

P.O. Box 373
Peterborough, Ontario
Canada K9J 6Z3
Vol. 7 No. 2

#### OTTAWA TI FAIRE

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By the time you sit down to read this, the OTTAWA TI FAIRE will be history. Did you have a good time??? Did you go this year??? Some of us at the Kawartha 99'ers make this an annual pilgrimage. Thanks to Mike Dunn's motor home, it is a comfortable ride. And in the event that we get stranded in the middle of the desert, we always take some liquid nourishment along...just in case. I mean, you never know about these things. Last year, when we went to Ottawa, we ran into some problems with road conditions. Fortunately, I took my camera along, so I was able to document the problems we had. Just have a look at the picture below!!!

The OTTAWA TI FAIRE is always well attended. There are lots of things to see and do...new software and hardware to view...lectures to attend...there are always lots of bargains for those looking for second hand hardware and software...and so on. I guess the best part of the FAIRE is the people you meet there.

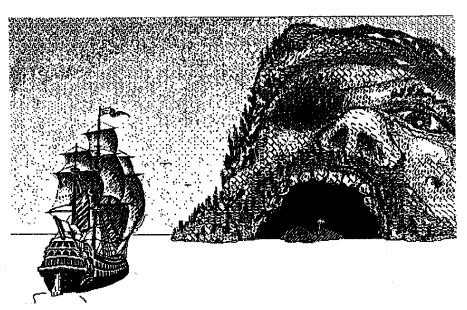
We exchange newsletters with a number of TI groups in Canada, the U.S., and England. I am looking forward to the day when I can do some travelling around the country and meet some of these people. Let me say that we, in Feterborough, appreciate reading your newsletters. From time to time you will see an article from one of your newsletters reprinted in our newsletter. They say that imitation is the highest form of flattery. Thanks.

#### BACK TO SQUARE ONE

Last month, I said that I was going to put in some beginning programming ideas. The TI Beginner's Basic is the best manual of its kind I have ever read. Having said that...I realize that this computer didn't come out yesterday and many members have long since misplaced their manuals. I'll take some of the ideas from it and put them into our newsletter. The idea here it to have fun...not become programmers for G.E.!! Enjoy!!!

John Baal - Editor

Continued over --->



## KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP

FOR USERS OF THE TEXAS INSTRUMENT 99/4A HOME COMPUTER P.O. BOX 373
PETERBOROUGH, ONT.

CANADA K9J 6Z3

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Meetings are held on the SECOND Wednesday of every month at the PETERBOROUGH POLICE DEPT. meeting room, located at the intersection of Water St. & McDonnel St. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

Membership fees are collected on an annual basis of \$18.00 per annum (individual) or a portion thereof at the rate of \$1.50 per month for the balance of the year. Family memberships are available for \$24.00 per annum or pro-rated at a rate of \$2.00 per month for the balance of the year. The group's annual meeting is held on the second Wednesday in March at which time elections for the group's executive is held. Memberships can only be held in an adult's name.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily of the KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP.

Advertisements and contributing articles for this newsletter may be given to the newsletter editor or mailed to the group's P.O. box.

The KAWARTHA 99ers would like to thank those groups who exchange information and newsletters regarding the TEXAS INSTRUMENT HOME COMPUTER with us. We endeavour to recognize and credit original authors and sources of articles of information which we reprint or make available to our membership.

The KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP is a non-profit group who welcomes any individuals who have an interest in the TEXAS INSTRUMENT HOME COMPUTER.

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#### BITS & PIECES

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#### BEGINNING PROGRAMMING

When you turn on the computer, you get the TI display screen. Fress any key. Next choose the number 1 - FOR TI BASIC.

Now, there are some COMMANDS that you can use:

NEW - wipes <u>everything</u>. It clears the screen nicely, but it also takes everything out of the <u>memory</u> of the computer. Uggghhhhh!!

CALL CLEAR - clears the screen, but does not take anything out of the memory. When you are working on a program this is the one you most often use.

RUN tells the computer to run the program for you.

FRINT - tells the computer to do just that. When you RUN the program, it will PRINT the program, it will PRINT the statements on the screen. You must put quotation marks around everything you want to print. Socooo, 14 you want to print JOHN on the screen, you hold down the FUNCTION key and press the letter F; then type JOHN; then do FUNCTION P again. It'll look like this: again. "JOHN".

