

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



AND

THE ATHENS COMPUTER CLUB DECEMBER. 1990



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COMMENT

The K-Town 99'ER is published monthly for the benefit of the K-Town 99/4A Users Group membership specifically and the TI Community in general. The Articles in this newsletter to the best of our knowledge are factual but neverless the views expressed are the views of the author and are not necessarily the views of the K-Town Users Group. Any article, unless stated otherwise, may be copied by other users groups and published in their newsletter providing credit is given to the author and the K-Town 99'ER.

K-TOWN DECEMBER MEETING

The K-TOWN 99/4A Users Group will meet at the home of E.M. Smith. Use of the MLB Building has been terminated due to change of policy which requires us to pay \$10.00 per hour for use of the building. We will continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. December 13 th. is our next meeting date. See "PRESIDENT'S FORUM" for more information regarding this change and and suggestions on different options pertaining to our future. Bill Sheridan will favor us with another on-line visit with DELPHI following business.

DUES / MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the K-Town 99/4A Users Group is open to any owner or user of the TI-99/4A Home Computer. Dues are twenty dollars per year and subject to our fiscal year which begins April 1 and ends March 31 of each year. Dues are classified as family memberships. New memberships are prorated at the rate of two dollars per month if less than a full year, except for the last three months of our fiscal year. There is a minimum fee of five dollars. Memberships are not prorated for current or former members. We welcome visitors.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

A beautiful fall season here in the foothills of the Great Saokey Mountains National Park gradually fades into cold months of winter. Except for the evergreens and a few varieties of hardwoods all the color that loomed briefly across the landscape is now fallen to the ground. I have been laboring off and on for the past two months trying to keep up with clearing the yard of leaves. Knowing that the trees have grown in some measure since the last season I would assume that I had more leaves to cope with this year. However, it seemed to me that the total volume was much less. That's enough chatter on that subject. Best I get on with User Group matters.

I hope that none of you failed to read the notice in last wonth's newsletter concerning the change in our seeting place. I received notice the last week in October that we would have to pay a rate of ten dollars per hour to use the MLB building starting in November. Fortunately, Bill Sheridan and I had not gotten together to mail out the November Newsletter though it was already printed and ready to mail. We reasoned that the price was too much for our "Group pocketbook" so we inserted the "change notice" in the newsletters going to members who might attend. I hope none of you ended up at the MLB building and wandered what had happened.

As things now stand I will host the meetings in my home for the rest of this fiscal year which ends the last day of March. What we do and where we go at that point in time must all be resolved in the interim. So once again we are face to face with the reality of a User Group in decline and how this reality will be resolved. Following is a partial list of my personal observations relative to this subject:

For the past several conths, on average we have about six members present at our monthly meetings. With such a small number of active members it becomes more and more difficult for the group to plan programs for our meeting each month. When it comes to new ideas for programs of interest all our active members are suffering from "burnout". Invariably, he who makes a suggestion ends up with the responsibility of bringing the idea to fruition at a following meeting. Thus, the group suffers from a reluctance to make suggestions. I observe nothing in our crystal ball that will make the future any different. As your president, I must comment here that I am not receiving any complaints for which I am grateful. I think that is because the active members understand our plight and know that the best way to be assigned an unwanted chore is to speak up. And yet, we continue to have remarding experiences at our meetings including excellent fellowship.

Because of the excellent fellowship which Bill Sheridan and I experience each month we continue to get together each month and publish a neweletter. Often times we experience some good chuckles and I would not like to lose those hours of fellowship. However, we are faced with a diminishing supply of newsletter articles and a futher decline in membership. We appear to be approaching a catch 22 predicament whereby we have little information to publish and if we have it we won't have adequate revenues to publish it.

There seems to be a consensus amongst the active membership to maintain some form of a fellowship. How well this can be done outside the body of a formal organization is what we must determine during the next four months.

