

# K-TOWN 99'er

A

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE K-TOWN 99/4A USERS' GROUP

AND

THE ATHENS COMPUTER CLUB

JUNE, 1988

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## JUNE MEETING

The K-TOWN 99/4A Users Group will meet at the MLB (Mechanicsville, Lonsdale, Beaumont) Building on the second Thursday of the month. The date is June 9. Doors open at 6:30 P.M. The agenda has not been announced at press time. Everyone come and if nothing else we will have a lively discussion about the officers.

E.M. will again have his TI \$\$\$ SEARCH in operation, trying to match serial numbers of \$1.00 bills with numbers registered in his program. Cash awards for matching numbers. (See inside Article: TI SEARCH UPDATE)

Please remember that we must vacate the building by 9:30.

The ATHENS COMPUTER Club will have a joint meeting and picnic at the home of Lloyd's and Carol's on Watts Bar Lake. See PICNIC article for details.

Members of both groups are invited to attend the K-TOWN and ATHENS meetings.

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### KINDER-KORNER

By Bob Buehler

#### Again The Acquaintance List

Editing, Printing, Sorting: Last month's KINDER-KORNER ended with the exciting prospect of trading Mary for pretty Betty. It's so easy in the computer. In real life there could be complications. You have saved the short program on cassette tape or floppy disk and know how to reload it.

So do it. I'll wait.

Then to see the program on the monitor, type 'list' and press ENTER. The program will scroll on to the screen. You will see Mary -- 234 5th St -- Greenback TN in line 1010. To bring this line by itself on to the screen for editing, type in '1010,' hold down function key, and press 'X.' Line 1010 will appear ready for editing. It would be easy as heck, but just a dad-burned-minute.

Are you absolutely sure. Is Greenback too durned far?

Good gosh almighty! In the gud ole daze, 415-62-7708 didn't miss a chance to drive his \$9.00, 1926 Model T the 18 miles over and 18 miles back for an evening visit with

410-76-3441. (I had eaten five cent boloney sandwiches for a long, long time to save the \$9.00. I still have the bill of sale.) A broken arm, in a sling, didn't stop 415-62-7708 on one of those trips, but a broken distributor did stop that trip at the half way point. He hitched a ride to the nearest Road-house and telephoned 410-76-3441. She had her Dad get the owner to open the Ford garage and get the needed parts and wrenches. They brought them, and a flash light, and her other Boy-friend. Seugly, with some flourish, I fixed Model T with one hand. I can't remember how we got rid of Boy-friend, but I do remember about 50 years later at her class reunion she didn't know the guy. (See April Kinder-Korner to learn the consequences of these romantic visits.)5

After this touching tale, are you still determined to ditch Mary? You Brute! OK, you've brought line 1010 on to the monitor. To edit you hold down the function key and press 'D' successively until the cursor is on 'M' of Mary. If you are really sure type 'Betty --Street --City State.' Then press enter. Betty is there until you change your fickle mind again.

Sure, I know that Betty isn't in alphabetical order. We'll take care of that later and introduce some other good stuff at the same time.

Of course you don't have to run the program to see acquaintance names on the screen. You just saw them when you listed the program. In fact, knowing that the names begin with line 1000 you could see only the name lines by typing in 'List 1000-, Enter.' They aren't very neat, though, with line numbers and 'DATA' preceding each name. And long names and addresses may need more than one line.

Running the program not only gives you a better looking list on the monitor, it also allows an option to print a hard copy on paper. Sooner or later you'll have a printer and you might as well start saving your pennies right now. Further, here is a chance to illustrate one method of 'branching.'

Even we Kinder-Kiddies have progressed to where we no longer need the PRINT NAME COUNT in line 90 and the BREAK in line 100. So change the program like this:

```

90 INPUT "PRINT TO SCREEN OR PRINTER?":WHICH$
100 IF WHICH$="P" THEN 150
110 AS before
120 " "
130 " "
140 " "
150 OPEN #1:"PIO"

```

Time out for a Kinder-Kiddie discussion of printers. There are two kinds: serial and parallel. We don't need to know their sophisticated differences or their relative advantages. We only need to know how to call upon the one we own. I bought a parallel, Gemini 10X because I could hook it rather inexpensively to my \$50 console. Then, with cassette storage and an old television set I could perform Hydrologic engineering computations that required computers costing into the \$millions in the mid 1950's. Gemini came parallel as standard equipment but with Serial option.

