

The monthly Newsletter of The KAWARTHA 99'ers

P.O. Box 373 Peterborough, Ontario Canada K9J 623

Vol. 6 No. 3

FUN IN THE SUN

Well, that time of the year is tast approaching. We start thinking of ways we can once again get outside and enjoy the weather we have been so long waiting for. Unfortunately, no one has thought of a way to plug a computer into a tree so that we can have double enjoyment, the good weather and the computer. In most cases the weather wins out and the computer is shelved for the summer, club meetings are non existent, and newsletter editors are nowhere to be found.

Some enthusiasts no doubt are very disappointed and find summer a very stressful time. Rather than retiring our computers for the summer, we should be consiering ways of utilizing them at selected periods. A rainy day for example would be a good time to straighten out your disc library and label all those discs you haven't been had time to do. How about those programmes you havn't been able to fully understand and feel they could be better utilized? Here is a chance to get caught up on reading the newsletters in your club's library that you haven't had time for. Summer is a good time of the year to get caught up and be in good shape for the fall. Perhaps there are other members in your club that' would like to throttle back a bit for the summer but are interested in continuing with informal get-togethers to iron out some problems or to just pickup ideas that they may be able to use.

An excellent project would be to think ahead to the fall club meetings or write articles for this newsletter. Your submission could be in the form of an article or simply a letter to the editor. Some things you could write on (besides paper) are:

-what you would like to see done at meetings

-my favourite game or programme and how it works

-what I use my computer for

-a new twist to an old programme -unusual experiences encourtered with your computer. (We can often learn something from them!)

Another idea that comes to mind involves a column that appears in this newsletter, AND NOW THE TI NEWS. Phil has spent a lot of time and gone to a lot of trouble to read the incoming and then write this newsletters column highlighting the articles which he feels are of most interest to the membership. I feel that it would be to everyone's benefit to keep a file of this column for future reference. Now is the time to start, before you lose them. This is a new column and if you start now, the list will be complete.

As you know, summer is almost here. I will be taking my own advice and will only throttle back. This means the next newsletter will be received by you in SEPTEMBER.

HAVE A NICE SUMMER, THE EDITOR.

KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP

FOR USERS OF THE TEXAS INSTRUMENT 99/4A HOME COMPUTER

P.O. BOX 373
PETERBOROUGH, ONT.
CANADA
K9J 623

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VICE PRESIDENT	CLEN DANIELS	705 742 9869
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DISK LIBRARIAN	JIM FOSTER	705 742-8234
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MODULES LIBRARIAN	GLEN DANIELS	705 742 9869
PRINT LIBRARIAN	LINDSAY BROWN	705 932 5295
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	MIKE DUNN	705 743 0043

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at the Queen Alexandra Community Centre. 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 first Wednesday in March at which 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 are a non-profit group who welcome any individuals who have an interest in the TEXAS INSTRUMENT HOME COMPUTER.

"CONSOLE-ING THE ORPHAN"

WHY THE "TI"?

by Phil Townsend

In my work, I am an elementary school teacher, I use a number of different brands of computers. them are Apple Ile's, MacIntoshes, and Icons. The latter along with the Mac has a 32 bit processor, 512K on board with a 70 Meg hard drive. Alongside these machines sits two 16K, 16 bit TI's. One has a trackball, Axiom printer interface and Star Gemini NP10 printer (with NLQ), both have cassette drives. Guess what, my students and I use all of these computers with equal ease and enjoyment (the Mac is new to me and I am just beginning to learn how it operates.

The TI's are heavily used by my students for wordpro (Console Writer) and graphics (Paint Print), both of which are Navarone products. The Apple and the Icon computers are used for the same reasons. I am not going to compare these machines with each other, I see no point in that, I would suggest however that all of this technology is useful each in its own way. My students are learning to be "computer users" in the real sense of the term and hopefully will avoid the "Computer Snob" syndrome. are learning to use the hardware and software which fits their needs at a particular time.