LIST - tells the computer to show on your screen the program that is stored in its memory. (Aren't you glad you didn't type in NEW!!)

NUM — tells the computer to automatically number the lines of the program for you. On most computers, you have to do this yourself...and it's a nuisance.

Much more about some of these commands later. Let's get to work.

Type in NEW. (We don't want anything else in the memory.) Press ENTER. Then type in NUM and press that ENTER key again. Now, on your screen, right below NUM you have the number 100. Put the ALPHA lock key down. Now all of your programming will be done in capitals——the normal mode for programming.

Now put in the following program. Remember, you don't have to put in the line numbers. You DO have to press the ENTER key at the end of each line.

100 PRINT "DON'T WORRY" 110 PRINT "BE HAPPY!"

Now type in CALL CLEAR and press ENTER. Press ENTER again. (Now you've done it...it's gone!) Don't worry. Type in RUN. Isn't that special!

Just to prove that your program wasn't wiped, type in LIST and press ENTER. Wow! You're a programmer. You have joined the ranks of the hackers. Congratulations!

John Baal - Editor

#### HERE AND THERE

One of the most enjoyable parts to this hobby of computing is getting to know so many interesting people, and TI'ERS are a special breed. F'rinstance...Our group has been exchanging newsletters, disks and pleasantries with a number of other groups. Those folks whom I have heard from have become triends even though we have never met. Recently I had a nice letter from JoAnn Copeland of the E.A.R. 99'ers in England. A little of programs accompanied the letter (I still haven't found the time to un-archive them all yet) and through JoAnn's correspendence I am getting to feel a part of what their group is experiencing. Their group is experiencing a lot of the same frustrations and joys that we here in Peterborough are going through. It's nice to know that you are not alone!

Another individual which is becoming an important part of the KAWARTHA 99'crs these days is Rodger Merritt of COMPRODINE software. Our group is now acting as agents for his company's software and we are hoping to have a shipment ready for the OTTAWA TI FEST at the end of April. After speaking with Rodger on the phone several times it seems as though I have known him for years. His newest products sound very exciting...update for JIFFY FLYER and the new JIFFY CARD and a brand new poster printing program which will produce posters the size of a garage door! (more about these later)

Jim McLaren from the Sudbury User Group has become a good long distance buddy. Jim and I frequently phone each other or send along CARE packages when new "goodies" become available. Jim is way ahead of me in the ways of hardware and has often bailed me out by expanding my knowledge of the TI and its peripherals.

Others who have served similar services for me in the past are Bob Boone of the North Bay 99'ers, Randy Rossetto and Neil Allen of the Toronto 9T9'ers and Tom Jakabfy of the Oshawa group. Thank folks for being there when I needed you.

Finally, a little closer to home, a warm welcome to Ann Ouellette and her daughter, Julia, the newest members to our TI family.

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#### "CONSOLE-ING THE ORPHAN"

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#### POST'S PRINTER PROBLEMS

The story about a printer | this week I purchased a STAR NX 1000. Being one to not read instuctions, I found myself in a bind. But with a little help from the kids and wife, and INSTRUCTIONS, we got the printer hooked up.

Now for the test. Type in, "the printer works?" into Funnelweb and we have...nothing, back to the store? Not When all else fails, reread the instuctions. Okay. Done. Now self test the printer. No problem.

I know! Call someone at 1:30 a.m. on a Monday night. AT THAT TIME OF DAY! ARE YOU NUTS!! Go to bed and dream about the things you will be doing with a printer. So I called Phil the next night at 9:30 p.m. He looked through some books. He said he'd call back later on. He called back with the wiring for the computer and printer. I ripped into the interface and found that the cable end was hooked up backwards. I rewired the cable by the book. Now for the big test. And we had nothing. I called Phil back around 2:30. I dropped in on him and met his wife Kathie and his parents.

Then we tested the printer with Phil's computer system. It worked like a charm. We checked the interface cables. There we go. Not enough length on the grounds on my cable and it kept breaking the wires. So into work I went on Sunday to solder all the connections. 1 to 9 were okay. 10 went to 11. 16 bridged to 19-30. I got home to test and we had "0". WHAT WENT WRONG? RECHECK THE WIRING. SELF-TEST THE PRINTER AGAIN. RECHECK BOOK AND REREAD THE INSTRUCTIONS.