A parallel printer is addressed 'PIO.' A serial is addressed 'RS232.BA=4800,' or something close to that. I'm going herein with parallel 'PIO' and asking someone smarter than I to submit the going with serial 'RS232.BA=4800.' Here goes with 'PIO' from line 150, above.

```

160 FOR K=1 TO X-1
170 PRINT #1:NAME$(K)
180 NEXT K
190 BREAK

```

There really hasn't been an explanation of the FOR-NEXT loop. It's a dandy handy that is built into the computer. 'FOR' marks into the computer the first and last needed values of K. After doing the job with K = 1 the 'NEXT' command increments 'K' and goes back for another round. After the 'X-1' value of K, the job is done so the computer passes on to the next line. In this case it is line 190 BREAK.

There is an inexcusable error in the above. Line 150 had called upon an external device, marked as #1, and identified the device as parallel printer, "PIO." The FOR-NEXT loop called on the printer to print X-1 number of names. So we are done printing, at which point device #1 should be CLOSED. So modify line 190 and add line 200, thus:

```

190 CLOSE #1

```

200 BREAK

Not closing #1 can cause problems that need not concern Kinder-Kiddies just now. But do it anyway!! Trust me, until you learn better.

Save this program if you want to, but we're all through with it because we're starting over.

Start Over, Sorting: The simple acquaintance list program illustrated String Variables, Data Statements, Branching, and the For-Next Statement. Now is time to illustrate sorting alphabetically. In the process a new start, from the beginning, makes sense. Here goes the new program.

```

10 CALL CLEAR
20 PRINT "A SORTED ACQUAINTANCE LIST"
30 PRINT " JUNE 1988"
40 PRINT " USING DATA STATEMENTS"
50 PRINT " BEGINNING IN LINE 1000"
60 DIM N$(100)
70 X=1
80 READ N$(X)
90 IF N$(X)="ZZZ" THEN 120
100 X=X+1
110 GOTO 80
120 COUNT = X-1
130 PRINT "NAME COUNT=";COUNT
135 PRINT "NOW SORTING, PLEASE WAIT"
140 V=COUNT
150 Y=1
160 FOR X=Y TO V
170 W=N$(X)
180 IF N$(X)<N$(X+1) THEN 210
190 N$(X)=N$(X+1)
200 N$(X+1)=W
210 NEXT X
220 V=V-1
230 IF V=0 THEN 250
240 GOTO 150
250 INPUT "PRINT TO SCREEN OR PRINTER?":WHICH$
260 IF WHICH$="P" THEN 320 ELSE 270
270 FOR X=1 TO COUNT
280 PRINT N$(X)
290 NEXT X
295 BREAK
300 INPUT "NOW TO PRINTER?":SAYS$
310 IF SAYS$="Y" THEN 320 ELSE 370
320 OPEN #1:"PIO"
330 FOR X=1 TO COUNT
340 PRINT #1:N$(X)
350 NEXT X
360 CLOSE #1
370 END
1000 DATA ELMORE
1010 DATA EASON
1020 DATA DODD
1030 DATA DIXON
1040 DATA DEAN
1050 DATA COLEMAN
1060 DATA CALLOWAY
1070 DATA BULL
1080 DATA BUEHLER

```

1090 DATA AMARI

1100 DATA ZZZ

Before owning a TI-99/4A I fun-programmed this for numbers using a Radio Shack Pocket Computer and thought I was darned smart. Still think so! After all it was my first programming in 20 years and using a new language, Basic rather than Fortran of TVA days. Later, I put it on TI for my acquaintance list, storing on a cassette tape. Sorting took 7 to 8 minutes. A guy needs much faith and patience waiting! Later, in K-Town X-Basic SIG class with Joe Amari, I learned that this is a "Bubble Sort," notably slow. Other sorts are much faster, but this "bubble sort" is easier for Kinder-Kiddies to understand. That's why I could reinvent the thing.

Through line 130 loads names. In this example they are purposely in reverse order because it's sorting is easier to explain. Now then, ELMORE, which is N\$(1) to start, is a "bigger" string variable than any that follow. This, because 'E' is ASCII 69 whereas A of AMARI, N\$(10), is ASCII 65, for example.

Comparing the names for size is done in line 180 of the For-Next loop. Each name is compared successively with every other name and the "smallest kind of bubbles" to the top. Conversely, the largest sinks to the bottom. For each of the 10 names of the example the For-Next loop is executed 10 times.

Before comparing a first name with any other, however, it is duplicated temporarily as N\$ in line 170. This is to assist a later exchange of position. Then when line 180 learns that ELMORE is not smaller than (or equal to) EASON, EASON is placed in No. 1 position by line 190 and ELMORE is moved to No 2 position by line 200 from N\$ where it had been duplicated earlier for this purpose. In this process ELMORE sinks down one position for each For-Next loop, reaching the bottom after 10 full loops of 10 iterations each. Well I think that is about right.

Now look at line 190 when, in the second For-Next round, EASON is in fact smaller than ELMORE. No exchange is needed so the program transfers to line 210 calling for NEXT X.

