FORT WORTH TX
PM
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NEWSNET99ER

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NEXT MEETING :
SATURDAY
JUNE 2ND

9:30 AM at the
NRH Community Center
Loop 820 at Rufe Snow Dr.

CLUB OFFICERS

James Crosson	President
Tom Collins	Vice Pres
Lee DeForest	Treasurer
Charles Bathman	Secretary
Barbara Massey	NL Editor
Tom Collins	BBS Sysop

NET99ER BBS 300/1200/2400 7E1 24HRS

457 7043

Newsletter of the North-East
Tarrant County TI-99/4a and
Myarc 9640 Computer Users Gr.

-----THE PREZ SEZ-----

I believe that you can tell summer is just about here, due to the heat, insects, and low attendance at meetings, and last month was no exception. Hopefully this month will be different, for your treat and use, I have purchased 8 quiet fans with high volumn blades which I will have with me at the next meeting(6-2-90). I have planned to have a work shop this time instead of a regular meeting, which means if you have a console that needs a grom port installed, bring it to the meeting, if you need the quiet fan installed we can do that too, a five dollar donation to the club would however be excepted for the installations, which includes insullation. Oh, you want to know how much is the fan going to set you back, well how about $5 for the fan and if you want me to install it, how about another $5 to your club. Now is that cheap enough, and believe me it sure makes a difference when you turn on the computer and PE box and can't hear the outboard motor reving up. Sometimes I have to check to see if mine is on. As for those with multiple PE boxes, well we will have to see how things go, I only have 8 fans.

Now that we have the good stuff out of the way, we can get down to the bad stuff. This past week the company I have worced for, nearly 15 years, laid me off, and several thousand others as well. Yes, this is the good ole game of sock it to your employees if you can't sock it to the competition. As for what I am going to do is not clear as yet, this is why I have elected to bring this up now. The future for me doesn't look too good right now, however I feel that things will get better eventually. In the event that I would have to work on the weekends in the future, I thought that it might be a good idea to plan ahead just in case. Of course, Tom Collins is the VP and I am confident that he would step in and do a good job and what the heck, maybe even better, but he has his hands full with his job right now, this means he would need help from you, not well intentioned help, I mean real help. Hopefully it won't come to this, but just in case, let's prepare now, do I have any takers?????

Thank goodness that's over with, now let's get down to what we are going to do at the next meeting besides the groms and fans, well, how about the taking your questions on the various carts and programs and hardware questions for interfacing, seems like this would be a good time to start, how about it. Now don't forget to bring your PE box if you want me to install the fan and don't forget the console if you want me to install the grom port (no charge). After the disk of the month and a buy,sell, and swap we will get into these things and hopefully everybody will get thier projects done.

Everybody listen up, be there or be square at 9:30 a.m. June 2,1990 for the meeting of the NET99ers upstairs of the Community Center of the N.Richland Hills Library Complex, and besides ol Money Bags might be out there handing out hundred dollar bills, fat chance of that, but who knows, see ya there!!!!!$$$James$$$

-----VP/SysOp's RAMBLINGS-----

This month's report for the BBS is much the same as for the preceding months. We are perking along fine and have had few problems except of course the power outage problems. I have contactec Wolfgang and hopefully he will sell us the modification for our console. This modification somehow produces series of a keypresses to send the console into Extended Basic just after powerup. Since we have outages rather often, it is very desirable to have such a modification. From there the system takes over, searching for DSK1.LOAD as usual and it automatically runs the BBS program. Wolfgang has this mod on the Miami User Group BBS and has mentioned that he may sell it circuit to us. It is my hope that he will and I will do the modification myself, when it becomes available. We also have a rather extensive GIF library and if there is any picture you want for use in TI-Artist or other graphic programs, just DL the list from the Textfiles area and leave the Software Manager a note on the BBS. He will then move it into the Software area for downloading.

