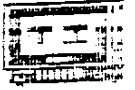# news net99er

Next Meeting -- April 2nd
at the North Richland Hills
Community Center at 9:30 am

President: Bill Duncan   Treasurer: Lee DeForest
V.President: Doc Graves   Secretary: Dave Shivers
        Editor   Newsletter Staff
        Tom Collins   Doc Graves

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|                                        |
|        TI-NET BBS MAIN MENU            |
|   _____   |
|                                        |
| [F]eedback    [I]nfo on TI-NET         |
| [U]serlist    [O]ther TI BBS's         |
| [G]oodbye     [S]end an upload         |
| [T]ext files  [C]hat with Phillip      |
| [D]ownloads   [A]ddress of BBS         |
| [E]-mail      [B]ulletin Section       |
| [Y]our Stats  [H]ow to use TI-NET      |
| [L]ocal BBS's [R]ead your mail         |
| [N]ews(repeat)[#]Gameroom info         |
|                                        |
| "GAMEROOM" Enters the Gameroom         |
| "OFF" or "BYE" no frills hangup        |
| "%"      Changes Automessage           |
|                                        |
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Here it is folks! The BBS menu that everybody should have already printed out. You can download a copy from
the BBS text files and print it out, then tape to your P-Box and never again forget what to press to get around
the BBS. Also included in this newsletter is a small article on BBS jargon for all the novices out there.
Remember we have a stand alone RS232 and a modem for check out to any paid member. Use it and enjoy!

------ FROM THE PRESIDENT ------

HI! Have you tried the NET-99ER BBS yet? I have at least succeeded in getting on and having a number assigned
to me and I am looking forward to downloading some programs. I think I'll leave the gameroom to the kiddos,
though.   I would like to know what the membership thinks about setting up a table at the upcoming TI FAIRE on
April 30th. There will be a discussion on this topic at the next meeting. See you there on April 2nd, same
time, same place!
Bill Duncan - President

---- VP CORNER ----

We still don't have a lot to talk about since have been working most of my spare time on this new workshop. I have just about got it finished except for buying a few more tools. I have several single sided drives to be repaired and a couple of double sided double density drives too, as they will be ready when they are aligned. We'll also have some single-sided and double-sided supercarts for this next meeting. I haven't talked to Bill to see what is on the agenda for this next meeting but I'm sure it will be of interst to everyone. If anyone has anything of interest, please let me or Bill know about it so that it can be put into the program.
++ Doc Graves - Vice President

----- FROM THE EDITOR -----

Here it is the windy month of March and time for another newsletter. I hope that many in the group have been using the TI NET BBS. It's great little board that I hope will grow in the future. I would like to thank our sysop's for all the fine hard work they have done on it. Special thanks to Phillip and Gary for thier informative columns for the newsletter. I actively use two other BBS's (The Chessboard and Rainbows End) and find them useful, informative, and entertaining. Try them out as well as our own BBS. There are BBS's and then there are BBS's if you know what I mean and I think that with continued support ours will become popular. For all NET99ER's who don't own a modem or an RS232, don't forget our lending program! These two items and a TE2 cartridge or a terminal program can get you online. See James Crosson for details.
For all you who would like your keyboard modified to have a Function Key on the left side of the keyboard AND have the diode installed to use joysticks without checking the Alpha Lock key, this is the offer for you. I will perform these modifications (the disassembly and cutting of the console where the key fits can be arranged for those who don't want to do this) and I will provide the parts AND labor. All you need do is provide a $2.50 donation to the club treasury. Believe me when this key is added it looks factory and you'll wonder how you got along without it. If you prefer I sell the keyboards already modified on an exchange or outright basis. Contact me if you would like to have this done and help out the club too.
Tom Collins

----- TREASURERS REPORT -----

The Treasury report for Mar 1988. We had a lot of expenses this month, however we also had a good meeting as far as money goes. Our total expenses for March so far have been $455.67 and income was $302.07 leaving us with a balance of $498.23. As far as I know the only thing that has not been paid for is the phone bill for the BBS.
Lee W. DeForest.

