KHUBRTHE KROBLELE

PETERBORONON, ONT.

The monthly newsletter of The Kowortha 99'ers

224 Woodward Ave Peterborough, Ont Canada K9L 1J7

Vol.8 No. 09

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FEBRUARY 1991 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Laser Printers... the Cadillac of printers??? You bet!

And the good news is that they have come down in price. Do you remember the "good old days" when the "break through was \$5000 US? You can buy fourteen laser printers for under \$1700 US. That means there are several for under \$1000 US.

Now I don't want you all running to the store to buy one of these super-duper printers. First, there are other price considerations. You have to keep buying this filthy black powdered stuff called toner. A "respectable" price for this is 2.7 cents per page. Then there is the paper.

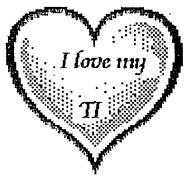
It will be a while before this writer runs out to buy one. However, there are business people, even in our small club, who might be interested. Besides, it's a tax write-off.

Here are some buying tips:

- A personal laser printer (under \$1000 US) in the 4- to 5- ppm (page per minute) speed range produces **graphics** almost as fast as as 8-ppm laser printers. You might consider a 4-ppm unit with PostScript over a plain-jane machine with 8-ppm in the same price range.
- If you're doing graphics, you will need 1 MB to 2 MB total memory. Check prices of third party memory modules.
- Check if the price of the unit includes the toner cartridge. If it doesn't, it will cost you \$75+US more.
- Some personal laser printers come with only a 50-sheet tray. If you want the 200sheet tray for paper, you could pay another \$200 US for it.

Incidentally, for dot matrix **Continued on page 3...**





KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP

FOR USERS OF THE TEXAS INSTRUMENT 99/4A HOME COMPUTER 224 WOODWARD AVE.

PETERBOROUGH, ONT.

CANADA K9L 1J7

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NEWSLETTER LIBRARIANS	KEN/DIANNE POST	705 654 3597							
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	JOHN BAAL	705 745 1438							

Membership fees are collected on an annual basis at the annual meeting. Fees are \$24.00 per annum. New members joining part way through the year are charged the rate of \$2.00 per month for the balance of the club's fiscal 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. Out of town members are most welcome.

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, sent to the group's mailing address or uploaded to the S.S.F.C. bulletin board (TI section) at 705 749 5538, 24 hours a day (8N1).

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.

Laser printers...continued from page 1

users, each 1ppm of laser printer speed equals 48 characters per second (cpi). However, laser printers feed at the same speed if the text is double-spaced or single-spaced. So you can't really compare lasers with dot matrix. Many of the low-priced lasers share

something in common...they're all driven by the same engine...the 6-ppm TEC 1305. They usually come with 512K memory. So don't pay more than \$1000 US unless it has other goodies.

John Baal.....Editor

FUNNEL WEB

Our club has followed up on Jack Sughrue's challenge. I am referring to the New/Age Special that we ran in the January newsletter. Jack was emphasizing the importance of the FUNNELWEB program. Folks, we are in the "Information Age". The way we correspond with one another is through word processing. This is the area of TI environment FUNNELWEB addresses. As Jack Sughrue has said..."Can you imagine TI without FUNNELWEB?"

Phil Townsend has the newest edition of FUNNELWEB, version 4.31. As a courtesy to our club members. Phil is making copies of this. It is available to club members for \$15 each. Except for the cost of the blank disk, all of this amount is being sent to the McGoverns in Australia. FUNNELWEB is not a commercial production. McGoverns are very talented amateurs. This material is fairware. If you use it and think that it is worthwhile, you are morally bound to send the author a donation. Many don't. Suppose you had spent hours cutting firewood and

all your neighbours came and helped themselves. Wouldn't **you** expect some kind of payment for your work?

Phil has already collected \$15 from members at the January meeting. More copies will be available at the February meeting. When Phil has all of the money in, he will send a money order, along with a letter of thanks to the McGoverns in Australia. What we hope is that we can keep this talent in the TI world. To put this amount into some kind of perspective for you, \$15 is less than half a tank of gas in my truck. It isn't a lot of money!!! Please help to keep the McGoverns' talent in the TI domain.

I hope that other groups across Canada and the United States and in England will read this newsletter and follow our lead.