As I see it, reality dictates that we disband as a formal organization at the end of the fiscal year. We will maintain our identity as the K-Town 99/4A Users broup without any formal organization. We will have no elected officers. We will cease to publish a newsletter but maintain contact with the TI-Community through subscriptions to a few select newsletters of other more viable user groups. We will also maintain contact through telecommunications and Micropendium.

Under our Group Constitution if we displye the Users Group we must divest ourselves of all Users Group assets. I have learned that the Christenberry Heights branch of The Knoxville Boys Club would be delighted to have our Computer equipment and its director assured me that it would receive proper care and be put to very good uses. Such a location of the equipment might afford some of us an opportunity to share our computer skills and enthusiasm for the 99/4A with a younger generation.

Other options for disposing of our equipment would be to offer it for sale and then donate the proceeds to some charity or another non profit organization. This eight include any other revenues which are on hand at the end of March 1991.

If you have some different ideas relative to this subject you should be prepared to submit them at our December Reeting or contact me prior to the meeting.

UPDATE ON CENTRAL CLEARINGHOUSE DATABASE

Irwin Hott, co-sysop of the CONNI club builtetin board service reports that the goal of twenty five subscribers to the proposed clearinghouse BBS is forty five percent subscribed. He also reports in his monthly article in The CONNI newsletter, Spirit of 99 that the time for subscribing to the proposed Database has been extended another month. The extension has sumething to do with an unexplained "item" which is scheduled to appear in Micropendium. I have no problems with such a decission but I left the Lima Users Group Conference with an understanding that we were to watch CONNI's Spirit of 99 for information on the clearinghouse.

Irwin does report that on the subject of the proposed Clearinghouse there was a lively discussion at

the Chicago Fair with much emphasis on the cost of long distance rates to access the BBS. This cost is also a concern of mine but my concern is not the rates. Ma Bell publishes her rates. My concern is more with whether I will be able to access the BBS during non-prime time hours when the rates are the lowest and all the other subscribers are trying to access the BBS at the same time when I am trying to take advantage of the lower rates. Assuming that I can learn how to expidite my time on the BBS, how much time am I likely to need to download the available information each month or week? In my area, which is served by South Central Bell I have a service Called "Reach Out America" which allows me one hour for six dollars during the weekend hours. What I don't know is whether one hour per month is adequate or whether I can gain access during the allotted hours. Will I also be in competition with the local CONNI membership for access during the same hours? Will the clearinghouse BBS have a seperate phone line from the present CONNI BBS?

The K-Town 99/4A Users Group has subscribed to the proposed service in the belief that these concerns could be addressed in due time. We did so to demonstrate our faith in the TI-Community and with hope that it would prove to be a part of the solution to the problems confronting us as the result of a declining membership.

OOOOOOOH LA DI LA!

IT IS SO BEAUTIFUL!
IT IS FANTASTIC AND
SO PROFESSIONAL!

That was my response when I first viewed the demo page of print done on a Laser Beam Printer. The demo was created by Hartin Smoley and published in a recent issue of Cleveland Area 99'ers' Newsletter. You will find a reprint of this demo on Page seven of this newsletter. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did but I may never be able to appreciate my dot matrix printer again. Martin Smoley is a member of the Morthcoast 99'ers.

FUNMELMED UPDATE

Dr. Charles Good, Lima Users Group, has favored us with an update of FUNNELWEB. The latest update is V4.31. Dr. Good has also written an excellent review of these updates for the December issue of Bits Bytes and Pixels, the Lima Users Group Newsletter, which I am sure you will find to be interesting reading.

To obtain this latest version of Funnelwebb you will need, depending on your disk drive capabilities, the equivelancy of four SS Flippies. Copies may be made as dictated by our usual time constraints.