----- THE MINUTES -----

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am by Bill Duncan, President. The minutes from the February meeting were accepted as written in the newsletter. This was done because I forgot to bring a copy to read. (I won't forget next month) The financial report was given by Lee DeForest with a total of $384.25 reported. Gary Higgs announced that as of today all paid members in the BBS should have been assigned an access level 3. This will allow them into the gameroom casino plus the general access to the BBS. Anyone can get into the BBS by dialing 581-1421. Gary also reported that the BBS has 3 ds/dd disk drives and explained the main menu. He also made a motion to send $30.00 to the author of the BBS. This motion was passed as stated. Bill Duncan reported that he had written TI for a list of all TI owners in order to possibly recruit new members. The buy sell and swap session was held and followed by a break. After the break James Crosson and Ron Miller gave a demonstration of the DOM and the TI Fair disk. All three disks sold for $3 each. Tom Hall demonstrated Certificate Maker which is an excellent program for making signs as well as great looking certificates. Tom also showed us Business Graphs by Great Lakes software. This is one of the better business graph programs. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm. (Dave)

‡‡‡ NET 99 ONLINE ‡‡‡

Well, our first full month with a BBS has been quite a learning experience for all of us I'm sure, but mostly for me. I couldn't ask for a better (and more helpful) pair of co-sysops as Gary and James. While this first month has been sort of rocky, I am sure that the BBS will grow to something that we can all be very proud of. There are a few things that I'd like to make all of you aware of...especially those that will be using the BBS

often...and I hope that will be most of you!

1) We spoke in the last meeting of the $10 per year charge for using the BBS. We are running a trial program now so that everyone who signs on the BBS will get 3 weeks free (We hope that will get you hooked so you'll pay your dues and join permanently). If the BBS draws the kind of interest that we think it's going to - hopefully - we can, in the not too distant future just include BBS membership with the group membership or offer both memberships for a lower than combined price.

2) I hope that some sort of you will join the GAMEROOM. I think this offering of the BBS really sets us apart from most of the others available for the TI. It's also a great deal of fun!!! Our trial memberships (especially the GAMEROOM) may also bring us additional support from non-TI users thereby filling our coffers and eventually upgrading our system even more.

3) If you call the BBS number (531-1422) and it's busy...sorry, but someone else is taking their turn. If you call and it does nothing but ring then A) I've got it down for maintenance or B) the system has "locked up". If you call over the course of MORE than one hour and still get nothing but ringing, call me at 479-1551 (metro) since this will most likely mean the system has locked up. Even if I'm not here to answer it, my wife will be willing to reset it so you can call in. (Very rarely, it may take me more than one hour to conduct the maintenance. Unfortunately, due to my rather unusual schedule, I can't really tell you when I'll be doing the maintenance, but when I can, it will be between 2 and 5 in the afternoon. No, I'm not saying that it will take me two hours, but I should be able to do it sometime during that time span.)

4) If you've got a technical question regarding the BBS's operation, I would appreciate it if you would first leave me a note on the BBS before calling my home. Our home phone is very important to my wife's income business and if calls regarding the BBS start costing her (and our family) money, she may be a little less than willing to help me keep the BBS going. If you've tried more than an hour and you think the system is "locked up", don't hesitate to call. If your call is in regard to uploading/downloading, Gary (BBS #1) is probably your best bet. I do it, but I'm not the expert that Gary is. If your question is in regard to hardware, then James (BBS #3) is your man for that field of expertise. If you have ideas for changing the software itself, I may be the one you want (BBS #2). I'm no expert, but feel myself to be quite competent in programming in Extended Basic and Basic.

