



Atlanta  
99/4A  
Computer  
Users  
Group

# CALL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II NUMBER 10

DECEMBER 1984

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

## PRESIDENTS CORNER

TI has dropped the price of many of their command modules and programs, if you haven't seen the prices at K-Marts and other stores then you have missed a quite a drop.

It appears that much of what is left of the programs that TI issued are reaching the end of their availability. In last months newsletter we printed a listing of several sources of 99/4A equipment and programs. Don't be left out, send for one or more of the catalogues and obtain the programs you want now at excellent prices, and before the supply is gone.

TI has licensed the manufacture of their Extended Basic Module, it seems highly likely that several other of the better Modules will also be licensed as TI's supplies disappear. At least lets hope so.

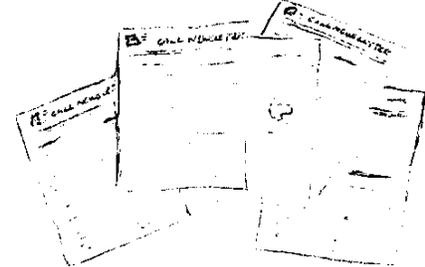
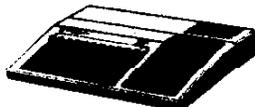
Many people are abandoning the 99/4A because there are no new programs available, and because they cannot work the programs that they have. If you know someone in this fix tell him about us. If you find yourself in this fix tell one of the officers what help you need of this club. This club was founded two and a half years ago because we could not get the help we needed, our main goal is to help owners of the 99/4A get the most out of their computer. The 99/4A is the most powerful machine out today, unless you purchase a 16-bit MS/DOS computer.

However, so many of our machines are winding up as doorstops and paper weights that those who write programs are finding no markets. Its up to us, all of us to help others get their machines out of the closet and into use. Its also up to us to be able to use this computer effectively, so that we can benefit from the investment we have made to date, in money, time and energy. That's why this club and over 200 other clubs around the world were organized and exist.

We cannot help if we don't know what you need and what help you want. You must help to help yourself, no question is too unimportant or too dumb, (you got to see some of the questions I still ask), but if it's not asked then it'll never be answered.

Next month is elections come down and vote, don't leave it up to twenty or so members to elect your officers, if you can offer only one hour a month, make the offer. Lend a hand it'll be repaid many times over.

Marshall



## NEWSLETTERS FOR ALL

This club mails the CALL NEWSLETTER to over a hundred other Users' Groups. We have received newsletters from over seventy groups around the country. Each month more than thirty newsletters come in.

About a year ago, some of those newsletters were posted on the wall for all to see. Recently this practice has been restarted with a added attraction. All newsletters posted on the wall are available for members to take home and keep at the end of the meeting. It is hoped that this practice will allow more members to get news or tips from the other groups since they will be posted for a couple of hours before people start taking them down.

Since our meeting place (The Atlanta Fulton County Public Library) has a copy machine, any members who want to share posted material are able to do so.

It is my intention to continually post these current copies of other groups newsletters at each meeting. Several reasons are behind this. There is more information available in the newsletters of all the other groups than we could ever hope to reprint in our own newsletter. That is why all the newsletters that we receive are collected into notebooks in a ordered fashion. This makes them theoretically accessible to all members. In practice it is difficult for those who attend meetings to see all the current newsletters. Those newsletters in the notebooks are not able to be removed and passed around because that is a sure fire way for them to get lost, mangled, and permanently out of order. If the collection were kept up to date and orderly but locked up somewhere, that would also not make no sense.

The best course of action seems to be keeping the notebooks available for reference and posting recently received copies for all to see. The club will be happy to copy articles that people find in the notebook. Just write down the month, page, and the club that published the article. Please provide 10 cents per side. You can make arrangements to have them mailed, to pick them up, or collect them at the next meeting.

I would like to point out that all the numerous offerings and advertisements the group receives are available in another notebook for people to thumb through. Come to the next meeting and see how alive this computer really is.

Gary Matthews

A CLUB THANK YOU

Jim Hubbard donated a cable to the club that allows us to easily hook up to the big screen projector that is kept back stage in the library auditorium. All those that have seen demonstrations where the big screen projector is used realize what a great enhancement this is to the program. THANK YOU Jim.



-----  
**CLUB SALES**  
-----

Joe Mayton in Marietta H:428-8966 W:3942500  
selling black console still in box.

AVAILABLE AT THE MEETINGS

TI-FORTH Members \$20 Non-members \$30  
Control DATA Diskettes  
Cassette Tapes C-10, C-20, & C-30  
Best of 99er Magazines as well as selected  
selected issues of HOME Computer Magazine

WANTED: Used P-Box contact Gary Matthews  
233-3096 will pay \$80

-----  
**MEETINGS**  
-----

The dates and times for meetings of the Atlanta 99/4A Computerr User's Group is the third Sunday of the month at the downtown Atlanta Public Library (off Margaret Mitchell Square) at 3 p.m. For those without a calendar handy; the meeting dates are January 28th, and February 17th.