"Where is this diatribe leading?" Well I am often asked, usually in a surprised tone, why there are two TI's sitting in my classroom and my answer is, "Because they help meet my students' needs." And you know what, the TI still helps to fit my needs. I still use it to teach myself more about computers.

Originally the TI was the hardware on which I learned the basics of wordprocessing, databases, programming, educational software and graphics. Lately, I entered the world of telecommunications and it is the TI that I am using to learn on, not my Apple. Why? Because of the human support system that I have developed over the vears. If I get to a point where frustration begins to darken the enjoyment, then I reach for the phone and call someone in our Users' Group to help bail me out. If that doesn't unlock the problem then I'm on the phone a little further afield to people such as Randy Rossetto and Gary Bowser of the Toronto 9T9'ers, Jim McLaren of the Sudbury 99'ers or Bob Boone of Computer Download / Ottawa 99'ers fame. With the other computer brands in my life I don't have that kind of support available. That is one of the main reasons that I am still "hooked" on the TI.

Why else is the TI technology still holding my interest, one of the reasons is that it continues to impress the many non-TI users whom I show off my Orphan to from time to time. Many don't believe what our 16K machine is capable off. In fact I don't always believe what the 99/4A is capable of!

Another reason for my continuing interest in the TI is the readily available supply οf excellent, reasonably priced, professional level software. equivalent software in versions for other brands, the cost is many times greater than what we pay. With such programmes as: Telco, First Base, TI Artist, CSGD, JoyPaint, Funnelweb and Certificate '99 being available I can hardly find the time to keep up with learning how to use the many features of all of these programmes.

With all of these reasons for keeping my interest in the 4A alive and well, "Who can ask for anything more?"

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VIEWS AND REVIEWS

AND NOW THE TI MEVS

by Phil Townsend

Bach month there are dozens of interesting and educational items. I will list some of those in this column. If an article or subject catches your interest, you can borrow the newsletter(s) by contacting Karen Wilson (742-3807), our newsletter librarian.

CIN-DAY U.G. PIQUA OH. [SSUE - 03 1988

Curious to find out how many TI user groups are out there? Well this issue gives a partial listing. It is three & a half pages long in COMPRUSED PRINT!... in the February issue there is a whole page listing of TI electronic bulletin boards...

DALLAS TI NORE COMPUTER GROUP DALLAS TX.

ISSUE - 03 1980

....Ti Artist Reference Sheet

...Pages 10-11
Jon Hodges has developed a terrific "cheat sheet" which includes most if not all of the keypresses, their functions and his comments regarding each of the features...there is also an interesting comparison of RAM DISKS (page 16) -includes florizon, Corcomp & Hyarc

L.A. 99'ERS U.G. LOS AMGELES CA. ISSUE - 02 1988

...Page 3
A terrific article on how to set up and format a newsletter using DV/80 files and a 2 column printing program (included).
...PAGE 11

for the Techies...diagram of the PR Box speech interface

ST. LOUIS 99'BRS U.G. CRESTWOOD NO. ISSUE - 03 1988

There is a reprint of an YBASIC quick reference sheet which may be of help for those wishing to do any programming.

SUDBURY 99'BRS U.G. WHITEPISE ONT. ISSUE - 84 1988

...Page 7 Jim McLaren has included a sample and explanation of how PR Base helps him keep track of his group's incoming newsletters and sets up his mailing labels for the Sudbury 99'ers newsletter.

WESTERN NEW YORK 99'ERS AMBBEST I.Y. ISSUR - 03 1988 ...Page 5

Interested in building your own Y-cable for the joystick port so that you can use Atari compatible joysticks... its all in this issue...