At this point in Kinder-Korner both avenues of the For-Next loop has been explained. For these ten names sorting takes only 3.4 seconds. That is for 10 squared = 100 iterations. Twice as many names, 20, would take 4 times as many iterations, 400. Forty and 60 names would take 1600 and 3600 iterations = .9 and 1.9 minutes each respectively. The 7-8 minute time for my acquaintance list was due to more names, and also, I think, because full names and complete addresses were used.

Unless something interferes, next month's Kinder-Korner will use complete addresses with some options: They may be printed on one line or three and in Pica, Elite, or Condensed type. See you then. BB 4/9/88

#### LAST MINUTE STUFF

Grand Ram, prices are faster than Newsletters--April Kinder Korner reported the 512K to cost \$269.95, give or take a buck. Later in April Joel Braddock telephoned DataBiotics for a 'quantity price.' For two he was quoted \$304.95 each including a clock

worth about \$20. I may still buy one because I received \$50 for my birthday.

Sorting--My sort thing, above, was written before I saw TIBULL II (May). I'm not trying to compete, but I'm leaving it as is for its Kinder Kiddie explanation. Also it will be drawn upon later to include variations in printing format.

BB 5/18/88

#### TIBULL III

Recently I acquired a disk system after having lived and worked with a cassette for three years. Such speed! Such capacity! Such reliability! Such POWER! It was heavenly.

Heaven didn't last long. I found that this speed and power can also be destructive. Right quickly I found four different ways to destroy a file - dumb ways but easy for me.

1. First, I wrote a letter on TI/Writer and saved it to disk. Later I wanted to reload it to edit and print. One wrong key and it was gone forever: SF instead of LF.

2. Next, I found in DM1000 the command "Box Format" and wanted to find out what it did. I found out but Spell Checker was in the drive. Now it's gone.

3. File names are important, as I found out. A good name can be used twice but on the same disk it means that one of the files is deleted. Too bad! So dumb!

4. Even the neat trick (thanks, Art) of beginning each program with the line: 1 !SAVE DSK1.FILENAME can be a trap if you decide to change the file name and forget to change line 1. Your program is stored under an unexpected name and the version under that name is gone.

There must be other ways to destroy files that I haven't found yet. You don't need to hear about these things because you are not that dumb. Nevertheless I'll let you know when I find them. Right now I'm making three copies of everything I do. JHB

#### APRIL ANNOUNCEMENT

Rumor has it that the big announcement to have been made in April by Texas Instruments is that it was announced that it was all a rumor.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST  
TAKEN FROM GUEST NEWSLETTERS  
AS REPORTED BY E.M. SMITH

Just when I had concluded that many of the Users Groups with which we exchange newsletters, had folded by the wayside or else were no longer publishing a newsletter, I go to my mailbox one day recently and find an abundant supply of newsletters overflowing my mailbox. For reasons unbeknown to me, our guest newsletters which were addressed to our former address in Oliver Springs were not being forwarded to our Knoxville address. For some reason also unbeknown to me Mike allowed them to accumulate over an extended time frame before forwarding them to us. With such a large volume being dropped on me so close to publication time of our newsletter I find it impossible to devote enough time to read them all in search for information to pass on to you in this article. The following excerpts are from the ones I could find time to report on:

Of special interest to our members who were introduced to word processing via Funlweb and are without the TI-WRITER reference charts and/or manuals here are some sources of great help for you.

The Western New York 99ERS have published a guide to the use of TI-WRITER and its' clones called THE WRITERS. You can obtain your copy by sending \$2.50 to Harry T. Brashear, 2753 Main Street, Newfane, NY 14108. ATTN: Publications. If you want this I suggest you hop onto it right now. There is a limited quantity available and they state they will not do a third printing.

Continueing in that same area of interest, the May Issue of N.W. Ohio 99ers has a three page TI-WRITER Quick Reference Card which I will have reproduced at \$1.00 per set or if someone else wants to volunteer to do so the newsletter can be checked out of the library to make copies for oneself and others.

Lost at this time, is an offer by another group to supply a set of keyboard overlays with a vinyl finish. If anyone is familiar with that offer please clue me in and I'll pass it on in the next issue.

For the users of PR BASE, the May issue of PUG offers a BUG FIX for that program and the same issue contains the sixth article of a series of articles on RAM DISKS written by John Willforth. John qualifies as an authority on hardware updates for the TI and has served the TI-Community extremely well in that capacity for a number of years. I believe John is a member of the WEST PENN 99ERS and his articles appear there on aregular basis. Anyone interested in do it yourself updates will be well served by their newsletter.

The Jan. issue of The Suncoast Beeper offers some valuable tips on identifying various files. This article will be of great help in loading and running files in the following formats: Program, D/V 80, D/V 163. D/F 80, D/F 128 and INT/V 254 files. This was taken from an earlier issue of TOPICS, the newsletter of the LA 99ERS.