**SOUTHSIDE** chapter meetings are held the first Sunday of the month at the Clayton County Recreation Center in Jonesboro, 101 Lake Jodeco Rd., meetings begin at 3pm. The next meeting dates are January 6th and February 3rd. For more information call Billy Glass at 961-9199.

**EASTSIDE** chapter holds regular meetings every other month. The next meeting dates are the first Monday of the month, February 4th at 7pm. The group meets at the Clarkston's Womens Club, off N. Indian Creek across the tracks from E. Ponce DeLeon beside the Clarkston Baptist Church. For more information call Ralph Danson at 292-3427.

-----  
**CALL NEWSLETTER**  
-----

CALL NEWSLETTER is the voice of the Atlanta 99/4A Computer Users Group. P.O.Box 19841, Atlanta, GA 30325.

It is published at least 10 times a year. The A9CUG is incorporated as non-profit and is not affiliated with any commercial company or organization.

CALL NEWSLETTER is published by and for the members of the A9CUG to enhance their knowledge of home computers. CALL NEWSLETTER is composed of articles written and/or donated by members of our group and from articles appearing in other Home Computer Users Groups around the world. Opinions expressed by the authors do not necessarily represent those of the Officers or members of the A9CUG.

Permission is hereby granted to any users group receiving our newsletter to reproduce any article in this newsletter, unless the article is otherwise noted, provided credit is given to the author and to CALL NEWSLETTER. The A9CUG freely exchanges Newsletters with other Users Groups around the country. If another club would like to receive our Newsletter but does not have one of their own to exchange; we will gladly send it to them. We do ask that they send \$5 a year or 50 cents a Newsletter to help cover costs.

Membership is open to families ad individuals who own or are interested in using and programming home computers. Membership includes copies of this newsletter as they are published, access to meetings of the main group and sub-groups, subject to the rules of the sub-group, and the groups Public Domain Library. Annual dues are \$15.00.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**\*\*\* CLUB OFFICERS \*\*\***

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Marshall Gordon President  
Gary Matthews Vice President  
Elise Gordon Secretary/Treasurer  
In transition Newsletter Chairman  
We need one Program Chairman  
Bob Willis Library Chairman/BBS Sysop  
We need one Education Chairman  
We need one Recruitment Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**EAST SIDE CHAPTER (ESCUG)**

Ralph Danson President  
Bill Dickinson Vice President  
Pat Hester Secretary/Treasurer  
Robert Murphy Librarian

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**SOUTH SIDE CHAPTER**

Billy Glass President  
Dennis Hawkins Vice President  
Bob Orr Secretary/Treasurer

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

AMA-LINK TERMINAL EMULATOR +

\*\*\*\*\*  
by George Sears

For you who have been frustrated by the limitations the TE2 module puts on your telecommunications, there is hope in the new terminal emulator programs that are becoming available for the TI9/4A. There are at least four of these programs currently available: TE3, TE1200, PTERM, and TE+. Recently I bought the AMA-LINK TERMINAL EMULATOR+ program which has some nice features and some aggravations.

The package includes one disk and a booklet. In addition to the TE program, there is a disassembler utility, assembly language utilities, and a small spreadsheet program with a demonstration called "cash controller". I have not yet tested the additional programs.

The program requires Extended Basic, Editor/Assembler, or Mini-Memory, 32K, disk system, RS232, and a phone modem. It will also use a printer.

When the program is run, a menu permits selection of the terminal emulator. The next screen has 8 sets of options to choose from:

- 1) RS232 Port (1-4) Default = 1
- 2) BAUD Rate (110-300-1200-4800) Default = 300
- 3) Parity (EVEN, ODD, NONE) Default = EVEN
- 4) STOP Bits (1-2) Default = 1
- 5) DATA Bits (7-8) Default = 7
- 6) ECHO (Y/N) Default = N
- 7) Screen Width (40-38-36) Default = 40
- 8) Alternate Outlet File permits output to printer, etc.

When no further changes are needed, cursor is moved to 9) CHANGE (Y/N). When N is selected, you are ready to communicate. One nice feature is the ability to return to this menu to alter settings without losing data stored or leaving the program. On-line changes are accessed using Control with the number keys:

- CTRL 1 TOGGLE between half and full duplex
- CTRL 2 TOGGLE Alternate Output
- CTRL 3 RESETS Text Buffer
- CTRL 4 TOGGLE Save Text File on/off
- CTRL 5 Sends contents of buffer to disk or printer (doesn't reset buffer)
- CTRL 6 Transfers ASCII file from disk
- CTRL 7 Recieves ASCII file to disk
- CTRL 8 Stops ASCII transfer
- CTRL 9 TOGGLE Key Click
- CTRL 0 RESETS to Option Menu

In use the program does some very nice things. I bought it primarily for the ability to collect data from buletin boards and computer services and save them to disk in 16k (about 12 typed pages) increments instead of one monitor screen at a time as with the TEII module. It does this quite well. It saves all transmitted information in a 16K buffer. The WRAP mode is not needed for program downloading. When the buffer has room left for 300 characters, it beeps three times. When it is full, it honks once. To save the data in the buffer, enter CTRL 5. A prompt appears for you to enter the device name. You have a choice of saving to either disk or printer. After saving your data it is still retained in the buffer. To reset buffer you must enter CTRL 3. Another advantage is the ability to save the data in the buffer after hanging up the phone.