John Baal.....Editor

MAR 1991						APR 1991 -							
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Phil Townsend

The last meeting (01 09 91) was attended by many of the faithful. A few folks who weren't with us missed an enjoyable and busy time. First we discussed invitation from the Ottawa 99 U.G. to support attend their annual TI Computer "FEST", if it is The held this year. suggested dates for tentative TI Faire this - 1° either April 20th or April 27th. Our members voted to support the Ottawa group bч attending the FEST as a U.G. and also as a vendor with all of the Comprodine and Great Lakes software Software packages. I have informed the Ottawa group of our decision. We thank them for their interest and endeavour in hosting another FEST. We will do our part in promoting the event.

The next item concerns our scheduled Demonstration Day at Lansdowne Place. We are scheduled to be at the mall on Feb. 16th, 1991. Thus far a few of the members (the senior portion of the group) have informed us that they will not be able to attend as they will be sunning themselves on some remote sandy beach! The nerve!!

So... it is up to the rest of us to hold down the fort, to mix, mingle brag about our favourite "Orphan" to the general populace. This is one the best ways for us ofto meet up with all of those closet TI'ers around the area. The more we hear, have one of those in the attic!" etc., the better

chance we have increasing our membership. Not only do we help out the group, but we have a heck of a good time doing it! It is also another great excuse...I mean reason to get a chance to play with the TI. How comes the pitch...WE NEED YOU! Please let me know what time on the 16th YOU can be Lansdowne Place to help out. The morning sets up at 8:30 a.m. so that everything is in place by the time the mall opens. The afternoon shift packs up around 3:30-4:00 p.m. My home phone # is 745-3757 so please call right away and let me know what you have available for that day. I don't have time to phone every member, please call ME. Even you can make it for an hour or two we want you to part of this event and NEED YOUR HELP! ... Thanx

Club funds looked little skimpy according the January bank balance, however things are never as bleak as they may seem at first and so is the case here. Karen, our treasurer. assures me that she has a sizable deposit to make which will cover our expenses to the end of fiscal year at the end of February. Иē aren't wealthy, but wе solvent!

Due to the increased costs that the G.S.T. Canada Post have caused in production and distribution of our newsletters the club needs to increase membership fees for the next Beginning in March when membership renewal time arrives, fees will from \$1.50 per month \$2.00 per month.

The members present at the

January meeting instituted a motion for this increase. Following lively some discussion and some wondrous suggestions for fund-raising the motion wascarried unanimously. The annual fees which will due on the March meeting will be \$24.00. This is the first increase in six years and I for one think that ${ the}$ cost is worth everu penny considering the services that our group has to offer. I hope that чоц feel Llie same way. Hope our current long distance members (Kathie & ·Tim, Mike and Gary feel that the information that theu receive from us and the services available warrant their continued support οf our group. By the way, in 1991 our long distance members will be receiving programs from our club libraries, without extra charge we will usethe most suitable media, disk/cassette. The first one will be mailed out teron of receipt your 1991 membership fees.

For any members who areunable to attend the March meeting, please forward cheque or money order for your annual dues $\pm \alpha$ the club - t OTEL mailing address. Cheques should be payable to THE KAWARTHA 99'ERS. Keen in mind that this is YOUR user group, YOUR tape, module, diskprint & libraries, YOUR meetings and YOUR newsletter. Ιt can only survive with YOUR money!

Begin to think about group executive positions...The annual elections will bе held at the March meeting. Nominations will be held the February meeting, i f you are not there you 事るな be nominated...'nuff said?

ss ENEMIR ss

ONTARIO COMPUTER FAIR ... St. Lawrence Morth Market, Toronto - 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Adm. \$4.00 ...01/27

LANSDOWNE PLACE DEMO ... -02/16

COMPUTER FEST '91 ...
Hobby Building,
Exhibition Place, Toronto
Fri; Noon - 9 p.m.
Sat & Sun; 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Adm. \$7.00
...02/22-23-24/91

COMPU\$ALE ...
Automotive Building
Exhibition Place, Toronto
Fri; Hoon - 9 p.m.
Sat; 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sun; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Adm. \$6.00
...03/08-09-10/91

OTTAWA TI-FEST 04/20-04/27

LIMA TI FAIRE....05/17-18

CONGRATULATIONS: to the following members; Lindsay Brown... for finally obtaining his RS232 card Dick Bulmer... for .ioinina many of us and purchasing a double half-height, DS/DD Expansion box. Dick now the greatest disk capacity system the i n club. Congrats for having such good taste, Dick. By the way, Dick's system is coming allthe way from California. Ken Diane and Post have invested in their SECOND expansion system has Glen Daniels and I now three have expanded systems, that's what I call TI satisfaction! There i = **s**till another expansion system available

Keep on "CONSOLE-ING" the

locally.