I called Phil on Sat. and made an appointment with him to check the printer again. So I went back down and we spent

another evening together trying to find out why it worked on his system and not on mine, Then on Sat. I called Jim Foster and went to his house and had lots of fun. The printer worked. So what the #145# was wrong?

By now, I was mad with everything and wanted to get rid of the works. But I made one more call to YOU KNOW WHO. By now Phil must have been getting tired of my calls. He said he would make a call to Oshawa. He called back the next night to give me the news...they have the NX1000, but they use an axiom.

Call Bob Boone to see if he could bring down an axiom for me. The only thing that he had was new cables. is what I needed now because of the cutting and repairs that I made to the We brought the printer to old cable. the meeting. Bob was down, as most will remember. The thing worked with the axiom. I got a cable from Bob. what?? It didn't work. Back to Phil's house to recheck the cables. Everything worked with his printer but this time (finally) his system would not work my printer. Phil made a few calls around town. There was the same answer. cable could be the problem. Then Phil called a friend in Toronto, the one who got the phantom modem to work. As Phil was talking, I saw a smile on his face heard a chuckle. After the conversaion Phil explainded that there are two versions of the STAR NX 1000 and that I must have the newer one. order to get it to work off the RS232 card, 1 will have to CHANGE EPROM---so I have been waiting for over three weeks to get the EPROM Kawartha T.V.

I got the printer in Jan. 89. We got the PROM on APRIL 7, 89. I got home after picking up the printer on Friday. GUESS WHAT? I called Phil at 7:15 p.m. TO INFORM HIM THAT THE PRINTER WORKS!

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#### VIEWS AND REVIEWS

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TI-PD CATALOG

Tigercub Software 156 Collingwood Ave. Columbus, OH 43213

During the past 7 years, a great many programmers have contributed a wealth of material to the public domain. Unfortunately, most of these programs have not been readily available to most of the TI users. Only a few of the user groups have really large public domain libraries, and even these are usually cataloged only by alphabetized abbreviated filenames. The more isolated users have even less access.

I have therefore decided to make the contents of my public domain library available to the TI world, at a copying fee so low that I hope no one will think I am unfairly profiting from the work of others (and I think you will note, in the following listings, that I have probably contributed more to the public domain than anyone else!), but if any author objects to my distributing his work I will certainly stop. My catalog contains the author's name for each program, when available, both in order give due credit and to aid in distinguishing between programs of the same name. Regrettably, many of the IUG programs distributed by Amnion have had the author's name deleted.

Fairware authors may reasonably object to anyone charging to distribute their work. I will therefore not offer any fairware unless I receive author's express permission. I will not offer anything which bears a copyright Ι definite notice unless have information that the copyright has been abandoned or was not intended to preclude distribution. It is entirely possible that I may have obtained programs from which a copyright fairware notice had been deleted, and I would appreciate being informed of any such in my catalog.

I have gone through my library of over 3600 public domain programs and selected enough of the better ones to fill over 200 disks, arranged by category. Each SS/SD disk contains as many programs as I could fit onto it, if I had enough programs of that category the number of filled sectors on each

disk is indicated in parentheses. All Basic-only programs have been converted to run in Extended Basic (except those which use the TEII speech), and an XBasic loader has been provided for assembly programs whenever possible. Each disk has been provided with an autoloader by full program name, not filename.

I have added instructions to a good many of these programs, and corrected any bugs that I noticed, but I cannot guarantee them in any way, and cannot offer to provide instructions, correct bugs or make modifications. I will of course replace any bad loads, and would appreciate being informed of any program which has serious flaws.

This public domain is offered only as a copying service, not as a sale of computer software, and I take no responsibility other than providing a copy equal to the original.

If I receive a worthwhile response to this offer, I will be adding more public domain and will be asking fairware authors if they want me to distribute their products. I am always willing to make exchanges for worthwhile public domain which is not in my catalog, and am particularly interested in getting more educational software above the primary level.

NOTE: Tigercub Software also publishes a catalog of over 120 original copyright entertainment, educational and utility programs at \$1 each, plus full disk collections at \$5, Nuts & Bolts of programmer's utilities, etc., etc. That catalog is \$1, deductible from 1st order (specify TIGERCUB catalog).

#### POST'S PRINTER PROBLEMS CONTINUED

I'm glad that there are people we can go to when we're in a bind. Again, I would like to thank PHIL, Kathie, and the dog for all the help and for putting up with all my calls, and bugging, that I did over the past 4 months.

Thanks again.