The ability to toggle between full and half duplex as well as to return to the option menu to change transmission parameters while still on line is a decided advantage when you are calling a system for the first time. The program does seem to be a little flakey in its treatment of parity bits, however. Some TI buletin boards require even parity and some require odd and sometimes the same board's requirements change from one call to the next. The TEII module uses the default setting for all of these. I have included a list of the local (Atlanta) boards with the transmission parameters for those I have reached with TE+.

In exchange for these advantages there are some features of TEII that are not available with TE+. It does not support speech, music, or graphics. I feel this is a good trade. The manual that comes with the program lists the ASCII file handling features (CTRL 6 7), but they are not on my disk. I called AMA to discuss the problem. They said that CTRL 6 was also part of the ASCII enhancements which were missing. They said they would send a new disk and their revised manual. It has not yet arrived so I will write an update when it gets here.

```
*****
SYSTEM ID (SYSOP) (TIMES) | PHONE # | P | S | D |
*****
AAA-BBS..(Mel Etheridge)....| 471-0471 | N | 2 | 8 |
Ace Connection.. APPLE .....| #352-3231 | N | 2 | 8 |
A9CUG-BBS.. TI Users Group ...| 998-7444 | O | 1 | 7 |
Alpha-Omega.....(4pm-2am)...| 435-2454 | | | | |
Anthrax's AE.. APPLE .....| 366-4265 | | | | |
Atlanta Conn..(Bill Noel)....| 929-8808 | | | | |
Byte Bashers.. APPLE .....| 843-2537 | | | | |
Cable Conn..(Don Simpson)....| 427-8659 | N | 2 | 8 |
CBBS (Atl Computer Society)...| #436-6130 | E | 1 | 7 |
Clarkston BBS.....| 296-2463 | | | | |
CoCo BBS (Lee Blitch) [6p-6a]| 376-4410 | N | 2 | 8 |
Color Board (Cato) [10p-7a]...| 971-8193 | | | | |
Crystal Palace..(Jon Carr)...| 299-5511 | | | | |
Cumberland Match-80 (Eric G.)...| #432-9471 | | | | |
The Dragon..(Ed Cramer).....| 294-4510 | N | 2 | 8 |
The French Connection.. C-64 | 953-6493 | | | | |
Great Southeastern -C- Board..| #928-1876 | N | 2 | 8 |
Greene Machine..(Eric G.)....| #972-7947 | | | | |
Heathkit BBS (Al K.&Scott)...| #252-4345 | | | | |
HIGH TECH BBS..(Doug Vinson)..| #979-4437 | N | 2 | 8 |
ITBBS..(Leroy Williams).....| #471-8824 | | | | |
JOBBS.....[6pm-8am ONLY]...| #992-8937 | | | | |
Kinky Konnection.....| 587-2795 | | | | |
mAdHoUsE..(Lanny Finch).....| #964-3043 | N | 2 | 8 |
Marauder Systems (Tom Sawyer)| 998-3182 | | | | |
Micronet.....=FIDO=...| #979-5185 | | | | |
Microstuf BBS..(Les Freed)...| #998-8048 | E | 1 | 7 |
Micro 99 (Bob Orr) TI99/4A ...| 768-0990 | E | 1 | 7 |
Marietta ATARI BBS.....| 425-3084 | | | | |
Master AE... APPLE .....| 498-4876 | | | | |
MKBBS..(Michael Kraft).....| 633-9915 | | | | |
MLBBS..(Rod Roark).....| #451-7180 | | | | |
::::::::::| #457-4784 | | | | |
NOCHANGE..(Jim Kloss).....| 587-4198 | | | | |
Noncross C-100 BBS (J. Gosh) ..| 921 1114 | N | 2 | 0 |
ONLINE.....| 475-0307 | | | | |
Ozzyland..IM-F 6pm-11:30pm)...| #296-3712 | | | | |
PBBS..(Bob Weaver).....| #943-3241 | | | | |
PC-Exchange...[11pm-7pm]....| 977-6686 | | | | |
PC-Forum..(Lee Nelson).....| #741-3435 | | | | |
PCUG-BBS..(Randy Bullard)...| #634-5731 | | | | |
PI Pipers AE.. APPLE .....| 498-4694 | | | | |
RAM-PAGE..(Gary Pearcey).....| 923-9222 | N | 2 | 8 |
RCBBS (C. Shephard) [8p-10a]..| 843-8300 | | | | |
RCPM..(Jim Altman).....| #627-7127 | | | | |
The RockLine..(Jeff Krull)...| 979-0236 | N | 2 | 8 |
The Sex Connection.....| 498-4721 | | | | |
Six Flags BBS..(Greg Maddux)..| 941-0159 | | | | |
Spectron BBS..(Glen Collier)..| #998-2686 | | | | |
Stone Mtn CBM-BBS.. C-64 ....| 469-1303 | | | | |
SuperSystem BBS.. TI-99/4A ...| 471-1283 | O | 1 | 7 |
Third World..(Paul Roberts)...| 758-8498 | N | 2 | 8 |
TIBBS#1 (Ralph Fowler).....| #425-5254 | O | 1 | 7 |
TIBBS#2 (Boyd Cone).....| 928-4278 | O | 1 | 7 |
XTBBS..(Christopher Street)...| #396-2078 | | | | |
warp space BBS (Roger Parr)...| 296-3160 | N | 2 | 8 |
*****
# = 300/1200 Baud Supported
*****
NOTE: P=PARITY S=STOP BITS D=DATA BITS
*****
```