W-AGE/99 * NEW-AGE/ 99 * NEW-AGE/99 * N EW-AGE/99 * NEW-AGE /99 * NEW-AGE/99 *

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# \* by JACK SUGHRUE, Box 459, East Douglas, MA 01516 \* #12

## MICKEY REVISITED

Last time in NEWAGE I spent lots of time talking about Mickey Schmitt's two books (THE ADVENTURE REFERENCE GUIDE, \$9.95 + \$2 S+H, from Asgard, Box 10306, Rockville, MD, 20848, and GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR CASSETTE SYSTEM, \$9.95 + \$2.50 S+H, from the author - Mickey Schmitt, 196 Broadway Avenue, Lower Burrell, PA, 15068). In the interim, also written a lengthier article about the new and wonderful ways to use cassettes based upon Mickey's cassette book which appeared There are a couple of disks available for user groups (or individuals) who have cassettes still active. These two different chock-full disks include all the items referred to by Mickey and many others not yet mentioned by her and can be gotten for a shipping/handling fee each by asking for "Cassette Master Disk" from M.U.N.C.H., 560 Lincoln Street, P.O. Box 7193, Worcester, MA. "TI PD 1205.1 Cassette Utilities" from Tigercub, 156 01605-7193; and Collingwood Avenue, Columbus, OH, 43213. Add an extra \$1 to Tigercub's disk request and ask for Jim Peterson's PD Catalog, the largest collection of the best of the least expensive treasures in the TI World.

If your user group hasn't yet purchased Mickey's cassette book and used it as a fund-raiser, then your group is missing a great opportunity to make some green.

Some other things have happened since I wrote that original article. Mickey has formed a new - NEW! - company of all TI stuff.

Doesn't that have a nice ring to it? A new TI company. The MS stands for the two partners: Mickey Schmitt and Mike Sealy. They can be reached at MS EXPRESS SOFTWARE, P.O. Box 498, Richmond, OH 43944. This dynamic duo made their professional debut at the Chicago Fair in November and released a pile of stuff:

ADVENTURE HINTS (Series I) by Lynn Gardner, which is unique in help concepts for adventurers. Each hint loads into the console in the same way the Adventure Module disks load. In addition to loading as standalone help, these hints can also be loaded into the specific programs and called up from a running program! These disks include built-in maps AND hardcopy maps. Nice feature. This first series includes some of the adventures written by Mickey and Lynn: OLIVER'S TWIST, RATTLESNAKE BEND, ZOOM FLUME. The same kind of two word (noun/verb) commands are used to ask for help, so there's no need to use all kinds of colored cellophane papers, special invisible ink pens, plastic decoding devices, whatever. Requires Adventure Module or interpreter.

GALACTIC EMPERORS by Eric Kepes, an Extended BASIC, multi-player, strategic simulation program. You and one, two, or three others are each trying to thwart opponents by accessing control to all the planets in the galaxy. Shades of the Darth Vader! There are decisions you and your opponents make beforehand (such as the number of planets) before the computer generates (new each time) the playing grid. Although many random events occur during the game play, the game is a mentally

challenging activity that can be saved to continue play at a future date.

(Both of the above are \$9.95 + \$1 S+H and require the standard minimum configuration of one SSSD drive and 32K.)

Finally from MS EXPRESS, there are SLIDING BLOCK PUZZLES (Series I) and SLIDING BLOCK SOLUTIONS (Series I) each \$7.95 + \$1 S+H and both by Norman Rokke, the same person who brought you the extraordiary Fairware graphic/text program "1000 WORDS," one of the very best of its kind ever.

this case. Norman has transcended the "normal" sliding block puzzles with which we are so familiar. In the late 1800's Sam Loyd, America's most ingenious puzzle maker at the turn of the century, created the 14-15 sliding block puzzle. There are lots of these out for the TI. The best I've seen is Chris Bobbitt's Public Domain version of many years ago and in all group libraries.

These puzzles, however, are considerably more challenging than the There are three on this disk and all can be saved in

mid-game, so one doesn't have to begin all over again.