The March issue of BYTES AND PIECES, published by the Fox Cities Users Group is just what the doctor ordered if you are interested in expanding your system. It contains an article taken from the Jan. issue of the LIMA US Newsletter. It contains information concerning prices, suppliers, etc.

relative to disk drives, RAM Disks, Printers, etc. These articles are also included in the Feb. Issue of the Cleveland Area TI994A Users Group Newsletter.

The above references are just a few of the numerous articles of interest that can be found in the pages of our guest newsletters. Articles on every imaginable subject of interest to the TI-Community are written each month. I encourage you to check out a few of these newsletters from our printed library, take them home with you, and enhance your knowledge of the TI.

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STUMBLINGS

by  
Joe N. Simmons

Have you ever stumbled on to a new technique either at the computer or in another club's newsletter? If so, this column is for you. The geniuses will be so deep in thought that they will never know that they missed these stumbles! Enough gibberish.

This month my faithful MG'sBram Kracker died or lets say the battery did. As Lloyd knows...my shakey hands are not too great when working with small gadgets; however, since Lloyd recently related to me that he had successfully placed a new battery in his GK, I, also, try it and found that Craig Miller's directions were great. I not only got it apart but also back together without damaging it! A great feat for me.

I have been playing with my Pine Timber Cruise program and have added a coefficient of variation to it so that I can get a print out of a cruise's accuracy. In so doing I found that "If...And,,,Then....Else" logic statements are not as simple as they first appear. Finally after re-reading pages 41 through 43 (in TI's XB Manual) several times I found that "IF P>10 AND <21 THEN X=40 ELSE 4235" does not work. To make it work, one should have it read as follows: "IF P>10 AND P<21 THEN X=40 ELSE 4235".

As I promised, Foster Fulton, who called me up at work to tell me he had read my last month stumbles, name is hereby mentioned in this column as I promised last month. Also Lloyd Wilson's name is mentioned since he noted to me of our picnic date of the 19th was incorrect. It is gratifying to find that some of you are actually out there listening (reading) my column.

Tom Freeman if you also read this column I want you to know that I really enjoyed your post-card for I can empathize with it and with you! Perhaps the new edition will have some of the latest information incorporated into it.

Those of you who have been enjoying our Jimmy Gordon's Word Search program will be happy to learn that he is making some updates and improvements in his creation. He has added a file menu which will allow one to access from within the program the puzzles(files) that have already been created and he is planning to allow the user to choose the screen colors he wishes to use. Keep up the fine work you are doing, Jimmie! I used fine since the only good work is working for the Lord.

For those of us who read Emmanuel Methuselah's

invitation and who are interested in learning more of what our toy can accomplish should take him up on his offer. If I did not live over 70 miles away, he would fine me on his door step each time he planned a meeting. His offer is a gracious one and one which is the "nitty-gritty" for those of us who enjoy this ti toy!

Just now using FunnelWeb's SD (show directory) of TI Writer, I found that if you marked the number of the file one can then use the options on the bottom of the screen to either view, print, delete the file. Previously I had stumbled on to that after marking the number of the file that one could then load it up using the LF command. When you do the file you marked appears after the DSKn. Tony and Mil McGovern you have added some useful features...Thank-You!!

Enough stumbling for this month...Joe//May 23, 1988.

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**ANNUAL PICNIC**  
at

Lloyd and Carol's on Watts Bar Lake

On Saturday, June 18th beginning at 1:00 in the afternoon and running until about 6:30 in the evening the Athens Club will have its annual picnic at Lloyd and Carol Wilson's cabin on Watts Bar Lake. As in previous years it will be dutch treat with each family bringing and eating their own. Perhaps we might make it a church type supper if all attendees so desire. As in previous years, the K-town club is invited to come join the fellowship. Mike Epperson knows the way since he and his wife have attended in the past; so, you might make a caravan with Mike in the lead!

Besides fellowship, some of us fish, swim, and swap tall tales while our better halves and children get acquainted with one another. Sometimes wives and husbands find that their spouses really do have friends which play with the ti toy!

All those who fail to come, will be missed!!!!

**Directions:**

Since most of us will use I-75 except for people like Art Gibson, we need to either to go North or South to the Sweetwater exit on to State Highway #68. Thence one should go West on #68 across State Highway#58 toward Watts Bar Dam; however, after crossing the hill and going down the low "J" slope one should turn right at Pleasure Island and go North on what we locals call river road (it is now a state highway) to Bivens Grocery store which is located on the Left. At Bivens, one should turn left and follow the pavement which goes West and then North about one mile. Now this gets trikie. Before one goes under one of TVA's high voltage power lines there is a road which turns about 160 degrees to the right by an old house. (If you miss the power line, the next road to the right leads into TVA's Foosee Pass Recreation Area). Go down this road which bends to the left. Lloyd and Carol's white with yellow trim tailer-cabin is on the right to the left of a two story brown building. Drive around the circular drive way so that everyone may be able to park off of the road.