OTTAWA TI 99/4A U.G. OTTAWA ONT. ISSUE - 03 1988

Part 5 of a series of technical articles dealing with how to interface with the expansion port of the T1/994%

TORONTO 99'BRS U.G. TORONTO ONT. 188UB - 03 1988

... PRINTER FIX IN GRAPHICS MODE

This article features a short Basic program to feed to your printer before printing graphics to prevent white lines being left on the print out (for Epson compatible printers)

a new expansion box for the T1/9640 machines

CIN-DAY U.G. PIQUA OH. ISSUE - 04 1988

A reprint from the Charlotte TI/994a U.G. gives a clear & concise tutorial on how to add a Pause, Quit and Interrupt switch to the TI. The addition can be done for a few dollars worth of cable & switches and probably an hour of your time if you are handy. The article also explains how to take the console apart, and how to change the wideo load resistor.

L.A. 99'ERS U.G. LOS ANGELES CA. ISSUE - 04 1980

...Page 4 A comprehensive review by D.R. Pudge of Graphics Expander which was written by J. Peter Hoddie. This program is on disk. If you use C.S.G.D. and/or TI Artist you will want this new software.

...Page 14 review of RI Keys by Bill Gaskill, very clear & thorough explanation.

S.M.A.U.G 99'BRS U.G. BRENTON AL. ISSUR - 04 1988 ...Page 7-1

A reprint from the Mid South 99/4a U.G. deals with converting cassette programs to disk. A very helpful and useful article. Especially useful is the explanation of how to move programs that use all of the console's memory.

WEST PRNN 99'BRS JEAMETTE PA ISSUB - 94 1988 ...Pages 3-4

An explanation of the different parts of The Printer's Apprentice program (on disk) and what their uses are.

There are many more articles which we just don't have time to comment on, take time at the next meeting to sign out some of these resources.

"CONSOLE-ING THE ORPHAN"

STARTING A HOME DISC LIBRARY

If you are new to the disc drive side of the TI computer; you are in for the time of your life! A whole new exciting world has just opened in front of you. Gone are the days of boredom while you wait for a cassette to load your favorite programme. Gone are the days of hunting for that favorite programme on your cassette that may contain three or four other programmes. Gone are the days of suitcases for storing all those cassettes. Welcome to the days of seemingly instant programme loading, and a simple menu selection to find that programme; welcome to the joys of high speed and efficiency! With a disc and good loader programme you can select the programme you desire and have it booted up in a matter of seconds rather then minutes. Discs programmes can hold tens οf resulting in less storage and much easier accessability. A whole disc full of programmes can be copied in a matter of a couple minutes.

To run an efficient disc system you must have a good catalogue system, a good disc labeling system and finally a good disc management system. All the above are available in your club library.

The programme I recommend for cataloguing your discs is called Cataloguer. It was written by MMartin Kroll Jr. and is an excellent programme. All you have to do after booting up the Cataloguer is insert the disc to be catalogued into your drive, then make the appropriate menu selections from the main Cataloguer menu. At this point you will be making up the

file names such as games, music, etc., under which you wish to list your discs. Next, you must make another menu selection. The disc to be catalogued will be read and catalogued. It is as simple and quick as that. You can continue this until you are finished. Next, you must go back to the main menu to print out your catalogue. You have the choice of several formats to do this. The choices that are available are:

1-disc summary: lists all your discs under the different file names you made up. It also list the number of programmes on each disc and tracks available.

2-disc catalogue: lists each disc seperately, including all the filenames, programme size and type.

3-programme listing: lists all the programmes in your library, alphabetically. The listing also includes programme type, size and disc name on which it is stored.

To print labels for your discs I strongly recommend a programmme called Labler by D. Rose. It is very easy to use and even allows CSGD graphics. The one I use is the TI logo, which I feel is quite appropriate. To make a label of the programmes, use the disc catalogue section of the Cataloguer programme and print out in compressed mode. All that is required now is some cut and paste plus some mactac and immagination.

The last requirement for a well run disc system is a definate must. It is the disc management system and is available on a programme called DM1000 by Bruce Caron and Ralph

BITS & PIECES

CONT'D....DISCS

Romans of the Ottawa users group. It allows you to see the names of the programmes, their size, and type. You can also selectively protect and unprotect any programme, initialize discs, check discs for proper operation, delete programmes, copy programmes, and change programme names. All the above can be done at the push of a button, in a matter of seconds.