**HELP!**

What started out as a commitment to Gary Matthews to write a short article on modems has almost become a nightmare. Every (and I do mean every) piece of equipment I have started malfunctioning. I still have doubts about some of it working now. But maybe I can give others a few ideas on how to deal with these situations.

First of all, **READ** the instructions that come with your equipment. I find that using a Hiliter pen helps me to read the key phrases and commands. After you've read the instructions and it still won't work, don't give up. There are people who can help you. An alternate method is to take your equipment and try it on someone else's system. By replacing the items one by one, you will eventually find the faulty item, or see that it's what you're doing that's wrong and not the equipment. I was able to save a lot of time and learn a lot this way.

This has also been a blessing in disguise. I have learned more about the system and how it works. And I have met a lot of people who are more than willing to share their knowledge with you.

KEEP COMPUTING  
Ed Banovatz

**CompuServe**

The CompuServe Information Service (CIS) is the largest video text service open to the consumer. It has achieved this by providing the consumer with a vast array of services at reasonable cost (\$4 per hour - nonprime time). A review of the subject index for CIS reveals about 500 categories of potential interest to the home computer owner and the list expands by five sections every three weeks.

The consumer can read the latest AP world news bulletin, NOAA weather wire, wholesale prices for diamonds, etc. Of particular interest to TI 99/4A owners is the special interest groups (SIGS) devoted to computers. The one which supports the 4A in great detail is the Texas Instruments Forum. Newer additions to CIS are the Official Airline Guide (OAG) and the Electronic Mall. The former permits the review of schedules and fares for over 640 airlines world wide while the latter allows one to shop electronically. A sign on kit can be purchased at a good bookstore for \$29. Hardware required in addition to the computer is an RS232 interface and a modem. These latter two items can be purchased for under \$200. Software needed is a terminal emulator package which includes either TEII, PTERM, or TEI200. After a ten minute phone call to CompuServe you're up and running.

TI 99/4A owners having been deserted by TI are basically orphans and one way to survive is through the SIG devoted to TI computers, the Texas Instruments Forum. After logging on, this SIG can be reached by typing G PCS 27. This gives the computer user access to a message board which covers 8 sections (section 8 is devoted to the TIPRO). Specific sections comprising The Forum are as follows:

General	TI NEWS
TI 99/4A	Software/Languages
Special Events	User's Groups
Wanted/For Sale	TI Forum Lounge

From the above it can be seen that the coverage for the 4A is quite complete and is an important means for information exchange. Probably the most distinguishing feature of The Forum is the four sysops who readily provide answers to questions posed by the users. Communication between users is so rapid on CompuServe it appears to be an

interactive system. A special area open to SIG users is the V area. This area permits software and hardware developers to describe their products along with pricing and other related information. Individuals can list their names and addresses coupled with their specific computer interests which allow for software trades for example. Sign up today you will not be disappointed!

Bob Costello Pres. New Jersey Users Group

**BOOK LENDING LIBRARY**

The club will soon start a Lending Library where books that the club has purchased will be able to be checked out by members at the monthly meetings. The books will be due at the following month's meeting.

This idea has been tried before. The result was that the club's supply of over a dozen books costing an average of \$8.00 each soon dwindled to three books. Most of the books were never returned. The end result was that the club lost not quite a hundred dollars in books in less than three months and the members in general lost the ability to check out books from which they could learn.

The idea of a lending library is a good one. Members can at no charge have access to numerous books where they can read the entire book or use the time as a great way to decide if the book is one they might want to go out and buy on their own.

This time the Lending Library will be maintained in such a way as to allow the membership to have a continual supply of reference material yet keep the club from losing money each month over any books that may not be returned.

The Book Lending Library will be operated in the following way:

All books in stock are available to be borrowed. You must be a current member to be eligible. Up to two books may be checked out a month.

When a book is borrowed, the borrower writes a check for the cost of the book or books plus 5% sales tax. This check is kept in trust and returned to the member at the next meeting upon return of the books. If the books are not returned by the next meeting, new books are bought to replace them with the check.

This procedure will give members a continually available supply of books to choose from at no charge. This procedure will also insure that the club has books to lend without constantly losing money if books are not returned.

Happy Borrowing  
Gary Matthews

The HOME Computer Magazine was the only national publication for the TI 99/4A computer. Their major faults have been: Inconsistent publishing schedule (3 issues over a 10 month period) and biased reviews. Despite the shortcomings, most all users of this computer hope the magazine will survive. In the interest of fair play, a release from the magazine to several of the users' groups is included below.