5) Bulletins and E-mail: Please help us keep the bulletin areas open for bulletins of interest to all users. Please use E-mail rather than addressing a bulletin to another user. Also, when you feel your bulletin has been up for long enough, please X)ill it so it will give us a little more space on the disk and a little less clutter in the bulletin section. Also, we have 3 bulletin areas for you to use: 1)General section is primarily for announcements of upcoming events, rumors regarding vaporware, and questions to the user base as a whole; 2)TI-talk (TI at any bulletin or "Thy command?" prompt) should be used for advertising things for sell or looking for things to buy, also as an area to get others' ideas on programs or hardware you may be considering purchasing. We've got a great thing going here, but it will take work to keep it going strong. PLEASE advertise it in any way you can - and not to just TI/9640 users. This BBS is only limited by the amount of effort we are willing to put into it. Please help in any way you can.

Thanks,
Phillip

---- BBS REPORT by Gary. E. Higgs-CoSysop ----

The group BBS is now fully operational and most of the problems that we have been experiencing in the past have been resolved. I know that some people are still having problems with downloading programs off the BBS, so this time around, I will try to deal mainly with this matter. Before going into it though, I would like to mention that the group has received the new modem we ordered and you can now log on at either 300 or 1200 baud. Make sure your terminal program that you are using is set for 7 data bits, even parity and 1 stop bit. Any terminal emulator program that offers the XMODEM protocol will work, Fast Term, Mass Transfer, 4A/Talk, Omega, Pterm and most recently Not-myterm for the 9640 and Telco for the TI 99/4A.

Downloading a file off the BBS is easy...just press D at the command prompt, pick which section to download from, currently 2 sections, 1) TI-99/4A or 2) Myarc 9640. After selecting 1 or 2 and hitting ENTER, a list of available files will come up on your screen. At the next prompt after the listing, just type in the filename you want, EXACTLY as it is listed, and hit ENTER. From this point you must put your terminal emulator program into XMODEM transfer mode to receive it. A few 'how to's' are as the following;(NOTE: Instructions are for those using the TI, I assume if you own a 9640 you know all this already, but if not, let me know and I'll cover it in the future).

FAST TERM - After making your selection from the download section, press FCTN N, which lets you name the file, key in the filename you want to use and press ENTER. Next, press FCTN SHIFT I all at the same time, press R

for receive file, the prompt use CRC error checking comes up, press the default Y for yes and sit back and relax. When the transfer is complete, a message to that effect will come up and then press ENTER again to go back into the terminal emulator mode. To upload(send) a file to the BBS, at the BBS menu prompt press S, then ENTER, the BBS will ask you a couple of questions, then do the same as above, only after going into the XMODEM transfer with the FCTN SHIFT X, press S to send instead of R to receive. This holds true for all TE program, most use R to receive, S to send, once you have enter the XMODEM transfer protocol.

MASS TRANSFER - After making your selection from the download section, press FCTN 7 to bring the Mass Transfer menu back up, press X for XMODEM transfer, next you will be asked for a filename, i.e. DSK1.FILENAME, then again like FT, press R for receive and, well, starting to catch on yet?

If you will just take the TIME to read the DOCUMENTATION for the particular TE program you are using, you should have no problems. If for some unknown reason you are having trouble using a certain TE program, just drop me a note on the BBS and I will do my best to help you.

----- TI-NET General Help File -----

Message Editor

The Editor is called up whenever you need to enter text. You can type up to the maximum number of lines. You will get a warning when only 4 lines are left. When finished, enter a blank line to drop to the Editor menu. Once in the menu, these single letter commands can be used:

C)ont: Lets you continue entering lines.
E)dit: Lets you re-enter one line. You will be asked for a line number, and then you see the old line.
            Type the new line, or just press <Enter> to leave it alone.
D)elete: Erases one line and moves all following lines up.
I)nsert: Lets you insert one line of text between two other lines. Moves everything past it down one line.
L)ist: *   Prints out the whole message, with or without line numbers.
N)ew: Erases the whole message and lets you start over.
Q)uit: Erases the message and quits.
S)ave: Ends the message and saves it.

If you type past the end of a line at any time, the word you were typing is moved to the next line. Control X will erase a whole line.