Ken and Dianne Post, Burleigh Falls, Ont.

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* CLOCKS REVISITED *

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* by Herold Hoyt *

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The program listing from our Nov 88 newsletter 'TICKS' won't work from a cold start without adding a line, 90 CALL PEEK(8198,A) :: if A()170 THEN CALL INIT, which is required for the program to RUN if INIT hasn't been called.

The program, as originally written, converts HEX DATA to base 10 data and uses "CALL LOAD" in XBasic to put the converted DATA into memory. You may substitute any HEX DATA strings representing a MEMORY IMAGE program that is RUNnable from XBasic for the DATA statements in this program, which makes it a dandy utility.

I have chosen to rework Mr. Fitchhorn's program, so that it will write the "CALL LOAD" stuff to a TEXT file, which can then be converted to a program, which may be SAVed and RUN. The extra steps required to create this new program are worth while, since you only do the extra steps once to create the new program, and the resulting new program will run much faster.

Now for the details: Two approaches have been traditionally used for having programs write other programs. One opens a file in merge format, D/V 163, and sends Basic line number DATA and Tokens to this file. The end program is then recovered by using a MERGE format to convert the D/V 163 file to an XBasic program. The second approach opens a D/V 80 file and writes a program listing to the file. The listing is then converted to an XBasic program using a utility that converts a listing to a program, such as "ENTER" in SUPERBASIC, using a TOKEN look-up table. I like the second approach better since it allows one to convert any TEXT file program listing from any machine to TI XBasic.

Assume that you have some source code that could be assembled and RUN using XBasic, such as Mr. Fitchhorn's clock program. Edit out of Mr. Fitchhorn's program just about everything but the DATA. Then, attach a subroutine that will write one CALL LOAD line of text, including the line number. Lines 1500 to 1600 do this. with opening an output file at line 110. Line 120 sets up the line # for the listing, the decimal poke address and the H\$ used in the HEX to DEC conversion. Lines 130,140 demonstrate the ability to POKE address lines to the listing directly. Lines 500 to 990 POKE the last lines to the listing, including the look-up of the "LFAL" etc. "last free address in low memory" etc.

If you have the source code of a program that will run in XBasic and want to convert it to CALL LOAD format, the following is one way of doing it, using TICK/HH as a UTILITY. To generate the HEX DATA for the program, use the Editor/Assembler cartridge and E/A disk, (not Funnelweb) to edit the source code and place an AORG statement before the first executable statement. Ordinarily, the assembler will put the first batch of relocatable code at this address. We will take over the responsibility of placing the code properly with our CALL We need to update the FFAM (First Free Address In LOAD statements. The reason I want to use the E/A cartridge version of the ASSEMBLER is to create a LISTING that shows the Source and object The AORG statement forces the assembler listing to show non-relocatable code in the LISTing. This only done for you if you load the program from Editor/Assemmbler. Be sure and NOT use the "C" Compressed object code option as this is not useable from XBasic

Well, I've finally caught up with what Dr. Tamashiro was doing 2 years ago. Don't give up on assembly language! It's the way to go!

# THE NEWS

by Phil Townsend



#### AND NOW THE TI NEWS

by Phil Townsend

Each month there are dozens of interesting and educational items in the numerous exchange newsletters that we receive each month. I will list some of them in this column. If an article, group or subject catches your interest, you can borrow the newsletter(s) hy contacting Ken or Diane fost (654-3597), our newsletter librarians. You can either pick them up at their house or they will bring them to the next meeting.

- EAST ANGLIA REGION...In March 89 this group released a double issue due to previous printing problems (I believe you, Joanne!), then soon on its heels came the April issue full of the usual terrific articles. In April's issue there are several type-in programs for those so inclined, along with hints and maps for the adventure game "PLUNDERED HEARTS". This is one newsletter that absolutely drips of love and care in its production, CHECK IT OUT! JoAnn & Scott...keep it up!
- CHICAGO TIMES...The April edition sports some real gems for hardware hackers...on page 3 an article leads you through adding a 14.31818 MHz switchable crystal to your TI. Why on earth would you want to do this, I hear you say? Increased speed, that's why. The author, Jim Derk makes it sound almost easy. This is definitely something up Bob Tisdale's alley! In the same issue is part 2 of Jan Janowski's articles re. converting the TI into a portable with installed ramdisk. All this plus a type-in program which creates a directory auto loader for disk drive users. Finally, a short article for a command file for TI-BASE can be found on page 14.
- WINNIPEG's newsletter...The Jan/Feb issue will probably be the last one that we will see, their group has decided not to exchange newsletters with other groups, but instead expect the other groups to buy their newsletters outright...sorry fellas, but we can't afford to BUY your newsletter and send you ours as well, we also have financial constraints...so long, we're here if you change your minds.