# HOME COMPUTER<sup>TM</sup> magazine

September 11, 1984

Dear User Group Members:

Here at Home Computer Magazine we have noticed some unfair "speculative muckraking" in a few TI user group newsletters regarding the changes we announced in a recent press release. For those who have chosen not to accept our reasons for changing our magazine format, the message from the publisher (reprint enclosed) in September's Home Computer Magazine and Home Computer Digest (copies enclosed) further clarify our magazine's coming improvements. Please take a moment to read them.

We understand the anxiety many of you must have felt when you incorrectly heard that our support for your machine was being revoked. Rumors about some kind of "grand plan" to phase out first TI-99/4A advertising and then TI-related articles are simply not true. In fact, concern for supporting our TI subscribers and advertisers played a major part in the changes we effected. For example:

—Our TI readership is booming and on the increase; it would be an absurd business decision to reduce coverage of the TI-99/4A.

—The strong support of our TI subscriber base and TI-related newsstand sales will allow the magazine to survive without advertising and all of the negative side effects it breeds. This will increase the quality of the magazine for all of our readers.

—Nine times a year, Home Computer Digest will provide an efficient, inexpensive medium for advertisers of TI products to reach you, their targeted market. Because of the Digest's smaller format and more-limited distribution, the cost per ad page is far below the price that an ad page used to be in our magazine—thus effectively lowering the entry barrier (as low as \$100) to new advertisers.

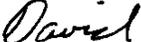
—We now require all advertisers to pay cash up-front before publication of their ad. This helps us to feel more comfortable with the financial viability of a company. In the past, we have found a high correlation between advertisers who did not pay their bills and advertisers who did not deliver what was promised to consumers.

The staff here at Home Computer Magazine is proud of the fact that we are currently the only international publication with any real substance supporting the TI-99/4A. We make sure that there are at least as many pieces of quality TI software and reviews published in each issue of the current magazine as there were when we covered only the TI market.

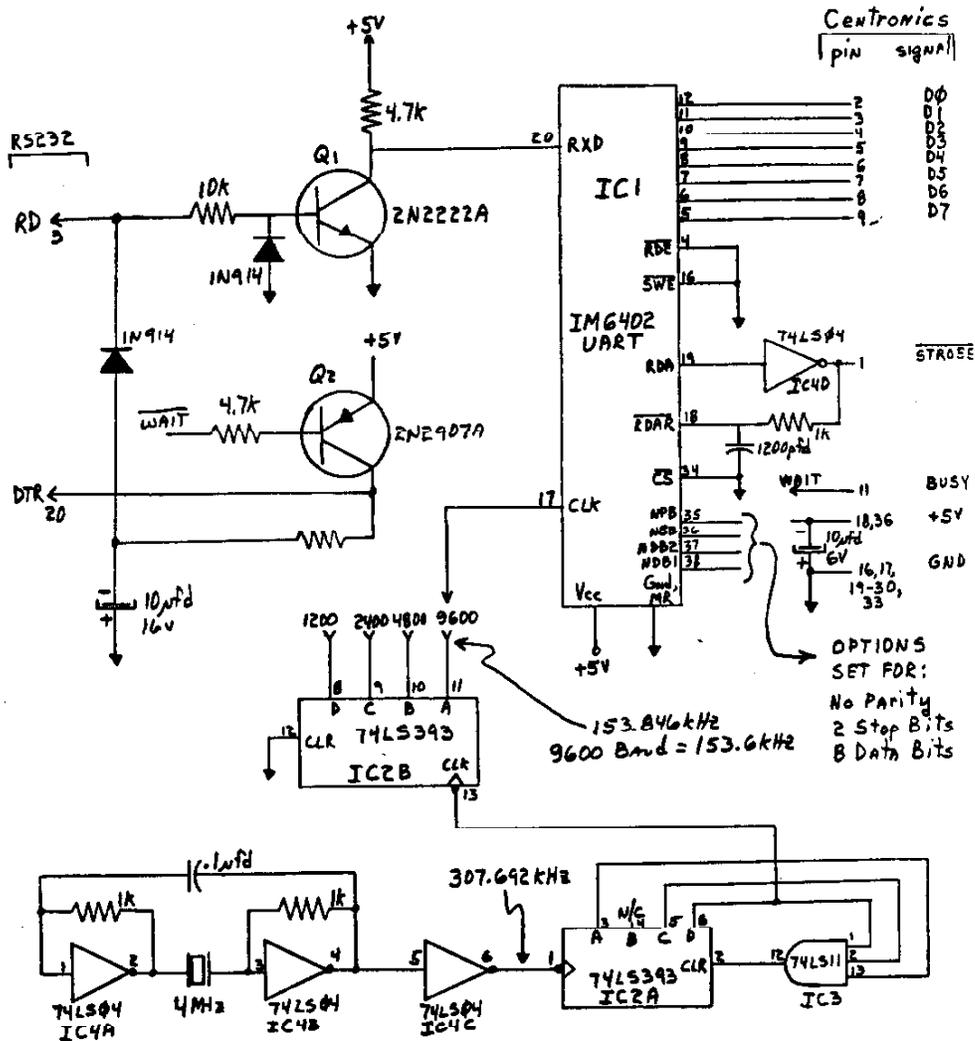
In addition to hurting the feelings of our dedicated magazine staff, the recent flurry of negative newsletter press and rumor-mongering spreads bad feelings among other user groups. To keep your user group base strong and vital, it is important that you stress positive issues and ideas. Otherwise, users will become discouraged and switch to other machines, or give up on home computing altogether—a situation which would inevitably lead to the demise of many user groups. And nobody wants to see that happen.