Using the Mail System (From Main Menu)

P)ost mail can send a private message to any user. You must know their user number. If you can't remember, use U)serlist to find it out. Once you enter the user number to send to, you use the message editor to enter the letter. When you finish, the letter is placed in their "mail box." R)ead mail lets you read the mail in your mail box. After you read each, it is placed on the bottom of the stack. A short menu is displayed after each letter. If you don't need the letter anymore, use K to kill it. Otherwise an awful lot of letters may pile up. After you read a letter you may:

Q)uit: goes back to main menu.(saves)
A)gain: reads the same letter again.
R)eply: lets you P)ost back to them.
N)ext or <enter> goes to next letter.

When replying, please say what the msg was about. Sometimes people forget what they were saying when they get a reply like "Yes" or "No, its not."

Text Files Area

The T command takes you to the T)ext files area. From here you will select a category of files, from 1-9. A menu of titles in that category will appear, with numbers next to each. Enter the number next to the title. You might want to be ready with your capture buffer before you enter the number if you wish to save the text on your disk.

Download Programs

Downloading is a word that means to copy programs between computers via modem. In your case, downloading sends a file to YOU. (An Upload is where YOU send a file.) The menu works much like the Files area. You choose a category, but then instead of numbers for files, you use a 1-10 letter filename. Filenames are listed with the number of sectors, type of file, and a short name for each. The only way to download programs from TI-Net is with a terminal emulator with Xmodem. (Not TE-2!) If you don't have one, I suggest you get a copy of Fast-Term from someone or send me a disk, and return postage to:

Paul Charlton
1110 Pinehurst Ave.
Charlottesville, VA 22901

Fast-Term is a freeware program and is very easy to learn.

How to Download with Fast-Term

Hit Function N and type the filename to use (such as DSK1.SONG), usually the same name TI-Net used. Then press Function Shift X, all at the same time, and press R for receive. Hit Yes for CRC error checking. TI-Net will delay a minute or so if you do not correctly select CRC before switching to CHKSUM error checking, which is what you get if you hit No. Fast-Term will display a Record Number and count slowly up. Each record takes about 5 seconds if you are using 300 baud, much less if you are at a higher speed. The total number of records in a file can be found by doubling the number of sectors it contains, and subtracting one. Note that the number Fast-Term displays is in hexadecimal, so for checking purposes you will need to mentally convert it to decimal. When the transfer finishes or is stopped for some reason, press any key and you may continue using the bulletin board or download more files. If something goes wrong and TI-Net doesn't respond correctly, press Control-X or Function-4 several times.

Jargon Related to Computers and Telecommunications
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Telecom -- telecomputing, data telecommunications. Over phone lines with the aid of a modem.

Modem -- Modulator/Demodulator, converts data into sound for transmission and then back into data.

SysOp -- System Operator. The manager of the host (called) system.

BBS   -- electronic Bulletin Board System, much like its real world metaphor.

Data-bits- Parity, Stop-bits -- Usually 7E1 respectively, sometimes 8N1. What this really is does not matter, you will always be told how to set these by the host system or you will have to hack it out (E=Even,O=Odd,N=None for Parity).

Baud   -- Becoming an obsolete term. "BPS" is now taking precedence because baud loses its meaning when the number is higher.

BPS   -- Bits Per Second, a speed rating for a modem transmission. 300bps is the slowest standard, 1200bps is the current standard, and 2400bps is the fastest standard. Anything faster is non-standard.

Terminal-- the standard terminal now-a-days can be assumed to have 24 vertical lines and 80 horizontal columns. Terminal means the remote user's screen and keyboard (and software if a 'smart' terminal).

Emulation- Emulating a kind of special terminal. TTY is the default (teletype) Special terminal types allow the host system the power to position the cursor anywhere on the screen it wants (as opposed to just down and to the right sequentially) and some other stuff too. Some popular ones are: VT52, VT100, Datamedia 1500, VIDTEX, and others.

Char   -- short for character: letter, number, symbol.

ASCII -- (pronounced 'as-key') American Standard Code for Information Inter- change. Derived from the ISO standard character set.