Well, what do you think of that, en? Sure beats a cassette system -right? If you are still not sure, ask for a demonstration at our next meeting. Anyone with a disc drive will be more then willing to show you.

MIKE DUNN

HARDWARE FOR THIS MONTHS MEETING

CONSOLES.....M. DUNN, J. Armstrong

PE BOX.....STEVE WRIGHT

PRINTER.....JIM FOSTER

CASSETTE.....BOB MATHEWS

POWER BARS, CABLES, ETC...L. BROWN

Thanks ahead of time to those above. If you cannot make the meeting please give Glenn Daniels a call so that he can make alternate arrangements to supply the equipment.

V.P. NOTES BY GLEN DANIELS

Here we are again coming into summer with all kinds of things to be done; grass and dandelions to be cut, flower- beds to be dug and planted, and certain people bugging for a column in the news letter!

Bob Boone of Computer Download Unlimited was at our last meeting with his usual pile of TI "stuff". It is always a pleasure to meet and talk with Bob about what is happening in the TI world. Tom Jakabfy and a couple of other members of the Oshawa Group made it down to the meeting and spent some of their hard earned money.

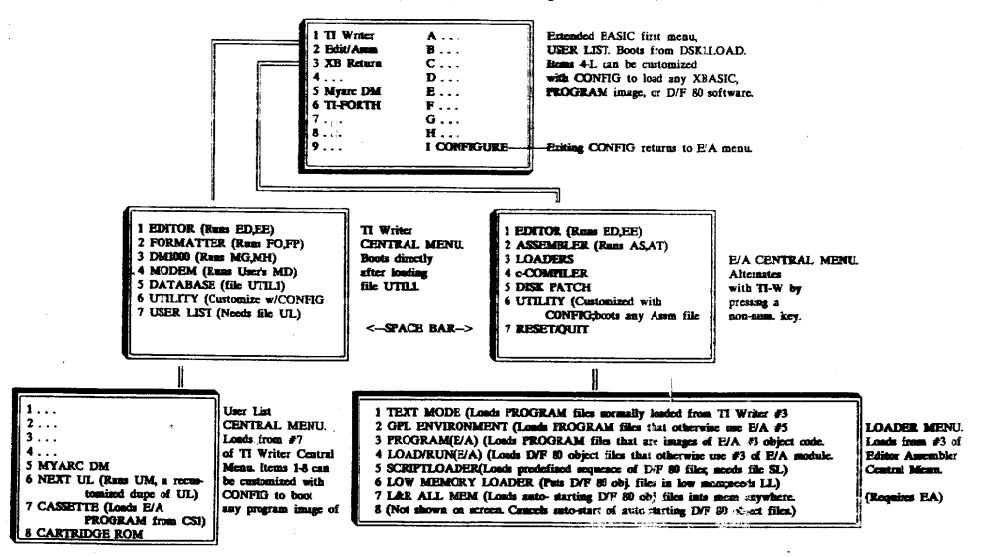
Now I need some HELP!!... When I bought my DATA TRAIN DM1200A modem. the cable that came with it had a male and a female end on it, but I needed two male ends so I looking for a gender changer to try the modem out. Dob Boome didn't have one with him so he loaned me a cable. That cable didn't work for some reason, although it checks out okay on the ohm- meter. I picked up a gender changer on my next trip to Toronto but I still can't get any data on my monitor. I logged on to Jamie Skinner's Kawartha BBS. could receive my data but I couldn't receive anything from him, although the RD (Receive Data) light was flashing on my modem. Anyone out there have any thoughts on this problem? I am using Telco V 1.3 for software

Hope to see a good turnout at the next meeting on Wednesday, June 1st.

HAPPY COMPUTING, GLEN

FUNNELWEB 4.0 MENU FLOW CHART

FCTN-7 (AID) from any of those means gives a disk directory.



Reformatted by Robert Simms from versions printed in the Lima, Ohio Users Group newsletter.