he kindly made available to us for copying disks that Glen will be adding to our library. A good example of what can be done with talent and midnight oil.

Thanks to the Lima group and our travelling companions, it was a great weekend.

End

Loaders: BOOT vs FUNNELWEB

by Ted Peterson

Portland Users of Ninety Nines

This article will be on two of the loaders that our user group has in the library. They are BOOT and FUNNELWEB. Also I will mention MENU, that is not in our library. Everything said about BOOT can apply to MENU.

The main difference between these loaders and other load or loader programs is that regular load programs will run in EX/Basic only and these two loaders will run in regular Basic, EX/Basic, or Editor/Assembler (E/A). Without these loaders you would have to use the E/A module to load or run an E/A program.

Both of these loaders can be set up to hold a large number of your favorite utilities. With EX/Basic cartridge installed and BOOT or FUNNELWEB in your disk drive, when EX/Basic is selected, a menu will pop up showing a listing of the different program sets. All you do is key your selection and that program will run.

The difference between BOOT and FUNNELWEB are as listed below:

1. FUNNELWEB comes with a DM1000 (Disk Manager) type utility and a good TI-Writer-like word processing program installed. In BOOT you would have to load in your own DM-1000, BA-Writer, DSKU, etc., programs.

2. BOOT can be set up with 24 different sets of programs. FUNNELWEB can have about 14.

3. BOOT is quicker to set up. To add a new set to the BOOT menu, you just add the disk number the new program is on and its name. This takes about 30 seconds. FUNNELWEB uses programs to load a new program. After some practice you can set up a new program on the FUNNELWEB menu in about two to three minutes.

The MENU program that comes with the Horizon RAMdisk is the same as BOOT but comes up in a different color. You can use BOOT, but the FUNNELWEB program has to be changed to work on a RAMdisk.

Both FUNNELWEB and BOOT have a lot of other options that can be used. The options differ, but both have a good set of instructions.

Try both of them and you will not need to pick up an E/A module unless you are going to do programming. Some members like BOOT better and some like FUNNELWEB better. That is your choice to make.

(BOOT has been on several SW99ers DOMs, including this month's DOM, and is available from our Disk Library on disk for the copy fee of \$2. FUNNELWEB is available in several different disk formats according to your system configuration, on SSSD disks. It takes 4 disks. (One for instructions, one for an 80 column screen, one main disk, and one with some other options.) The copy cost for FUNNELWEB on SSSD disks is \$8 complete. FUNNELWEB is fairware so you will also be asked by the author to pay a fairware fee, if you use the program.)

Plan for these dates!

June					
	1	2		4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30		

MEETING (arrow pointing to June 9)
PICNIC (arrow pointing to June 18)

September					
			1		3
5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	

MEETING (arrow pointing to September 1)

More GREEN thoughts

Like many other groups, we have been publishing Jack Shugue's series of OUR 4/A UNIVERSITY articles. You might have expected this newsletter to contain the fifth of the eight-part set.

Wearing our GREEN thinking caps, one day, it occurred that it was not necessary to include the remaining four articles in the copies of newsletters we will be exchanging with other groups, those groups already having published or planned to publish the same articles.

So, claiming environmental awareness, articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 will be available to our members at the June, September, October and November meetings. We will do our part to reduce duplication, triplication, etc., for other groups and in doing so, we may help save a tree branch. Our newsletters will be trimmed to six pages, if possible.

Computer Recycling Depot

The following computer items are for private sale by the owner unless otherwise stated. The Kawartha 99'ers makes no claim or accepts no responsibility as to the suitability or condition for any items advertised through this service. Free advertising space for the private purchase or sale of computer related products is offered and limited to members of the Kawartha 99'ers User Group.

Lot A:

- Parallel interface to hook up a TI console to a Printer, no need for the expansion box if you wish to obtain hardcopy (\$15.00)
- a complete set of disk software c/w manuals for TI COUNT by Pike Creek Computer Co. Inc., a small business, modular software program for the TI 99/4A which includes; general ledger, accounts receivable / payable, inventory system, payroll system and mailing system. (\$10.00)
- assorted **games modules** c/w manuals - will run on console only systems (\$2.00 each)
- assorted **educational modules** c/w manuals - will run on console only systems (\$5.00 each)
- assorted "how to..." and **educational books** for the TI 99/4A, suitable for children or adults wanting to learn more about the TI 99/4A computer (\$4.00 each)
- cables, connectors, spare TI 99/4A parts, working consoles etc. also available at varying prices

To purchase on any of the above items call Phil at 705-745-3757 (evenings 6pm - 11pm EST) or (weekends 10 am - 11pm EST).

Lot B:

- Speech synthesizer - \$25.00
- RF modulator (new) - \$6.00
- Cassette cables: - single - \$5.00 / double - \$10.00
- TI joysticks - \$5.00
- Munchman module - \$4.00
- Home Financial Decisions module - \$3.00
- PE Box fan (used) - \$4.00
- DSDD unformatted 5 1/4" floppies (box of 10) - \$5.00
- Home Computer Magazine on tape (Vol. 5 #5 / Vol.5 #6) - \$10.00 each

To purchase on any of the above items call Glen at 705-740-0153 (9am - 11pm EST) .

Lot C:

- **Axiom Parallax** parallel interface to hook up a TI console to a printer, no need for the Expansion Box if you wish to obtain hardcopy - \$15.00

To purchase the above item call Dick at 705-799- 6111 (9am - 11pm EST) .