The club has decided to start looking for ways to save money. One being the BBS, meaning those people with modems will get a copy of the Newsletter via the BBS instead of mailing it out. We have some members who opted for this and the help is greatly appreciated. Every bit helps. And now for another bit of news. As most of us know, we have ahd a flood of MAJOR proportions here in the Metroplex. Well, my company was flooded. All of our offices were totaled. Unfortunately for the company we had just restocled all office supplies. And wouldn't you know it, copy paper too! Well, the paper wasn't usable for company business, so I was able to get three cases before they were tossed into the dumpster. After examining the paper, I decided it would work just fine and it did go thru the copy machine with no problems. So I will donate two of those cases to the club, saving us $50 for copy paper costs this year (and probably next year too). The paper is good, no stains, and was still sealed in the boxes when I picked up, so the paper is at best just damp around the top layers. Perfectly good paper that will not go to waste, but to good use producing our newsletter.

I have recently cone some hardware swapping and recieved a Tandy CM-8 Color Monitor for use with my Geneve. It requires a special circuit be built and those plans are on the way from a fellow Geneve user - Dave Lewis in Oklahoma. I will keep everyone posted as to the performance of the monitor in future issues. If Dave allows, I will also detail a step by step project for newsletter publication.

That wraps up my input for this month.........Tom Collins

-----*MINUTES OF NET 99er MEETING*
of 5 May, 1990-----

President, James Crosson, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM, Saturday, 7 April, 1990. Approximately 20 members were present including Jim Lesher who also set up a Vendor's table.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Barbara Massey and accepted by the members. Lee Deforest read the treasurer's report for April 1990 which was then accepted by the members.

There being no old business to discuss, the president brought up the following New items which were discussed as indicated:

NEWSLETTER COSTS: Currently, the newsletter alone is costing more to produce and mail than the group takes in monthly. This causes a small decrease in the group's checking account balance which will eventually result in the bank taking a monthly service charge from the account. The associated discussion resulted in the following:

1. A member will print the newsletters at no cost other than paper.

2. Members not renewing will stop receiving newsletters after 90 days.

3. User groups not reciprocating with a newsletter will be dropped ASAP.

4. User groups or non-members may receive newsletters for $7.50/year.

5. Members desiring will receive newsletters via BBS (see below).

MEMBERS AGREE TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY: The following members have agreed to download their copy of the monthly newsletter from either STARTEXT (keyword-NET99ER) or from the NET 99ER BBS (under TEXTFILES). Other members wishing to recieve the newsletter electronically should contact Barbara Massey at (817) 292-3554.

Gary Owens	Jim Lesher
Lee DeForest	James Crosson
Ron Ferguson	Tom Collins
Barbara Massey	Chester Johnson
Jo Nell Thompson	Cal Koether
Charlie Bathman	Ciro Lopiccolo

INCREASING GROUP MEMBERSHIP: Increasing club membership will have a twofold advantage; it will get the group back on a better financial footing and with more members the group should progress and advance more. Several ideas were discussed to increase membership.

Messages in the internal publications of large business and organizations like Bell Helicopter, General Dynamics and Southwestern Bell can generate interest and possibly rekindle the flame in some of those close: 99ers.

Reduced first year dues for new members. $10 for just club membership for the first year only and $5 additional if they want the NET 99er BBS.

Providing a listing of used TI equipment available from members that can be reasonably purchased by the new members.

One page flyers available to all members for posting wherever appropriate.

Exploiting the advantages of the TI 99/4A and the Geneve 9640 as PERSONAL COMPUTERS (PC) over BUSINESS COMPUTERS (BC) such as IBM, also has merit. With a good PC, the user can either take a prewritten program and modify it to suit their needs or create their own totally new personal program to do exactly what they want it to do. With most BC computers, users must live within the confines of programs already written. Likewise, for BC computer users, true programming in the sense of BASIC or ASSEMBLY is virtually impossible and what can be done is very unsophisticated.