Oh yes! Let us not forget Art Gibson. Art you should come South on Highway 27 to below Spring City and turn East on State Highway #68, cross over Watts Bar DAM and turn North on the State Highway which passes Pleasure Island beverage outlet and follow the directions above.

Lloyd how did I do? and Lloyd replys we will see on the 18th!

All those who fail to come, will be missed!!!!

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**ITEMS FOR SALE:**

Update UPDATE uPdAtE:

Foster Fulton has sold his extra PE Box with a SSSD drive, disk controller card, 32k memory expansion for \$200.00. So those of you who have put it off have lost. It pays to advertise.

At last report, Bob has three of his six PEB boxes still for sale; so if you are interested you had better hurry!. Bob Lamb P.O.Box 309; Athens,Tennessee,37303 has Reduced his prices on seven black/silver consoles, three PEBboxes with 32k,TI disk controllers and drives and some RS232 cards and printers as well as XB cartridges for sale. Bob indicated he now wants \$300.00 for a console-PEB package with extended basic. The RS232 cards as part of the package will be on a first come basis. This is an excellent opportunity for those of you who have been looking for PE boxes. You need one to house the new GENEVE.

Larry Nelson has a bare (without power supply box) SSSD drive for sale at \$50.00 and has an Epson 80X printer for sale at your best offer. Call Larry at (615) 745-0648.

COMPLETE TI. W/PE.BOX - \$350.00

32K MEM.+ RS232

2 DRIVES + MAJOR SOFTWARE PACKAGES

1 VOLKSMODEM --- \$30.00

CALL JACK COLEMAN (615) 966-5677

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**PHILOSOPHICALLY SPEAKING**

In the scheme of human relationships, pain can be measured in direct ratio to the care accorded.

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WHAT A GREAT USERS GROUP WE WOULD HAVE IF EVERY MEMBER DEVOTED JUST ONE OR TWO HOURS PER MONTH TO SOME GROUP ACTIVITY AND ATTENDED ALL OUR MEETINGS TOO!

TI-SEARCH UPDATE

FRUSTRATIONS, FRUSTRATIONS AND MORE FRUSTRATIONS. That, so far, has been my experience in trying to get the TI-COMMUNITY involved in my "scheme" to harvest some of the DOLLARS that the Hershey Chocolate Company is offering in their \$100,000 Lucky Day Sweepstakes. Because several of the Users Groups were cut from our mailing list for not getting their Newsletter to us my previous articles failed to get the distribution that I expected. That failure is explained in another article found elsewhere in this newsletter.

I'll explain once again the offer I have made previously. I reason that by volunteering to serve as a clearing house to register the numbers that are printed inside the wrappers of certain Hershey Chocolate bars (those identified as \$100,000 SWEEPSTAKES wrappers) and publishing those registered numbers through our newsletter and on some leading BBS's the opportunity to match those numbers with the serial numbers of \$1.00 bills would be greatly enhanced. Particularly so, if I can succeed in getting a large portion of the TI-COMMUNITY involved.

I am listing here fifteen numbers that have already been registered in my program. I am encouraging the editors of other users groups to publish these numbers in their newsletters and have their membership to match them with the serial numbers of \$1.00 bills. I am also inviting all members of the TI-COMMUNITY to send me the Hershey wrappers with numbers printed inside to me to be registered in this program. Anytime there is a match, both the person with matching \$1.00 Bill and the person submitting, for registration, the matching wrapper will win cash. Rules for receiving payment were published in the May Issue of the K-TOWN 99ER or can be received by sending a self addressed and stamped envelope to me: E.M. Smith, 3506 Garden Drive, Knoxville, TN 37918. When sufficient numbers have been registered in the program I will post the program on the BBS's of participating Users Groups, send them a hard copy of the registered numbers, and publish them in the K-Town 99ER. Updates will be published periodically in this newsletter.

The following numbers are currently registered in the program:

00151170-- 07245733--10099804--26674663--27179014  
33834871-- 35000090--43332686--52847058--57640624  
58424332-- 62579308--63156288--63165206--66399090  
66879740-- 73348940--76056764--78893143--88385416

Duplicate numbers may be found on both the wrappers and \$1.00 bills, therefore the same number may win more than once depending on how many times each number is registered and how many \$1.00 bills are found with a matching number. The numbers are registered in the order in which they are received. Other users groups are encouraged to publish these numbers and invite their membership to match them with the numbers from \$1.00 bills. And be sure to send me your Hershey wrappers so that I can register them in the program.