KINDER KORNER-36 Bob Buehler

THE FUTURE OF K-TOWN 97mr USER SKOUP

I need continuance of K-Town 99ers because of my infection with acute compterendu pocas palabras. This began in 1957. It has remained chronic over since, awaiting only to be triggered. But it did go into remission in 1975. In late 1983 it flared up again to the acute stage. Prognosis: This is incureable! It can be kept in a tolerable state, however, by periodic association with other sapient homos suffering the same ailment. That's why I need continuance of K-Town 99ers!

Please hear my story.

I was infected at TVA in 1957 by contact with the keyboard of a desk-size Buroughs £101 computer. On this early electronic computer programing consisted of marking on a grid card where metal pins should be inserted into a peg board. That would determine when to add, subtract, multiply, or divide using data keyed in manually on an on-board typewriter. Computations were FAST. Probably a dozen every minute, maybe even two dozen. The typewriter printed hard copy answers faster even than a skilled typest! And answers were precise and unerring. Goodbye slide rule and Marchant calculators. I claim to be the first anywhere to propram digital electronic computation of water surface profile for rivers and reservoirs. This is a continuing need in planning waer resource devlopments.

My compte rendu pocas palaras intensified when TVA acquired an L6P 30 computer. Also desk size, this marvel had 8K of RAM on a fast rotating drum. Programing was in machine language. Data could be pepunched on paper tape to be called in as needed by the program. The on-board typewriter spat out answers in orderly arrangement as specified. An entranced operator could just sit and stare in amazement. The infection was painless in these happy moments. Of course, water surface profiles were the first to be programmed on the new computer. The L6P 30 was a workhorse. Many Knoxville Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineers cut their comuter teeth on the L6P 30.

But this was just a stepping stone to Fortran programing for the IBM 704 computer occupying the entire first floor of the Old Post Office Building in Chattanooga. Compte rendu pocas palabras was at peak intensity. Lots of nights and weekends went into water surface profile programing. River dimension data were punched on IBM cards and sent to Chattanooga by bus. Printer results came back by mail. Golly the process took less than four days!! Utopia at last! The TVA program was supplied on request to other Federal agencies and to consulting tirms.

My infection went dormant at age 65. That's when senility became automatic in TVA. Funny though, enough folk didn't know this so I consulted happily and considerably elsewhere. By then hand calculators were indispensible booms in engineering computation.

ALONG CAME CHRISTMAS, 1983 when my son presented a

\$50 orphaned TI. Compte rendu pocas palabras resurged with vigor! This 10" X 15" X 2 1/2" TI miracle has more RAM than the IBM 704 monster and a simpler programing language, BASIC. With s small on hand cassette recorder and old TVA set what came first? The old water surface profle thing, of course. Right here in my own tiny office this is possible.

A Star Bemini 10X printer was a lucky choice hardware addition. I was floating in tall cotton. Here in my wee office I could thumb my technical nose at haughty IBM!

About then I learned there was the K-Town 99er User Group. That's mostly where I learned about practical hardware and software goodies. And best of all met great guys and gals. All the gals are gone and many of the guys. But now in my dotage I need those remaning!

So I'll do my best to keep K-Town 99ers alive and going, and I pledge practical resources toward that objective. Cheers to compte rendu pocas palabras!!

MY WISCOMSIN TRIP - In case anyone asks, our recent trip to Wisconsin was the best of many over the years. Our daughter in Chattanooga could go along. Her children are now both away at college. Of course she helped a bundle with driving, reading the AAA Trip Tick, and watching the highway signs. Best, though was sharing fun of remembering pleasant incidents of past trips when she was a child. Even unpleasant once, always in Indiana: Car trouble, heavy snow, and even a flood. Not all on the same trip, thank goodness.

We were too late for good tree color and the apple crop was poor. Just as well. Trunk space in new cars is too puny for a practical haul of apples! Or such of anything! Why must good things be improved like that?

