EDMONTON
99'er
COMPUTER
USERS'
SOCIETY

p.o. box 11983 Edmonton, Alberta Canada TSJ 3L1

99'er on line... is the newsletter of the Edmonton 99'er Computer User's Society published ten times a year. Unless otherwise stated, all articles may be republished in other Newsletters provided that source and author are identified. We will in turn credit authors quoted in 99'er ON LINE.

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OFFICERS: President Yves Chevalier; Vice President Ken Godbeer; Treasurer Dennis Miller; Secretary Roxanne Appelt.

OFFICERS AT LARGE: Paul Helwig Newsletter Library; Gordon Bradlee Book Library; Win Appelt Disk Library; Ron Hohmann Module & Cassette Library; Tom Hall Sysop, Club Bulletin Board 424-3258, 300/1200Baud.

DISCLAIMER: Information published in this Newsletter is created by and for amateurs, therefore, we cannot quarantee the accuracy or use of presented information.

REGULAR MEETINGS: of the Edmonton 99'er Computer User's Society are held on the second Tuesday of each month in room 849 of the General Service Building of the University of Alberta from: 7:00 till 10:00PM, and are open to all members in good standing. Non-members may attend their first meeting free of charge.

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MEMBERSHIP FEES: Family; 12 months \$20.00, 6 months \$15.00. Students; 12 months \$15.00, 6 months \$10.00. New member initiation; \$20.00.

# First Annual Edmonton 99'er Computer User's Society Barbeque

When: Saturday June 11,1988 at 6:00 P.M.

Where: Gordon Bradlee's Acreage

Just off Range Road 221 1/2 mile North of Wye Road (Sherwood Park Freeway) Follow Sherwood Park Freeway through Sherwood Park and approximately 8 miles east. 5 miles past highway 21 you will see the Garden Store (Mohawk) at the corner of Range Road 221. Turn left and go north about 1/2 mile then take a left. Gordon's home is the 3rd on your right. If this all sounds confusing see the map below.

Contact: Ken Godbeer 462-8060 Yves Chevalier 456-6887 Jim Mulligan 467-6021

for tickets before June 5 or get them at the May 10 General Meeting.

Note: Bring your own liquor, mix, lawn chair and favourite music.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on May 10th. at 7.00 PM. General Service Building. U of A Campus room 849.

#### JUST A WORD by Yves Chevalier

As you may read elsewere in this newsletter the election process that should have start last meeting has been postponed to the Fall. The nominations in September and the elections in October.

Also during the last general meeting, active discussion were held as to the future of the BBS. Tom has expended the vertues of the new options of the OPUS BBS system he is now running for the club and has indicated the need for new funds to cover expenses that will be incured implementing these new options. Further discussions were to continue at the Executive meeting to follow. At the Ex meeting, it was agreed to support the BBS with expended options and to fund the extra bill for a trial period of six month. As I stated before, eventhough I supported the trial period, I would like our club BBS system to sport the TI logo and will continue to strive for it when/until the finincial means permit it.

All preparations for the Edmonton/Red Deer/Calgary meet—are going—well—and I am working hard to complete the 1200Baud MODEM card in time for the meet. Win—is—waiting—your—calls—to arrange carpooling either as driver or passenger.

Be—sure—to—buy—your—June—BBQ—tickets—and support—your—club—activities. You can contact Jim. Ken or myself—for tickets.

Just to correct an oversight, the drawing that appeared as the last page of the Feb 99'er was supposed to be accompanied by some instructions. The drawing (made by John using TI-Artist) should be reproduced (photocopy) and strategically posted on shopping centre or work centre notice boards as advertising for the club to attract new members. With our diversity of locations, this should cover the whole city. See you at the next meeting and if you have any questions do not hesitate to call me....Yves.

#### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Shane and Sandy Aucoin to our ranks. They reside in Griesbach. They have just acquired their system. It is not as yet fully expanded but it will be shortly. They are looking for a DSSD/DSDD drive. Shane and Sandy are both have great technical/technologist abilities which we can put to good use. Again welcome to the club....yyes.

#### GENERAL MEETING REPORT

by: Win Appelt

Tom Hall informed the membership of a TI ECHO available on his Opus Board. This Echo could bring in and send messages to all other Opus systems all over the U.S., Great Britain, and soon Austalia. These messages would all be strictly of TI in nature. If the group was interested, it would cost approximately \$5.00 to 8.00 per month.

Our president informed us that the hardware SIG had met again, and at present they are installing the Extended Basic module in consoles.

Discussed was the groups first (and hopefully annual) Bar-B-Q. This will take place at Gord Bradlee's acreage on the 11th of June. Ken Godbeer gave us a detailed discription of the costs involved. Cost will be \$10.00/person. This includes Steak , Baked Potato, Salad, condiments, plates, cutlery, glasses, ice etc. Members are requested to bring their own refreshments. Tickets can be obtained by contacting Ken Godbeer 462-8060, Yves Chevalier 456-6887, Jim Mulligan 467-6021 before June 5th or get them at the May 10th General Meeting.