- TORONTO 9T9 newsletter...In the middle of April we received Jan., Feb. & March's issues. I'm not sure as to why the Toronto group has gone to a quarterly mailing, they certainly don't save any money on the postage. The only trouble with this method of mailing is that any time dated announcements re. Faires, shows etc. are ineffective. The newsletters are of good quality and there is quite a variety of articles. The March 89 issue has a tremendous listing of suppliers of TI hardware and software. Randy Rossetto has an article on page 6 of the same issue which shows how to add the diode in order to fix the caps lock from causing joystick problems. This method makes the change on the keyboard rather than on the motherboard so if you change the keyboard at any time you will have to redo the procedure to the new keyboard.
- SUDBURY 99'ERS...Jim McLaren has a mailing label command file for TI-BASE on page 8 of the April issue, this could be very useful for many folks.
- PITTSBURGH USER'S GROUP...In the April edition they feature part 1 of "High Res Graphics & the 99/4A" an excellent article by Anne Dhein whose articles have been featured in many newsletters.
- FRONT RANGE 99'ERS...Another excellent newsletter which in the Jan. 89 issue has Part 2 of Anne Dhein's previously mentioned article. If you want to find out what graphics programs are available for the TI and what features they each boast of this is THE article to read. Thank Anne!
- CIN-DAY USER GROUP...The March 89 issue contains an address listing of user groups mailing addresses about the size of the Lakefield phone book. If you are interested in learning what those rude error messages are when you are using a cassette then check out page 8 of this same issue.

That's it for now ... Phil

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#### "LIBRARY CORNER"

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#### V/P NOTES BY GLEN DANIELS

Boy, do the months roll around fast! It only seems like a week ago that I was typing this column for the last edition of our newsletter.

We didn't have a very good turn out at the last meeting. Are our members losing interest or are they just too busy to come out?

We are pleased to welcome our newest member and her daughter to the club. We hope they like the friendship and the benefits of our club. WELCOME ANN JULIE OUELLETTE.

WELL IT FINALLY HAPPENED... we have lost our meeting room at the Queen Alexandra Community Centre. They put the rent up beyond our financial means so we have to find another home. I have a line on a meeting room at the Peterborough Police Station on Water St. (this is for real!) If it is approved by the Chief we will begin meeting there at the May meeting. We will be phoning all the members to verify the meeting place.

If we are lucky enough to get this room the meetings will be on the <u>SECOND WEDNESDAY</u> of each month starting on MAY 10th.

By the time We have our next meeting, THE KAWARTHA COACH piloted by our past newsletter editor, Mike Dunn, will have taken us to OTTAWA for the Annual Ottawa TI-FEST. I am looking forward to this trip again and hope we have as good a time this year as we have in the past.

#### DISK LIBRARY CORNER

We didn't get a lot of disks to add to the library this month until yesterday

(the day before I was to have this article to the editor). Three archived disks arrived from the E.A.R. 99'ERS U.G. in England (THANK YOU). I haven't had time to "unarc" them but they will be on the NEW list at the meeting, and available for you to preview and copy.

Thanks to Bob Tisdale for typing the program from the news letter. We now have "CS1FINDEX" on disk, and 1 will try to have it on cassette for the May meeting.

Happy Computing GLEN

#### ALPHA LOCK

Last month, Shane and I had the opportunity to borrow the peripheral expansion box from the group. We did learn a lot from it. If anyone hasn't got this P.E. box, they definitely should borrow it from the group to see what their TI can do.

I was glad to see a few more modules added to the library because I like to relax with a few games after a long day of working or programming on the TI.

For anyone who does play a lot of games, I ran across something that might be of help. You do not have to release the Alpha lock key if you add a 1N4148 diode.

From: MICROPENDIUM Vol. 4, No. 1, Feb. 1988. Joyst TKEYBOARD MATRIX
TMS TYPLUC MATRIX
TMS APP COL

Thanks goes to the new B.C. 99'ers Newsletter, Feb. 11, 1988.

DICDE

Doris Weatherall Assistant Ed.