Nith help from a local historian I located my grandparents farm house in Honey Creek, where many migrants from Switzerland settled in the 1840's. I didn't recognize it because of an addition on the front, but it was about the right distance from the road and the barn was in the right place. Moreover, present occupants confirmed the earlier ownership. And can you believe? They gave me a tombstone that they had found half buried on the property. It was my uncle's. He had died at age 12 in 1873. On further check at the nearby cemetary a later monument was present. Evidently the original was taken back home. It now is in my son's Chattanooga home, to be a "conversation piece," but how is yet to be decided.

Four especially good eating places of past recollection were pleasantly revisited. With all due credit to the geography to, in, and from Wisconsin, East Tennessee is the place for se!!

Bob Buehler, 11/16/90

ps
"Compte rendu pocas palabra" is a disgustingly inaccurate
Latin version of "computer programitis," contrived
without the slightest knowledge of any foreign language!

POTPOLIER!

by Bill Sheridan

From the August issue of GTBTIU6 (Greater Tampa Bay II User Group).

Have you ever wanted to put comments on a catalog listing, especially when you are passing it along to a friend? One way is to do it is with a pencil or pen, but a neater way is to use TI-Writer. Here's how.

- 1) When you load DM1000 to catalog the disk, at the first menu press FCTN 3. At the statement "Enter List Device:", change PIO or R5232 to "DSKn.filename". Press "N" at the next two questions since you don't need your printer codes or want to save this change since this is a one time operation.
- 2) So through the normal steps to catalog your disk, i.e. at the main menu select Disk Utilities. Once the catalog is displayed, then press FCTM 7 to get a printing. However, instead of the catalog information going to the printer, it will give you a BVRO file on the designated disk you named in 1) above.
- 3) You can now access this file with TI-Writer editor to add your comments and for printing. It is suggested that you turn off Word Wrap(CTRL 0), which will display a hollow curser. If comments take more then one line, you will have to insert a line(FCIN 8).

By using this method, you can make the listing more informative to the person getting it.

In TIPS FROM THE TIGERCLUB I found these two useful tips that are credited to Craig Miller. The first I know you have seen before, but have probably forgotten.

CALL INIT :: CALL LOAD (-31806, 16)

Type that in before you begin programming, and you will never again lose a program to that infernal FCTM = key! Use CALL LOAD(-31806,0) to enable the QUIT key.

CALL INIT :: CALL LOAD (-31888,63,255)

This shuts down all of the disk drive files and makes it possible to load programs over 12K long from tape, and copy them back to tape, without having to physically disconnect the disk drives. If you are trying to load a program from tape and you get the ERROR FOUND IN DATA message at the very beginning, it means that your program is too long — the disk drive has stolen more than 2000 bytes of your memory. Try the above.

For more (2 1/3 pages) of CALL LOAD and CALL PEEK cameands, see the July 1989 issue of LA 99ers TOPLCS.

Also from TIPS FROM THE TIGERCLUB: If you are having trouble determining locations on the screen during programming, put on a temporary grid with:

1 Call C.AR(32, "FF8080808080808")

If it won't interfeere with your graphics, you can even seaber the grid:

2 FOR J=1 TO 32

3 C=C+1-ABS(C=9)#10

4 CALL HCHAR (24, J, 48+C)

5 IF J>24 THEN 7

6 CALL VCHAR(J, 14, 48+C)

7 NEXT J

The last 3 lines are my idea to keep the grid on the screen a few seconds.

8 FOR I=1 TO 5000

9 NEXT I

10 CALL CLEAR

Do you have a file on a disk but can't get it to load? Then read an excellent article on files in the October issue of the ROCKY MOUNTAIN 99ERS. For instance, a DIS/YAR 163 file is an Extended Basic subroutine in MERGE format. To load, type MERGE DSKn.filename.