Yves demo'ed a screen dump program using his version of a load-interrupt switch.

Bill Ince moved that the group move the Elections to October. The motion was seconded by Lois Meunier and was accepted as such.

#### EXECUTIVE MEETING REPORT

by: Win Appelt

Tom Hall requested an answer from the exectuve regarding the  ${\sf TI-Echo}$ .

After much discussion, Ken Godbeer motioned to approve Tom's TI-Echo proposal for a 6 month trial period subject to approval at the October General meeting, also subject to immediate withdrawal if cost per month excedes \$10.00. Access to this information will be limited to only current Club Members with the proper password. Motion was carried.

The upcoming 'Orphan Reunion' was discussed. Most of the details have all been worked out. If anyone has any questions regarding this reunion, please contact Win Appelt at 939-3826.

#### == 99'er ONLINE ====== MAY,1988 ==

#### EDMONTON 99'er USERS' SOCIETY

### LIST OF CASSETTE TAPES & MODULES AVAILABLE FOR MEMBER USE

- #1 side 1 24 Basic programs (Some utility and game programs.)
- #1 side 2 24 Enhanced basic programs (Same programs as side one, but with some enhancements.)
- #2 side A 51 Fun & educational programs (Side A: some simple programs that illustrate how programming works.)
- #2 side B 51 Enhanced fun & educational programs (Same programs as side A. but with some enhancements.)
- #3 side A Interplanetary Rescue & Dodge'em (Two extended basic games.)
- #3 side  $\mathbb{B}$  Dogfight & Sprite Chase (51de  $\mathbb{B}$ : Two extended basic games.)
- #4 side 1- Switch-a-row(basic puzzle game). Extraterestrial typing(basic typing game (improves your typing skills). Type invaders(another basic typing game)
- #4 side 2 Counting fun(basic counting game for beginning counting), Make your mark(basic- simple drawing program), Tower of Hanoi(basic- move the blocks game), Adding game(basic- more learning to add)
- #5 side 1 Super-T-10(basic- 4 level tic-tac-toe game), Graphics match(basic- slot machine game)
- #5 side 2 Wordsquare(basic/ex-basic- similar to wordsearch puzzle game), Colormatch(basic- examples of graphics displays)
- #6 side 1 Teach yourself basic(basic- 10 lessons in how to use basic)

#### MODULES AVAILABLE

- #1 Household Budget Management
- #2 Parsec
- #3 Munchman
- #4 TI-Invaders
- #5 Centipede
- #6 Adventure (C/W Firate's Adventure on disk)

#### How to Quiet Down your Peripheral Expansion Box

by: Ken Godbeer

Are you tired of listening to that great roar of your P-Box fan as you type a letter or play Munchman on your TI-99/4A? Are you a bit handy with tools? If the answer to these two questions is yes, here's a project for you.

After reading several articles recently in MICROpendium about changing out the fan is the P-Box for a quieter one, I decided one Friday evening to go for it! The first thing you need is a new fan. I picked one up at Radio Shack (catalogue number 273-242) for \$19.95. Before you go down to pick one up, check if they have it in stock. I tried four stores before I finally found one at the Bonnie Doon Store. You can probably get one elsewhere, as long as it is a three inch fan (the mounting holes are 2.81 inches apart). Before you start, you will need a small Philips screw driver, a pair of long nosed pliers and a wrench, socket or whatever capable of gripping a 7/32" nut. You might also need a soldering iron and some electrical tape or heat shrink.

Unplug the P-Box and wait the recommended two to three minutes, then disconnect all of the cables and move the F-Box to a convenient work surface. After removing all of the cards in the P-Box you will have to remove your disk drive(s). Take out every screw you can see on the back, bottom and sides except the two holding the clips that lock the top onto the box (I think there are about 15 of them). Don't worry about getting them mixed up, they are all the same. Once you have all of the screws out slide the cover of the box forward and remove it. Then loosen the two screws holding the circuit board on the left side of the power supply and slide it back out of the way so you can get at the lower left nut holding the fan in place. Remove the old fan by removing the four nuts and washers on the stude fastened to the back wall of the P-Box. Disconnect the quick connect terminals and remove the fan. I was able to salvage the two connectors on the wires connected to the old fan and put them on the new fan's connecting wires, but if you can't just make sure the wires are covered after being connected. Now fasten the new fan in place and tighten the nuts. Make sure the fan is positioned so that the air flow is out of the P-Box. Radio Shack model I used this means placing it so the Decal is against the back wall of the P-Box. I put a thin gasket between the fan and the metal, but I really don't think it was necessary. Also the threaded studs are not that long so you might have difficulty getting the nuts on if you do this.