DISK OF THE MONTH (DOM): James Crosson demonstrated 99 ANIMATOR, by McCANN Software. By making multiple overlay mats which can be sequentially displayed (rapidy) to the screen, the illusion of annimation is very successfully acheived. The assembly language program can be loaded from either Extended Basic or Editor/Assembler, Option 3. Remember, if you like it and/or use it send the author a reasonable donation.

BUY - SELL - SWAP and BREAK from 11:00 to 11:30.

Lee Deforest demonstrated DISK UTILITIES, Version 1.2, by John Birdwell. This excellent fairware program was a previous DOM and is a 'must Have' for every serious TI/Geneve user with disk drives; if for no other reason than to recover lost files and blown directories. Remember to support these great software authors and TI programming gurus.

NOTE: Plans for the 2nd Annual NET 99er Picnic were not discussed as previously planned and will hopefully be resurfaced at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by;‡‡‡Charles D. Bathman, Secretary‡‡‡

-----*TREASURY REPORT*-----

We had an income of $137.50 (which wasn't too bad for 12 people) and expenses of $161.79. Since we started with $689.65 that leaves us with a total of $665.65 in the treasury.‡‡Lee W. DeForest, Treasurer‡‡‡

-----*RENEWALS DUE*-----

We want to thank those who renewed their memberships last month. June does not seem to be a good month for getting new members. We have no members who need to renew their membership in June. Please be sure to check your address label, if your membership expiration date is incorrect please let me know.

Members whose renewals are now past due are: Fred Deaver (5/90), Donald Hammonds (5/90), Glenn Lindley (5/90), Arnold Fraly (3/90), Tom Hall (3/90),

Sharon Jolliff (3/90), Dr. Michael McLendon (1/90). If you are unable to attend a meeting, you may send your $20.00 membership fee to NET99er HCUG, c/o Bill Duncan, PO Box 534, Hurst, Texas 76053.

We also have MICROpendium subscriptions that need to be renewed this month. Check with Lee DeForest for your expiration date.

-----EDITOR'S INPUT-----

Starting with the next issue those that have things to buy, sell or swap, will have there items listed for just one month. If they wish to place a new ad for the next month, they may contact me through the BBS, Startext or at my home. Ads for the same items will have to wait one month before running again.

I am sure sorry to hear about James's bad luck. Hopefully something good will come out of this run of bad luck he has been having lately. In the case that James does have to hand his position over, we all will need to help the new President out. James has been the Pres so long that he has been taken for granted. The club needs some new blood stepping in to help take charge. We have too few people in too many positions. We can not take a chance of any member having a burn out. Come on ya'll, this is your club! See ya Saturday---BAM

-----LINE MAKER-----
by Jim Lesher

It is 11 o'clock Sunday night. The stores are all closed. Your eighth grader has just confessed, after a day of camping out, that she/he has a paper to turn in Monday morning, or flunk. You are tired, don't want to drive half way across town to get some notebook paper. Then suddenly you remember, there is a program for your computer to make ruled paper. Oh yes, it is in the May issue of our Newsletter.

             RUN IN EXTENDED BASIC ON A GEMINI PRINTER:

```
10 REM LINE MAKER IN XB
20 CALL CLEAR
30 CALL SCREEN(6)
40 PRINT "10 INCHES OF LINES WILL BE PRINTED AT ANY SPACING "
50 PRINT
60 PRINT "50 IS FOR NORMAL SCHOOL PAPER"
70 PRINT
80 PRINT "41 IS FOR COLLEGE RULED PAPER"
90 PRINT
100 PRINT "24 IS THE NORMAL PRINTE SPACING"
110 PRINT
120 INPUT "LINE SPACING ? ":N
130 PRINT
140 PRINT "NO. OF LINES"
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```
150 OPEN #1:"PIO"
160 PRINT #1:CHRS(27):CHRS(51):CHRS(W):
170 L=1440/W
180 FOR M=1 TO L
190 B$=RPT$(CHR$(95),80)
200 PRINT #1:B$;
210 PRINT M
220 NEXT M
230 CLOSE #1
240 INPUT "DO YOU EANT ANOTHER PAGE PRESS ENTER ? ":A$
250 OPEN #1:"PIO"
260 PRINT #1:CHR$(12)
270 GOTO 180
```

#################

The following is Part IV of a series written by John F. Willforth. This
was first written back in December of 87. Please note that the MYARC
Hard/Floppy controller card now WORKS in the Geneve (9640).