Want to combine TI-Writer and TI-Artist? Read an article in the October issue of MICROpendium by Harry Wilhelm. He has included a program called TIM+TIA that will do this. But, it requires The Missing Link (available from Texaments) in order to work. Since I am interested in this kind of utility programs (using PP99 now), I have ordered The Missing Link and will type in the TIM+TIA program as shown in the article. If I can get everything to work as he said, I will give a demo at one of the meetings in the near future.

WHO WANTS A HORIZON 3000 AT 600D DISCOUNT?

At our July 12, 1990 meeting EM Smith demonstated his battery-backed HORIZON RAM DISK. It made a hit. On July 14, as K-TOWN Secy-Treas, I wrote to Bud Mills Services for a User Group discount on four units of likely differing size. Yesterday, November 17, came Bud's reply marked on my original letter to him. His note said "Add up the total and deduct 7% no matter what items." See the following:

256K \$235 (less 7% = \$238.08) 512k \$335 = \$311.55 1 Meg \$530 = \$492.90

1.5 Heg \$730 = \$678.90

Bud's regular advertisements offer 5% discount for 5 or more units. THUS THIS 7% OFFER FOR FOUR UNITS IS EXTRA GOOD.

I'll take a 1 Meg. It's my Christmas present. Who else will join to form a group of 4? Christmas is a good excuse! Let me know by telephone of mail. I'll handle the deal once I have cash in hand.

Bob Buehler (615)689-5326 1800 Westchester Drive Knoxville, TN 37918

K-TOWN MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 8, 1990

On short notice K-Towners lost free use of the MLB Building for the Thursday night meetings. As usual, EM Smith came to the immediate rescue, by offering his rec room for November 8. He, John Bull, Bill Sheridan, Jack Sarrison, and Buehler attended. Program was to configure FWeb 4.30 as DSK3 on a MYARC RAM DSK. The demonstration was thorough! It had to be because Buehler goofed. He was to set the stage and play the recording transcribed when Charlie Good telphoned directions from Ohio some time back. EM was to operate the console. This failed for good reason. Buehler had forgotten that FWeb needed to be copied over on to the RAM DSK before configuring began. He felt mighty foolish about this because it was obvious to everyone else that configuring couldn't be done on something that wasn't even there!

So the demo had to be repeated, thus cementing the procedure more firmly than if the first time had been successful. Somehow something good can often be salvaged from failure. Well, we wont make this mistake again!

In business session, EM offered his rec room and with Bill Sheridan to continue the news letter for the remaining fiscal year provided member contributions continue. Other ideas for the future included:

- 1. K-Town members joining other User Groups to receive their news letters and passing on the good things to our group.
- 2. Checking on the status of a Regional Data Base for collecting and disbursing TI good things.
- 3. Checking to learn if MLB is available free any other night. (A faint hope)
 - 4. Rotating meeting to member's homes.

We're certainly at an important cross roads. Some good ideas are much needed; and participation TOO!!

Bob Buehler, Secy-Treas.

STUMBLINGS by Joe N. Simmons

Have you ever stumbled on to a new technique either at the computer or in another club's newsletter? It 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.

The more I enquire and the more assistance that others are providing (empecially Charles Good of the Lima Ohio Users Group) the nearer I am approaching emulation between my TI and the VCR, and my old trusty cassette player. As those who were in attendance at the Athens Club meeting when we showed Charles Good's VCR presentation of Funnelweb 4.21 saw, we soon will have the ability to create our own demonstrations. This capability is fantastic!

I am hoping that it will provide the medium whereby the Athens Club will be able to keep abreast of the latest software and demonstrations when we are unable to attend the club meetings. How often do we miss a meeting due to scheduling, sickness, lack of gasoline money, etc. I know that the expense for me to attend the K-town meeting (130 miles round trip with a 20 mile/gal vehicle is 6.5 gallons at the current gas gallon price of 1.35) is 48.75 which does not allow for the wear and tear on the car. The expense of the VCR tape and mailing it at 4th class rate according to Charles Good is about \$4.00.