TO EDITORS of GUEST NEWSLETTERS

Some six months or more back, the K-Town 99er announced a change in address, to be used in sending us the NEWSLETTERS from the Users Groups with which we have an exchange agreement. It is is rather annoying at this late date to find many of those with whom we exchange newsletters are still using the Oliver Springs, TN address which we did use briefly. As a result several Users Groups were scratched from our mailing list and have failed to receive some issues of our Newsletter.

Here is what happened. The Oliver Springs Post Office was properly advised to forward the K-Town mail addressed to Oliver Springs to the Knoxville Address and they did so for about two to three months. However, some two months ago, for reasons unbeknown to any of us here in Knoxville, the K-Town mail was delivered to the Oliver Springs address. The recipient in Oliver Springs allowed them to accumulate for an indefinite time frame before forwarding them to Knoxville.

The matter was further complicated by some Users Groups that started publishing and/or distributing their Newsletter in an untimely fashion. To save on postage some Users Groups developed a policy of sending two or three months of Newsletters in a single mailing.

The perception in Knoxville was that many Users Groups had folded or else were no longer publishing a newsletter. Consequently, several groups were dropped from our mailing list. Now that we know what happened those which were dropped are being restored to our mailing list as we receive their newsletter in Knoxville.

The moral to this story is that it is unwise to destabilise any organization by switching mailing addresses unless it is absolutely necessary. It is obvious that most of the Users Groups do not make note of these address changes and if they do they don't update their mailing list. And some people wonder why the TI-Community suffers a decline in its membership???

Part of our problem could be that we force needless chores onto the shoulders of our volunteer work force - like rebuilding our mailing list. Please update your mailing list to contain the Knoxville address for the K-Town 99ER.

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EDITORS OF GUEST NEWSLETTERS:
PLEASE UPDATE YOUR MAILING LIST ADDRESSES!
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ATHENS JUNE MEETING

The Athens Club June meeting will coincide with our annual picnic at Lloyd and Carol's cabin on Watts Bar Lake between 1:00 and 6:30 P.M. on Saturday, June 18th. The K-town club is invited to join us for we are now just one big happy family with two parts and with two meetings each month. See further directions elsewhere in this newsletter.

Helpfull Hent  
from  
SMAUG/99 newsletter

Chick De Marti reported a real time saver for entering long lists of DATA statements in a program. Instead of typing the word "DATA" in each line or using <FCTN 8>"REDO" and then entering data, try this:

INSTEAD OF: 100 DATA<space>aaaa,bbbb,cccc  
USE: 100 <CTRL S><space>aaaa,bbbb,cccc

The "CTRL S" will show as a blank on the screen during input, but when listed, it displays the word "DATA"....Thanks, Chick and Tidewater 99/4A UG

Editors Note: Sorry this doesn't work for me! Do you have the correction for this tip?

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#### EDITORS OF GUEST NEWSLETTERS:

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR MAILING LIST ADDRESSES:

THE PROPER ADDRESS FOR THE K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP IS :

K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP  
3506 GARDEN DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

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#### PROVERBS 9:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

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Helpfull Hent  
from  
SMAUG/99 newsletter

If you get tired typing the command "PRINT" over and over again in your program, just hold down the "CTRL" key and press ";" (semicolon) at the same time. Nothing will appear on the screen, but the command will be in the program!....Thanks to PILGRIM'S PRIDE catalogue.

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Have a D/V 163 file on your disk and don't know what it is good for? Try this: MERGE DSKx.FILENAME. D/V 163 is a merge file.

## HIGH RESOLUTION GRAPHICS AND THE 99/4A by Anne Dhein reprinted from THE FRONT RANGER newsletter

Editor note - This is part 1 of 4. Parts 2,3 and 4 will be reprinted in successive newsletters.

### Section One: The Preliminaries

Part one of this article defines a drawing package as a program or group of programs that will allow the user to create graphics by turning on (or off) the smallest addressable unit of the screen - a single pixel. All of the currently available drawing programs for the 99/4A allow individual pixels to be placed anywhere on the screen and removed as desired, to create very detailed pictures. Drawings can be saved on disk (or in some cases tape) and later be reloaded for editing or printing.

As you know, all the 99/4A paint packages do much more than just this minimum. But the features present in a particular package, and how they are implemented vary widely. The chart on page 9 will allow a feature-for feature comparison of ten main drawing packages for the 99/4A.

The chart lists the name of each drawing package (in capitals) across the top. The drawing packages are on the chart in reverse order of how they were introduced on the market - that is, the later ones are listed first. You can quickly tell whether a program has a particular function or characteristic by locating that function in the first column and then checking across the row to the column in which the program is listed. Over the next few issues, detailed information will be given for each of these functions.