Now you are ready to reassemble everything. Before you put the cover on, make sure the fan wires are secured out of the way so they don't stray into the fan blades accidentally. Put all the screws back in and reinstall the disk drive(s) and cards. The whole job took me about an hour and the only difficulty I had was trying to reuse the old quick connect terminals on the fan wires. I probably should have bought some new ones but I didn't know what size to get. Oh yes, if anybody needs an extra screw for your Expansion Box I have one spare; I can't for the life of me figure out where it came from: If you are concerned about the cooling capacity of the new vs old fan one article suggested measuring the room air and discharge air temperatures before and after changing fans. also the Radio Shack Fan states that it uses 12 watts of power while the one I removed from my P-Box uses 14 watts so I don't think power consumption is a problem.

The final result is a Peripheral Expansion Box that makes about half of the noise of the original. Have fun!

#### HORIZON RAM DISK KIT

A new group is being formed for the purpose of acquiring Horizon Ram Disks in kit form. They will pool their resourses to take advantage of bulk ordering of parts at a substanstialy reduced cost. Anyone interested in getting a Ram Disk or a second one contact Shane Aucoin at 457 6891.....Yves

#### LOAD INTERUPT SWITCH byYyes Chevalier

For those of you who have put together the load interupt switch described in the January 99'er online, here are some more instructions on its operation and useage. As you may know, this switch was an adaptation from Mack McCormack from Micropendium. (I do not know of any snag in the use of his version of it but this one locks up the console from power-up only. Since my console has a reset switch, one press of it restores everything to normal from that point on). The screendump program that I used can be found in the club library. Instructions for loading are found on the disk file DUMPDOC.

The dump routine can be loaded in Basic with E/A module or XB. Once the routine is loaded, type BYE to return to return to the main screen. From that point most screen can be dumped to paper with one press of the LI switch after witch the program continues as if nothing had happened. Depending on the routine loaded (SET or CART) you can dump the screen of a program or the screen of a cartrige. Be sure to modify the DUMPDEFALT file to fit your printer.

My attempt at a demonstration at the last meeting failed due to the default file being set for my printer. Luckly I had with me the resusts of test performed earlier to show the effects of the dump routine.

Some more research is needed to determine the reason for the lock-up at power-up but this is a good occasion to install a RESET switch on your console....Yves.

#### Compatible Floppy Disk Drives.

#### by: Ken Godbeer

The Cin-Day 99 User Group published an interesting chart in their January 1988 Newsletter listing a number of Floppy Disk Drives and which computer they are compatible with. Here are those listed as being compatible with the TI-99/4A:

CDC BR8B1A/9409 and CDC-9429

Mitsubishi M4851/501

MPI MPI-51. MPI-52 and MPI-502

National JA-551

Panasonic JU-455

Shugart SA-455

Tandon TM50-1, TM50-2 and TM100-2

Teac Teac-55B

WST FDD-100-5, FDD-200-5 and FDD-111-5

I hope this information is of some help if you are looking to add a drive to your system. By the way for those who wish to hedge their bets for the future al of the above except the Tandon TM50-1 and the WST FDD-100-5 and FD-200-5 are also listed as being compatible with IBM PC/XT and Compatibles.

#### 1200 BAUD UPDATE

#### by: Yves Chevalier

Work is proceeding at a quick pace on my 300/1200 Baud modem card for the PEB. It is a dumb modem card in that you must toggle a switch to put it on line, change speed or mode and does not dial or answer automatically. I have it breadboarded and running, and I am having a board made for it. I should have the board in hand by the time you read this.

To give a headstart to those who will be putting one (MODEM) together when the board is available, the main component and probably the hardest to get is the main IC. It is an EFG7515CP 300/1200 MODEM chip made by Thompson Semiconducteur. My sourse is R-A-E INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS LTD, 11600-170 STREET, EDMONTON, AB, T5S-1J7, 403-451-4001. They carry it under the name TSG7515CP and is approximately \$42.00 Can. A check with the store this week indicated 8 in stock at their Vancouver depot. A detailed parts list, circuit diagram and board layout will be made available soon....Yves

#### DISK LIBRARY ADDITIONS by: Win Appelt

These are the library's additions for April.

TELCO - an excellent new terminal emulator program. program has a built-in auto dialer that lets you store 99 entries, with auto-redialing of up to 15 selections.

BEAX - this disk will be real handy for people that don't own Editor/Assembler module. It is basically the E/A module on disk.

MAX-RLE - is a program for viewing digitized pictures and preparing pictures to send to other systems. The program supports four different - TI-Artist, formats GRAPHX, Display/Variable 80 Display/Fixed 128. and Frogram supports a screen dump.

**\*N.B.** BEAX and MAX-RLE have been around for quite a while, were never added to the Club's library. If anybody has any 'old' programs, such as these, that they feel are worthy of spreading around, please bring a copy to the next meeting.

Thanks....Win

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