-------LET'S TALK RAM DISK------
by John F. Willforth

The MYARC RAM DISK is one of the most popular and vertatile units on the
market. My thanks to Scott Coleman for his input to the preparation of this
article. Scott has the 512K version, and this is the model that most of you
would probable migrate to in time.

The MEMORY EXPANSION CARD (as MYARC calls it), comes in three sizes, the
basic 32K unit, the 128K model, and the 512K RAM DISK. The card is
architecturally similar to the 128K card from FOUNDATION, in that it uses 32K
RAM space. I has up to 16 banks of 32K, with the entire 32K block being
switched at once, verses the 2K bank switching occuring in the HRD.

The MYARC unit is supported between power failures (intentional and
normal shut downs) by a 9 VDC supply which is plugged into your AC outlet.
This is why the unit is reliable until the AC power to the house drops.

Since the MYARC unit has the basic 32K expansion memory already a part of
itself, the 32K card in the PEB, or a similar 32K in the console, in a side
car type unit, standalone, or in the speech unit, will have to go.

The MYARC unit will function with MYARC'S XBII to allow basic programs up
to 128K in length. This could be a major advantage to someone who wants to
write a very large program in basic and up till now been frustrated in the
attempt. Remember also that you will have tremendous enhancements at your
finger tips with that XBII, which does require the 128K memory, and with this
advantage also comes the warning that there are still some bugs in the XBII
program, and that if you do decide to use this package, the effort should be
for yourself, since there is not an abundance of users with this same set up.

The SPOOLING feature is really a big plus for this RAM DISK. The unit
will always have at least 80K of the 512K set aside for the spooler. Scott
tells me that this leaves 400K for a RAMDISK (512K -32K -80K = 400K). It will
decrease in availability, as the size of the spooler increases.

The print spooler is used by replacing the usual device names "PIO" or
"RS232" with "SPPIO" and "SPRS232". No connection exists between the two
cards involved in the printing process, the RAM DISK and the RS232 card. The
MYARC card spools the data to be printed when instructed to do so by either
command above, and sends it to the RS232/PIO card on an interrupt driven
basis. This means that disk accesses will slow down this spooling process.
Note that if your printer is equipped with a small printer buffer internally,
you will never notice a pause. In any case the machine will function
essentially as if it were used in conjunction with a large print spooler. The
CORCOMP RS232 unit is not compatible with the MYARC RAM DISK.

The RAMDISK can supersede any other drive by executing CALL EMDK(n) where
"n" is the drive number. CALL EMDK(0) will diable disk emulation. The RAM
DISK can always be accessed through device name "RD".

Other calls include CALL RDDIR, to list the RAM DISK directory, CALL PART
(400,80) or CALL PART (0,480) as ex. to partition memory between the RAM DISK
and the print spooler, where the numbers represent thousands (K) bytes. CALL
VOL ('name') to rename the volume as well as other useful calls.

I would like to be able to tell you all the software that will run on
this card as well as any other hardware it will not cooperate with, but in
trying to keep these articles to one page and cover the essentials, I've
decided to stop here before I have the opportunity to give you too much
incorrect info.

The MYARC RAM DISK has been very well recieved by the TI community, and
you can't go wrong in getting one. The intent in these articles is to give
you an overall view of the various units, so you may be a little better
informed when you do buy.

Next month I'll try to cover the CORCOMP "MEMORY PLUS". That is if one
of the people using one can give me some feed-back on the unit.

Until next month, keep the Tlme.