If you are planning to purchase graphic software the first thing to ask yourself is, "What do I want to do with the program?". Looking at the chart, Program Focus refers to the primary purpose of the package. Three main uses for paint programs are for entertainment (E); as a production tool for producing letterheads, newsletters, flyers, etc. (T); or as a programming utility (U). Some of the programs do all three; others concentrate on just one aspect.

Norton Graphics, for example, is strictly a program utility, and Paint 'N Print is pure entertainment. TI Artist is the best general purpose by far, but nothing can beat Graphx for enhancing an artist's creativity. Joy Paint also excels in this area, and although lacking in color has production capabilities not found in Graphx. Draw 'N Plot can be used quiet comfortably as a simple drawing board, but its real merit lies in its ability to interface with your own programs.

#### System Requirements

Before you purchase any program, check to make sure that you have all the hardware necessary to run that particular software. Two of the programs - Paint 'N Print and Super Sketch - can be used with only a console. Norton Graphics Package can also be run on just the console, using Extended Basic. The others require a disk system and 32K memory expansion.

Paint 'N Print, Super Sketch and three of the disk programs also each have an additional disk, sold separately, but which adds substantially to the program's capabilities. These disks are listed in lower case on the chart, under the main Program. The functions they support are starred (\*). When Paint 'N Print and Super Sketch are used with their supplemental disks, they also need the expanded system. A cassette version of Extended Graphics is available for Paint 'N Print, but it still requires a 32K memory expansion unit. Paint 'N Print, by the way, won't work properly on my system with the widget. Plug Paint 'N Print directly into the console and it works fine.

A few programs may not work with Myarc and/or CorComp peripherals. Joy Paint, TI Artist and Graphx, along with most new software do work with any of the three controllers. The version of Bitmap that I have does not work with a Myarc disk controller, but works with CarComp's. TI Artist works beautifully with the Myarc RAM disk but Joy Paint does not. Since most software companies are working constantly to keep their products updated to work with the newer hardware, peripheral compatibility is not covered on the chart. If you happen to have any of the newer peripherals, consideration to this should be given when buying software.

Printer compatibility is covered further down the chart but should be mentioned here as something to watch out for when buying software. It is very disappointing to get a new drawing package home, only to find the screen dump won't work with your printer!

Loading Requirements - With the exception of Norton Graphics Package which is programmed in (and requires) Extended Basic, the software listed here is written in assembly language; therefore a module which can access assembly language is necessary. The three "loader" modules are Extended Basic, Editor/Assembler and Mini Memory. TI Writer's Option 3 can also be used instead of Editor/Assembler's Option 5. Some software can use any loader; other packages require a particular module which is listed on the chart.

#### Ease of Use and Method of Operation

Just as people are different, so, too, does each program seem to have its own "personality", or flavor. This rating should be looked upon as subjective and is given here only to provide one person's idea of how easy the program is for the average user to learn and to use comfortably on a day-to-day basis. The Norton Graphics package rates the lowest because it is slow and takes some patience. It is meant for Basic programmers.

Super Sketch is on the other end of the scale. It is so easy to use that a child who doesn't read well could comfortably use it with a minimum of instruction and supervision. Joy Paint, even though it does a lot more, is also very easy to use. Main drawing functions such as draw, erase, fill, using circles and lines, lettering, paintbrush, etc., are all easily selectable from the drawing board by a representative picture (known as an "icon"). More complex features and file management are immediately selectable by menu.

The other programs fall somewhere in the middle. Draw A Bit and Master Painter require the memorization of a number of function keys to use them properly, or else you had better

have a list handy. The manuals for these two are also hard to read. Bitmap requires some key memorization combined with the use of icons, but Bitmap's manual is much better.

Draw 'N Plot uses a simple menu and a few function keys. It doesn't have as many features as others, but what it has is easy enough to use. The instructions are adequate, especially if you are a programmer.

Paint 'N Print is easy to use on a regular basis but there are a number of keys that need to be memorized which makes it harder to get started.

TI Artist and Graphx are not perfect, but both are comfortable to use on a regular basis, and very easy to begin using. TI Artist makes extensive use of icons for users who prefer them but also allows the faster method of pressing function keys for various commands for those who want to memorize them. TI Artist does require switching between two main programs and several auxiliary ones which can get tiresome even though it is all done within the main program. Graphx, like Bitmap, uses some function keys but provides an identifying strip for the top of the keyboard which makes them quite easy to follow. Graphx also uses menu selections for the less used functions. Of all the paint programs Graphx has the best manual, which can be used as a tutor as well as a reference.