The world's best coverage of the TI-99/4A is continuing—stronger than ever. Rumors to the contrary are simply the result of the overworked imaginations of a few newsletter writers. May we suggest that in the future they take the time to check with us first and get their facts straight.

Sincerely,

  
David G. Brader  
Executive Editor

Here is a nifty project for the experimenter. Do you have a lot of software that is configured for RS232 yet you have a parallel printer? Well, this little gizmo will output on the serial port making the computer think it is talking to the RS232 and then on this external circuit all the data is converted to parallel for the parallel printer requirements. This circuit produces a CENTRONICS compatible interface. Good Luck.



This literature came from the National Assistance Group. It is reproduced here (in somewhat smaller type) for the consideration of our members.



**99/4A NATIONAL ASSISTANCE GROUP**  
P.O. BOX 290812 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33329  
(305) 583-0467

### TI-99/4A: A superior computer

Here's a riddle: How can you make a computer that is better than an Apple, sell it for less than a Commodore VIC-20, and not lose money? Give up? So did Texas Instruments!

About 6 p.m. on Friday, October 21, 1983, TI announced that it would be leaving the home computer business and cease to produce the TI-99/4A computer and peripherals as of November, 1983. The personal home computer department (which has been operating at a loss) will be discontinued, although other departments of this multi-billion-dollar corporation — such as the department that produces the well-received and highly-acclaimed TI Professional business computer — will be continued.

As required by federal law, TI must and will honor its warranties (such as the one-year warranty on the TI-99/4A computer console) and must and will provide parts and service for at least five years after its announcement of its intention to leave the home computer business.

#### Why It's better

Is the TI-99/4A really better than the Apple (and the Radio Shack Model

III and the Radio Shack Color Computer and the Commodore 64 and the Atari 800 and the Atari 400 and the Sinclair/Timex? Here are some of the facts, that are no less true today than yesterday: (1) Among the available popular microcomputers, only TI was making use of the more sophisticated 16-bit microprocessor rather than the 8-bit microprocessor used by the competition. Want another machine with a 16-bit microprocessor rather than pay less than \$100 for the TI-99/4A? You could always purchase an IBM-PC for only about \$2500. (The IBM "Peanut" — when it finally arrives — will also use a 16-bit microprocessor, but will also cost significantly more than the TI-99/4A).

(2) Among the available popular microcomputers, only TI has the built-in ability for truly superior graphics with 28 moving sprites. To be sure, there was an article in BYTE Magazine telling how \$1500 Apples could be modified to have similar capabilities to the TI-99/4A at a cost of about \$200. How? By adding TI's TMS9918A chip, the chip already possessed by those who own a TI-99/4A (at a cost of less than \$200)! Cost-comparison, anyone?

(3) Among the available popular microcomputers, only TI had a mainframe-style assembly language with, for example, the capability of handling the writing of relocatable code (rather than being confined to absolute addresses). According to CREATIVE COMPUTING Magazine, the editor/assembler for the TI was outstanding. Not only did it show the writing of relocatable code, but also its editor (rather complete) was like a word processor for assembly language, and its built-in utilities gave the power of machine code with the ease of programming in extended BASIC. Where else could you find such features? Not with Timex/Sinclair, Commodore, Atari, Radio Shack, or Apple.

Texas Instruments was always been in the forefront of technological innovation, as the inventors of the integrated circuit microprocessor and the microcomputer (or so they claim). It has been a pioneer in the areas of speech synthesis (remember "Speak-and-Spell" from the movie E.T.?) and speech recognition (one reason for the popularity of the TI-Pro computer, a feature lacking in the IBM-PC)

## 99/4A National Assistance Group

"World's Largest Computer Assistance Group"



P. O. Box 290812  
 Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33329  
(305) 583-0467

NOW SERVING: OVER 11,000 MEMBERS IN 50 STATES AND 19 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

DEAR 99/4A OWNER:

WHEN T.I. DECIDED TO PULL OUT OF THE HOME COMPUTER MARKET SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, MANY OF THE 99/4A COMPUTER OWNERS WERE UNABLE TO FIND THE SOFTWARE AND THE HARDWARE TO EXPAND THEIR SYSTEMS. THE 99/4A NATIONAL ASSISTANCE GROUP WANTS TO ASSURE YOU THAT AS A MEMBER OF OUR GROUP YOU WILL BE AWARE OF THIRD PARTY MANUFACTURERS WHO ARE CONTINUING TO EXPAND THEIR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUR HOME COMPUTER.

OUR GROUP FEELS THAT THE 99/4A IS ONE OF THE BEST HOME COMPUTERS EVER MANUFACTURED. THE OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE LOOKS VERY GOOD INDEED!