Up   -- in operation.

Down   -- not (currently) in operation.

Run   -- operate or execute. Go or do. Very general term.

Online -- in the system, connected/accessible.

OpSys -- Operating System (like MS-DOS, ProDOS-8, TI NET, etc.)

----- FOR SALE -----

COMPLETE TI 99/4A SYSTEM

TWO consoles, PE Box w/TI disk controller, TI 32K card, TI RS232 card, TI disk drive (spare), QUME 142 Dual Disk Drives. JC Penney remote control cassette player TI Joysticks, all cables, power supplies and manuals.
Software -
Microsoft Multiplan, TI Writer, TI Extended Basic, Adventure, Pirate Adventure(cassette), Personal Report Generator, Market Simulation(cassette), Disk Manager II, Personal Record Keeping, Personal Financial Aids (cassette), Teach Yourself Basic (Pts. 1 2, cassettes), Teach Yourself Extended Basic (cassette), Beginners Basic Tutor (cassette), Micro Pal - The Genealogy Workshop, Basic Tricks for TI 99/4a, Graphics and Sound.
All books and manuals for the hardware and software listed above plus-
TI 99/4a Users Guide Macmillan COMPUTES Guide to Extended Basic Flynn
COMPUTES Programmers Reference Guide Regina
The Last Word on the TI 99/4a Schreiber How to use the TI 99/4a Computer Brewer and Lewis
Using and Programming the TI 99/4a Holtz
Basic Tips -- Amlist
I Speak Basic to my TI 99/4a Jones
I would like to sell as a complete system.
The price for the complete system is...............$400.00
William C. Boyce
2503 Summit Drive
Irving, Texas 75062
214 255 0204

TI HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE

TI Consoles, 2 each in working order $ 35.00 ea; TI Consoles 2 each not in working order [started to upgrade to turbo console] good for parts $ 20.00 each. TI MONITOR 13 inch screen color $125.00; 1 Stand alone RS232 (does not have a PIO port, 2 serial ports) $ 50.00 OLIVETTI DAISY WHEEL TYPEWRITER, typewriter with interface cable to be used with buffer (listed seperatly), extra daisy wheel, extra ribbons. $250.00; BUFFER, 1 QUADRAM BUFFER with serial in, parallel out,and built in 32k memory (can be expanded), $ 75.00; TI 32K EXPANSION 1 Expansion memory $ 50.00; TI FLEX CABLE 1 cable $ 30.00; MODULES: 1 PLATO mod, $25.00, $15.00 each, 1 TI EXTENTED BASIC (no book), 1 E/A (no book), 1 MINI MEMORY, 1 MULTIPLAN (no book), $15.00 each, DISK MANAGER II, 1 TI-WRITER (no book), 1 TERMINAL EMULATOR II, 1 HOME FINANCIAL DECISIONS, 1 PERSONAL REPORT GENERATOR, 1 PERSONAL REAL ESTATE, 1 PERSONAL RECORD KEEPING, 1 SECURITIES ANALYSIS (no book), 1 HOUSEHOLD BUDGET MANAGEMENT, 1 TAX/INVESTMENT RECORD KEEPING, 1 PHYSICAL FITNESS, $5.00 each, 1 TERMINAL EMULATOR I, 1 WEIGHT CONTROL AND NUTRITION, 1 PARSEC, $3.00 each, 1 FOOTBALL, 1 VIDEO GAMES; CABINET, 1 Holds eight modules $ 3.50; CABINET 1 Holds approx. 24 modules $8.00; CARTRIDGE EXPANDER Holds up to three modules at one time $ 20.00
LEE DeForest 237-9746

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3 TI CONSOLES (NEW) still in factory boxes $75.00ea.
1 TI PEB with: TI 32K card; TI controller card; TI RS-232 card; 2 HH Shugart SA-455 DS DD drives $450.00
1 TI PEB with: TI 32K card; TI controller card; TI RS-232 card; 1 FH SSSD drive $325.00
Contact: John Lambert MC 95827 (817) 232-8306