The first consists of nine different-colored tiles and supposedly can be solved in 59 moves. Puzzle #2 is made up of 10 blocks and could be completed in 81 moves. The hardest (#3, of course) has 11 shift and can be solved in 90 moves. A colored monitor or TV to go with your XB, 32K, and minimum disk drive system are required.

You need the these puzzles before you get the solutions' disk, which provides the help you need for each puzzle in little pieces so as not to ruin the game for you. Very user-friendly, like all things Norman does. And, of course, ingenuity by him is taken for granted.

Now that we have a new company supporting Tlers, let's hope the TI Community supports the new company. Your support will encourage even more authors to stay with and write for the 99.

I continue to get letters from cribbage buffs all over the TI World asking about a program I reviewed last year. The program is written by Gene Hitz. He even rewrote it after I gleefully stated how I found a way to cheat on the "Go". He chastised me for cheating our little 99 Now, the computer catches me each time when I try. This program is called "Cutthroat Cribbage" and gives you a muggins if you count incorrectly. It's fun to play and is fast and friendly. The game can be purchased for \$7 from ARCADE ACTION, Program Innovators, 412 Glenway, Wawatosa, WI 53222. Actually, for \$10 you get a diskful of The game games, including a nice version of TETRIS and piles of others. are a cribbage player, I'd recommend this game highly. If you'd like to learn the game, ask for the longer version (though I think he sends both versions, anyway), because this will give you the option to have the computer count up any combinations to see how things are scored. get yourself a HOYLE's from the library and play your TI until you got the game down pat. Excellent midnight companion.

Besides TIGERCUB's \$1 catalog of Public Domain disks (truly the BEST the TI World), everyone should send off for Asgard's newest catalog. Asgard's latest, particularly for Page Pro owners, is a mouth-watering collection of delectable delights. For game players, William Reiss's TOURNAMENT SOLITAIRE (which includes - along with KLONDIKE - PYRAMID, GOLF, COMERS, PILE-UP, CANFIELD, and CALCULATION) is teriffic. But call or write for the free catalog and notice the high level of your droolability.

(If you use NEW-AGE/99 please put e on your exchange list.)

W-AGE/99 \* NEW-AGE/ 99 \* NEW-AGE/99 \* N EW-AGE/99 \* NEW-AGE /99 \* NEW-AGE/99 \*

#### \* by JACE SUGHRUE, Box 459, East Douglas, MA 01516 #13

#### the VCR CONNECTION

I think one of the most exciting things to happen in our 99 world is the advent of tutorial and conference videos.

Almost everyone has a VCR, the ownership of which can now open new worlds to 99 and Geneve users. Now that VCFs are coming down in brice, more and more groups and individuals are using this tool to enhance their computer activities and share their computer knowledge.

The unquestioned master of this new genre is Dr. Charles Good of the Lima. Ohio. group. Videos have been around for some time and made their first TI existence about five or six years ago at the Chicago Fair. Some of the big-wiggies were interviewed and some screens were shown of different pieces of software. This amateur tape circulated for a year or so around lots of user groups. We (then still in the millions, it seemed) watched transfixed as new ani exciting things were explained and hours. It is sorely needed. shown to us.

Ther drought.

Well, even though there were some other videos around here andthere. the drought really ended when Charlie took up the cause with a vengeance. Not only does the Lima group make a monthly tape of the demos of their meetings, but they have amassed a vast TI tape library. TI MODULES, TI MULTI-USER GROUP CONFERENCE 1988, CONFERENCE 1989 (2) tapes), CONFERENCE 1990 (3 tapes), MBX REQUIRED GAMES, FUNNELWEB v4.2 about 50 hours! They are filled with all sorts of people demonstrating being able to perform FWB magic after viewing this tape. (or discussing or teaching) all sorts of TI things. I'll list a few.