Do not mis-read me, I will attend as many of the sentings as I am able for I anjoy the commande fallowship as we share common problems and concerns.

On the other hand, these tapes have already supplied me with added enthusiase for our TI endeavor. I feel it would be great to have Martin Smoley's TI BASE tutorials via a VHS tape demo. I have read and re-read his tutorials in the Cleveland Area Howsletter and I yet do not fully understand his instructions. How many times have you gotten a new piece of software and after many trial and errors have never phantomed its direction or capabilities? By the time one gets to a club meeting the frustration may be too much to bring it up. Back when we (the Athens Computer Club) were all just a local phone call away, the frustration level was not so great. Now, with us scattered, we mach have to plow our own ground alone.

When I print a letter on my GEMINI 10x printer in condensed format how do I control the page length? How long should it be? Is there instructions on the benefit and application of the pitch controls? Please do not just refer se to the printer manual!

In the Lina's Bits, Bytes, and Pixels's hint section they offer the following code for inserting the page symbol at the end of you letter: CTRL U, Shift L, CTRL U. This is handy if you write a lot of short letters or seens. It also helps in two other ways. For one, some printers don't have a form feed button and secondly, some printers don't recognize the Begin Page command.

Has anyone heard from the Forest Lane Users Sroup; P.O. Box 743065; Dallas, Texas 74374-3005? As some of you may recall, the group was made up of TI employers at the main TI plant in Ballas. I always had the impression from their newsletters that they may have been the engineers who had originally designed the 99/4a as an in-house computer. In their newsletter they seem to be always developing new endeavors and commenting on past tangents.

Everyone should review his or hers position in life once or twice and perhaps more than just once a year. No, I am not dropping off the deep end; however, it was vary somering to re-read some of my stumblings since 1984. Except for a few worthwhile stumbles, I have not revealed in my stumblings any advancement in my computing abilities.

On Thursday the 8th, Lloyd made a surprise visit.

Since Dawn's wedding in August they have had a hectic time. Among their trials, Carol loss her Mother who had been in a Mursing Home in Cullman and they survived a one car accident.

In the computer world, Lloyd is getting into Bulletin boards via his HAM radio transmitter and receiver. He is right excited about this ability. These boards are relayed through trans-receivers and can be relayed all across the USA and around the world. As we discussed the latest computer technology, Lloyd says that his parent company has a machine which can make a wax mock up of say a coffee mug which is displayed on a computer screen! The technology is propagating faster than we morons can keep up.

I visited Joel down in Chickamauga this past Tuesday evening on my way home from Talapoosa, Seorgia. Joel and Trudie attended the Chicago TI Faire on November 2, and Jrd. Tudie said she enjoyed the trip up but not the trip back the next day. As she said: "You know Joel, he can not stay any where long before he is ready to move on!". Joel demonstrated a few of the graphic programs which he had purchased. One was YAPP and the other was SIF. The SIF program displayed on screen beautiful landscrapes. Although we seemed to have only got started, two and one-half hours passed in an instant and I had to get on home. On yes!; Trudie treated me to some good black coffee and blue-berry auffins.

MAIL DAG

ART: I NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE! At Church where I amprinting up another newsletter for the area teens of our church, we have a STAR Micronics MX1000. When I print the newsletter with your newsletter software, the column portion comes out very, very condensed and the page lengths are shortned drastically! I may contact you concerning this problem prior to the publishing of the K-town's letter.

A nice addition to your program would be a meau at the beginning where one could designate the printer he would be using.

Joe: It would be great if you would write a short article on what you have done with the computer. It seems that you never are able to come through with a news article.

Enough	stumblings?	•••	0836	hours	11/19/9	0
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SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING SURVEY ENCLOSURE

FILL DUT ENCLOSED SURVEY AND RETURN TO:
MARTIN A. SHOLEY, 6:49 BRYSON DRIVE, HENTOR, OH
44060



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