A final word on two more items which are not covered on our check list - Availability and price. Most of the programs listed on the chart are readily available and can be purchased at any number of places, including Dhein's. Prices given are those charged at Dhein's, and may vary from place to place: Joy Paint, \$39.95; Joy Paint's Pal, \$9.95; Bitmap, \$19.95; TI Artist, \$19.95; Artist Extras, \$6.95; Graphx, \$39.95; Draw 'N Plot, \$14.95; Norton Graphics Package, \$7.95.

Paint 'N Print, produced by Navarone Industries, is also readily available. I occasionally see Master Painter 99 by Amerisoft still advertised, and I believe you can still get Draw-A-Bit and Print-A-Bit from Data Force in Illinois. Since these addresses are easily obtainable from your user's group officers (or from me), I won't repeat them here.

Super Sketch, alas, is no longer made. It is included in the chart because there are still a lot of them in use, and you just never know when one might pop up for sale. Super Sketch is unique in that it has been the only pad and pencil type software released for the 99/4A

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TI 99/4A DRAWING PACKAGES - COMPARISON CHART

FUNCTION	JOYPAINT JoyPaint Pal	BITMAC	TIARTIST Artist Extras	GRAPHX	DRAW 'N PLOT	PAINT 'N PRINT + disk	SUPER SKETCH Skmate	MASTER PAINTER	DRAW A BIT Prnt-Bit	NORTON GRAPHIC PACK
Program Focus	E,T	E,T	E,T,U	E,T	E,T,U	E	E,T	E	E,U	U
Requirements	Any	XB EA MM	Any	XB EA MM	XB	StdAl**	StdAl**	XB EX MM	XB	XB
Ease of Use	8	3	5	5	4	4	6	2	2	1
Method of Operation	Icons, Menus	Icons, FcnKeys	Menus Icons	Menus Keys	Menu Keys	Keys	Menus	Icons, FCONKEYS	Menu FCONKEYS	Menu Keys
Joystk Control	Required	Required	Optional	Required	Optional	Required	No	No	Optional	No
Cursr Speed Cnt	No	5 speeds	2 speeds	5 speeds	2 speeds	No	No	No	No	
Brush Styles	7	9	8	1	1	32	9	4	1-pixel	3
Automatic Draw Functions	Lines, rectngls, ellipses	Lines, circles, rectngls	Line, Ray, circles, rectngls	Lines, ellipses	Lines	Line, Ray, circles, squares	Line, Ray, rectngls	Lines, rays	Lines, rays, arcs	Lines, parabola, ellipses
Fill	AutoFill	Manual	AutoFill	SemiAuto	SemiAuto	SemiAuto	AutoFill	No	Manual	No
Shade, Depth	24 Patrn AirBrush	Color Life	Col/Pat Yes	Color No	Solid No	Yes*	Yes	No	No	No
Reflections	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Move, Copy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Flip, Hor/Vert	Yes	H only	Yes	No	No	Yes*	No	No	No	No
Rotate	90 deg.	90 deg.	Slides	No	No	No**	No	No	No	No
Invert	Swapbits	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes*	No	No	No	No
Magnify, Reduce	Yes	Yes	Mgnify**	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Text Handling	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No		No
Special Fonts	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
ZOOM Mode	Fatpixel	No	Yes	Yes	No	Magnify	No	No	No	No
Scratchpad Mem. CLIPBOARD	Cut and Paste	Store Input	Instance Slides	Clipbrd	No	Yes	No	Symbols, Falette Store		No
Use of Color	No	Full Use	Full Use	Full Use	Limited	20 colrs	Full Use	Full Use	Full Use	No
Slide Show	No	Yes	No**	No**	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Undo	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Spec. Features	Larger Wrk Spce Pat Edt*	CoProcsr CrerRprt Pic.Scri	Instance custmize	Animate frm Clpb GridTool	9 Addl Commands for XB	PatrnEd Rainbow Colors	Touch Tablet		Redraw Connect- Dots	Cassette version too!
Printer	Epson Axion	Epson TI 850/5	Most Printers	Epson	Epson	**Most Printers	Epson	Epson	Epson	**Most Printers
Screen Dumps	2 sizes 2 dnsty	Small SD Med. DD	Wide Ch Size, Den	2 sizes 2 Dnsty	1 Med	1 Large NormDnst	1 Large NormDnst	1 Large NormDnst	2 sizes 2 dnst	No
Disk Catalog	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
File Convrse Ftr	Yes*	No	Yes	No**	No**	No**	No**	No	No**	--
F/Portability	Not at Present	Limited	Easily	Prog Skl in Assen	Prog Skl in XB	No	No	No	Prog Skl in Assen	Easily to XB
Addl Support	Some	No	Lots	Lots	Some	No	No	No	No	No

\* Starred features are found on the companion disk listed under the main package.  
 \*\* See chart notes.

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