WE NOW STOCK ALL T.I. AND THIRD PARTY PRODUCTS FOR YOUR 99/4A. EVERY MONTH YOU WILL RECEIVE AN UPDATE OF NEW HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE AND NEW WAYS TO USE YOUR COMPUTER. BECAUSE OF OUR GROWING MEMBERSHIP WE BUY DIRECT FROM MANUFACTURERS AND PASS ON THE SAVINGS TO YOU.

\*AS A MEMBER OF THE 99/4A NATIONAL ASSISTANCE GROUP, THE FOLLOWING GROUP SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS:

\*TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - A STAFF OF TECHNICIANS TO HELP YOU WITH ANY QUESTIONS WITH YOUR COMPUTER, ACCESSORIES, PROGRAMS, ETC.

\*CONTINUED UPDATES OF NEW PRODUCTS, NEW IDEAS.

\*DISCOUNTS ON ALL ACCESSORIES, HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, PRINTERS, MODEMS, DISK DRIVES, ALL CABLES, INTERFACES, MANUALS. WE STOCK OVER 500 ACCESSORIES FOR MEMBERS!

\*SOFTWARE PROGRAMS IN CATEGORIES SUCH AS GAMES, GRAPHICS, DEMOS, MUSIC, EDUCATIONAL, ENGINEERING, BUSINESS, HOME IDEAS, ETC.

\*IF YOU ARE A MEMBER YOU WILL BE RECEIVING OUR LIST OF SOFTWARE. YOU CAN PURCHASE ANY OF THE PROGRAMS ON OUR LIST, ON CASSETTE OR DISK. THE PRICE OF EACH PROGRAM IS \$2.00 EACH ON CASSETTE OR \$3.00 ON DISK.

\*IF YOU RECOMMEND ANOTHER FRIEND TO OUR GROUP, YOU WILL RECEIVE 5 GROUP DOLLARS. IF YOU SUBMIT A PROGRAM (BASIC OR EXTENDED BASIC ONLY) AND IT IS APPROVED, YOU WILL RECEIVE 15 GROUP DOLLARS. GROUP DOLLARS CAN BE SPENT ON ANY HARDWARE OR SOFTWARE WE OFFER!

\*IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY PAID ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES, THEY ARE ONLY \$10.00. DUES GO TO HELP SUPPORT LIBRARY, OFFICE EXPENSES, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. PLEASE SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO THE 99/4A NATIONAL ASSISTANCE GROUP. YOUR MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE WILL BE MAILED WITHIN 24 HRS.

(ENVELOPE AND APPLICATION ENCLOSED)

SINCERELY

*Dr. W. J. Hart*  
DR. W. J. HART  
99/4A NATIONAL ASSISTANCE GROUP

NOTE: DR. HART HAS BEEN DOING RESEARCH IN COMPUTERS SINCE 1964. DR. HART'S RESEARCH IS THE BASIS FOR MANY OF THE COMPUTER T.V. SHOWS YOU WATCH TODAY.

## TERMINAL EMULATORS

Beyond the TE2 Cartridge there are at least 4 Terminal Emulator programs available. Here is a quick reference:

1. AMA LINK (EMULATOR +UTILITIES)  
\$34.95 (417)-869-1917  
AMA SOFTWARE P.O.BOX 3824 GS  
SPRINGFIELD, MO. 65808
2. TE-1200 SOFTMAIL \$44.95
3. TES (Public Domain)  
Available through Users Groups
4. PTERM \$14 (or \$18 if you send  
initialized diskette)  
417 E. ALPINE ST.  
ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FL 32701



#### FEEDBACK ON THE CLUB PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY

The A9CUG received a letter recently from Sister Mary Anne of the Sacred Heart School in Wisconsin. It was a letter of appreciation concerning the programs that this club makes available through the club library.

Our club librarian, Bob Willis organizes and updates the programs that are available. Bob with the assistance of his son Troy, record the programs to tape or diskette and mail them off to those who have requested them. They will also frequently include unrequested programs as a bonus.

One of the programs sent to Sister Mary Anne was one that took up most available memory and she had difficulty loading it. Bob wrote to her explaining how to load the program so it would run and included other tips as well. In her letter to the club, Sister Mary Anne wrote, "We at Sacred Heart School are trying to give the children what we can in training them to learn from the computer and your input you gave us will help. Gratefully Yours, Sister Mary Anne".

It seemed like a good idea to let our membership know what their club and club librarian Bob Willis is doing.

#### \*\*\*\*\* NEW PERIODICAL NEW PERIODICAL

From several sources I have heard of a new publication for the 99/4a, it is called SUPER 99 MONTHLY. It is said to have tips for new and advanced programmers, articles on Forth, programming, games, and many other subjects. Subscription is \$12.00 per year.  
BYTEMASTER COMPUTER SERVICES  
171 Mustang St.  
Sulpher, LA 70663

#### SOURCE NOTES

Don Bynum, who was President of Texas Instrument's Home Computer division, has spearheaded the revival of TEXNET on the SOURCE. Once again TEXNET is up and running. There are similarities to its previous incarnation! allowing the listing of TI users online, reading TI NEWS, and the downloading of public domain programs supplied by the IUG which in the past received about \$400 a month from the SOURCE to maintain those programs.