XB with assembly routines Harold Hoyt - useful applications of Steve 647, Venedocia, OH 45894. Karesek's SUPER BASIC: Irwin Hott - using ALSAVE to imbed assembly code with an XB program; Bill Hudson - an assembly language prescan for XB; Multiplan Tutorial - presented by Great Lakes Computer Group; PLUS! demonstrated by Jack Sughrue: Geneve - demonstrated by Edu Comp; Horizon Ramdisk - discussed by Bud Mills; Home Control 99 - demonstrated by Paul Wheeler; The Future of User Groups - discussion led by Charles Good and Dave Szippl of the Lima Group; A Blind Person Using the TI demonstrated by Irwin Hott: NUTS & BOLTS - demonstrated by Jim Peterson: GENE HII - denonstrated by Dick Berry: Output to a VCR - shown by John Perkins: 1000 WORDS - author Norman Rokke demonstrates this Artist/text conversion file; Barry Traver - contents of Genial Traveler and linking XB to assembly via CALL LINK; Chris Bobbitt - recent and future releases from Asgard; Andy Frueh - music programming on the 4a; Ron Markus - the DIJIT AVPC 80-column card; Jim Horn - services on COMPUSERVE; Nartin Smoley - TI BASE tutorial: Paul Scheidemantle - converting from one Artist format to another and tips and tricks: Steve Karasek - SUPERBASIC 2.0; Karl Romstedt - Panorama, a new artist program; Milo Tsukroff -MX-DOS v3.0 an icon/joystick based program loader with disk management features: Beery Miller - future software for the Geneve: Jim Peterson using Don Shorock's Kana Filer that speaks and writes (with TEII)

Japanese and drills vocabulary: Bruce Harrison - secrets of assembly language programming to make TI music: Gary Bowser - Rambo review module library box; Gary Taylor - demonstration of TI's Compact Computer 40. TI's Her Bux peripherals, and Mechatronics Hex Bus Drive; and lots more.

This should cive you a good idea of the kinds of things available each May just from the annual Lima Fair 'called "T.I. Multi User Group Conference," for some unknown reason) Each of these six-hour tapes use cameras on the tutor while cutting into the screen electronically when something is being shown. These tapes get better and better each year. and the editing techniques are superb. Although I haven't been able to attend the last two years. I felt I got a big part of the fair sent to me. I know a lot of other homebound TI acquaintances feel the same It's no real substitute for being at the fair, of course, but it's a great second best. The TI experts are at your beck and call in your home any time you want them.

In addition to all these fair tapes, there are numerous "single theme" jobs also available. Don Alexander of Macon, Georgia, for example, does a fine job with the Geneve. I think this one is better for someone who has used the Geneve for awhile, though. I hope someone eventually does a truly step-by-step basic tutorial of the Geneve, maybe even a full six

Charlie has also done theme tapes, such as MBX (where he steps through all the MBX modules and UNRELEASED (where he plays and discusses all the delightful unreleased TI modules). I found both these tapes fascinating, particularly the UNRELEASED, as I could load them onto my SUPERCART or my GENEVE Charlie's FUNNELWEB 4.2 DEMC is a classic. The viewer is taken through every step of the FWB configuration process that I have on my desk (all from lima) the following: NEVER RELEASED OFFICIAL (for some strange reason) frightened so many people. Though the tape is similar to Charlie's tutorials in the BITS, BYTES & FIXELS newsletter he edits for Lima, it is far more extensive and much clearer, as you can DEMO, and DON ALEXANDER'S GENEVE SOFTWARE DEMO. These 10 tapes run see and hear everything being done live. I can't imagine anyone not

To get more information about these tapes (and/or join the Lima Group Karl Romstedt - friendly general loader and label printing software in by mail which I would HIGHLY recommend), contact Charles Good, PO Box

#### ANOTHER GOLDEN GOODIE

There is another creat video now available to TI owners: the. full-length LOGO video done by Eunice Spooner (RFD 1, Box 3720, Webb Road, Waterville, ME 04901). It is wonderful! It also comes with a disk full of lots of the items she demos and a hardcopy listing of the items and footage for easy tape locations.

Eunice is a certified elementary teacher and it is obvious on this tape. She's teriffic: kind patient, step-by-step logical, no panic; and she makes everything seem easy and fun. Which it is, if you do the things she suggests.

I always liked LOGO. Then I put it away for a long time. After viewing this tape and trying her programs. I discovered I \* IOGO.

If you own LOGO, get this package instantly. At \$10 it is a total steal. And it is used as a fundraiser to support the only ALL KIDS TI USER GROUP IN THE WORLD! If you don't own LOGO, buy it instantly. (It's on sale everywhere CHEAP! I said \$117 for my first and recently bought an unboxed one for \$15.) But, new or used, pick one up for this video/disk set alone. You'll rediscover the joys of computing and the real fun (and learning, which is why it is fun) of your remarkable 4a.

[[[ you use HEM-102/99 places put m on your exchange list.]