In the brief time I spent browsing through the menu selections, TEXNET looks a bit better than before. The TI related news online promises to be a better selection than previously. You can include your interests as a TI user in a questionnaire kept on file for others to search through as you are able to look for interests that match your own.

There is a listing of an ongoing Newsletter for the TI 99/4A. I believe it is called SUBFILES 99. Sounds very worthwhile though I haven't had time to explore it yet. The menu listing I saw included these subjects: BASTRAN, FTRAN/ID, THIS\_ISSUE, EDITORIAL, MAILBAG, AGUAFORTH, RUMOR\_MILL, SCREENCOLOR, CALL\_LOADS, FCLONE/ID, ONE\_LINERS, STARTEXT, SUBFILE, SFTIMER, FORTH, and a few others. The Newsletter can be addressed from Command Level by typing 'PUBLIC 181 DIRECT'. Besides the public domain downloads, purchasable programs can be downloaded and are charged to the same credit card account as your SOURCE billing. These downloads are provided by SOFTMAIL which is a business run by Charles LaFara.

Also on the SOURCE though not associated with TEXNET is a TI related information exchange. This is similar to the public section of most BBS's. This section is addressed at Command Level by typing 'POST R TI'.

I would like to present a monthly update of TI information found on the SOURCE. I welcome the input of any others who use the SOURCE regularly since my own usage is infrequent.

Gary Matthews

The following is a list of those nominated as Officers and those who have volunteered to serve in the following positions:

President	Gary Matthews
Vice President	Jim Hubbard
Sec/Treasurer	Billy Glass
Newsletter Chairman	Marshal Gordon
Librarian/BBS Sysop	Bob Willis
Publicity	Bill Kleinsorge
Programs	Pat Cameron
	Jim Hubbard

Ralph Danson had to decline the nomination for Vice President do to an increased work load. Ballots are included below to be either mailed in or dropped into the ballot box at the January meeting.  
If you think you could help out on a committee please volunteer.

---



---

# Ballot

## President

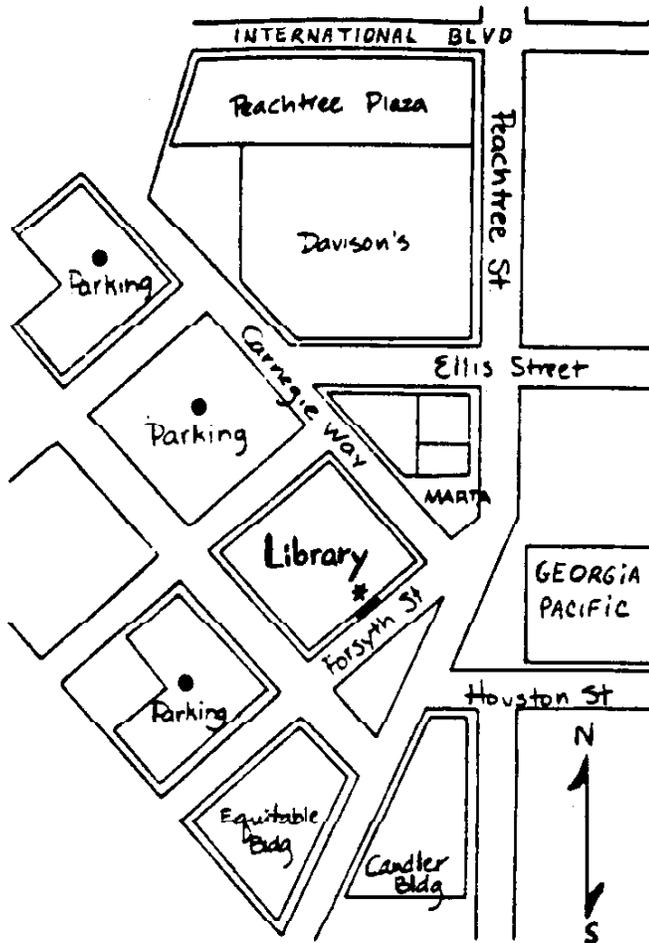
Gary Matthews -----   
 write IN -----

## Vice President

Jim Hubbard -----   
 write IN -----

## Secretary/Treasurer

Billy Glass -----   
 write IN -----



Atlanta  
99/4A  
Computer  
Users  
Group

NEXT MEETING:  
SUNDAY, JAN. 20 & FEB. 17  
ATLANTA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
3:00 P.M.

FOR MORE DETAILS, CALL 953-2013  
(A DONATION WILL BE REQUESTED -  
MEMBERS - 50¢, NONMEMBERS - \$1.00)

ATLANTA 99/4A COMPUTER USERS GROUP  
POST OFFICE BOX 19841  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30325

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ATLANTA, GA.  
PERMIT No. 492

Please check expiration date

AlabaGro  
Central Alabama 99/4 User's Group  
551 Larkwood Drive  
Montgomery, AL 36109