KAWARTHA

KRONICLE

PETERBOROUGH, ONT

The monthly newsletter of The Kowartha 93'ers

224 Woodward Ave Peterborough, Ont Canada K9L 1J7

Vol. 9 No. 1

KAMARTHA

* OFF TO OTTAWA *

APRIL 1991

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This is positively the last article that I'll write on printers. And why am I writing about laser printers again? You say that you'll never own one. Are you sure?

These things fascinate me. Please bear with me I'm not about to run out and buy one ...yet. But they will come down in price even more. I think. Both the *PC MAGAZINE* of Nov. 1990 and the *MacUser* of Oct. 1990 had good articles on lasers. This is a capsule comment on them. But you should check the original articles if you want more information.

One of the interesting things about a laser is how it works. It is something like a photocopier. A laser beam scans across a photosensitive drum. The

drum has a negative charge. A series of mirrors directs the beam onto the rotating drum. Where the beam hits the drum, it creates a spot with a positive charge. The laser is turned on to print a dot and left off where there is a space. So the laser "writes" a series of positively charged dots in a horizontal line across the drum. Negatively charged particles of toner jump on to the positively charged dots.

that horizontal line on the drum, a stepper motor turns the drum to receive the next line. Positively charged paper then goes over the drum and attracts the toner from it. Heated rollers fuse the toner to the page and the printed page comes out.



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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PRESIDENT	PHIL TOWNSEND	705 745 3757
VICE PRESIDENT	GLEN DANIELS	705 742 9869
TREASURER	KAREN WILSON	705 742 3087
DISK LIBRARIAN	GLEN DANIELS	705 742 9869
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MODULES LIBRARIANS	KEN/DIANE POST	705 654 3597
PRINT LIBRARIAN	LINDSAY BROWN	705 932 5295
NEWSLETTER LIBRARIAN	BOB TISDALE	705 742 8589
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	JOHN BAAT.	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.

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How do you increase the definition??? If you turn the laser on and off faster, it produces more dots as it moves horizontally across the drum. You can reduce the intensity of

the laser the dots will be smaller. This increases the resolution. Then you can make the stepper motor take smaller increments. This increases the resolution vertically.

STUFF FROM THE EDITOR

The **Kawartha Koach** runs again!!! There is one small difference...Mike can't make it, so Phil is taking his van.

The Kawartha Koach leaves Phil's place around 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 26. It returns Saturday evening. Please call either Phil (745-3757) or Glen Daniels (742-9869) for reservations. Seriously, we are booking hotel rooms next week, so we do need to know how many are going.

The Ottawa TI Faire is an annual outing for our club. We feel that it is well worth while supporting, and besides, it is lots of fun.

The plan is to motor to the Capital City and then have dinner at a Chinese restaurant that we have been known to frequent. We'll meet a lot of the TI folks there. Discussions usually proceed into the evening.

On Saturday morning, after breakfast, we'll set up a table at Merrivale Secondary School. We meet **more** TI types while we sell software. Several other

tables will be set up to sell **you** things that you just can't do without!!! There are seminars to attend. There is a room full of used TI stuff.

We usually have dinner on the way back to Peterpatch while we discuss all of the people we saw and all of the great junk that we bought.

MEMBERSHIPS

If you haven't already paid your dues, they are due. We realize that people are busy and sometimes forget, but our account would really bank appreciate it if you could send your cheque, for \$24, made out to Kawartha 99'ers, to Karen Wilson (call 742–3087 for her address) or any one of us. We'll make sure that it gets to Karen. If we haven't heard from you by the end of May, we'll, regretfully, take you off the mailing list.

For those of our out-of-town members who have cassettes, I am sending out an article on using the cassette to store files. I hope that you find it useful.

John Baal..... Editor

"Console-ing the Orphan"

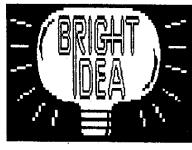
April, 1991

SPRINGING AHEAD!

by Phil Townsend

One day snow, the next comes rain and fog. I'm not sure what is going on with the weather but it is sure giving me with great excuses to stay near the keyboard! There is so much to cover this month, let's get started!

"BLOWN" DISKS... A NOVEL



early December our group received a Christmas disk from B.C the 99'ers. (I hope I sent "thank a you" - if not, here it is. "THANK

YOU!").

As usual Canada Post did their utmost to deliver it to us. In fact in order to keep the package safe from the cruel winter elements, the local mailman even went so far as to neatly fold the package in half so that the lid of my mailbox would close and the disk wouldn't get covered in snow. How thoughtful! Had the kindly civil servant bothered to read and comply with the "DON'T BEND" stickers half covering the envelope, I wouldn't be able to write to you about this latest technique in disk manipulation.

Back to the story... Upon opening the somewhat mutilated package I found the disk to have several well pressed creases across both sides of the media. The creases were so sharp my dry cleaners would be envious! I tried to bend the disk, with great care, in the opposite direction to its customized folds, but to no avail. I tried flattening the flipping floppy overnight under a large number of encyclopedia.

The next day the disk would barely rotate in the drive but the "heads" just couldn't make "tales" out of it! My anger had turned to frustration and the disk, I thought, might make a terrific frisbee. I was desperate now to find out what goodies had existed on that piece of magnetic film and I was imagining that somewhere some sneering little postal worker was chuckling with perverse glee at my predicament.

Undaunted, I took to desperate measures, but only by accident. Our family furball had needed a bath due to that "doggie" smell which often accompanies those canines which insist in rolling about in winter slush. As we

were drying her off with a blow dryer which uses about 40,000 watts. I thought to myself, "Could this be used to some advantage on that previously frozen floppy?".



Leaving the dog somewhat damp around the edges. I rushed the blow dryer into the computer room. I fired up the little warm air mover to full power and blasted the crumpled disk. As I watched, the disk became limp and pliable. The creases became less pronounced and began to straighten somewhat. I quickly slid the disk into a tyvec sleeve and laid it under a wooden chessboard piled high with the same encyclopedia set used the previous night.

Several hours later, I gingerly removed the "blown" disk from under the weight. It had ceased to glow and I found that the creases were much less pronounced than before. In fact many of the ridges had disappeared in several spots. Now for the moment of truth, EH! I fired up the expansion box, inserted the disk, chose XBasic and held my breath...NOTHING! The drive shut down and the screen was "READY". "Maybe there's no loader," I thought hopefully. At least the disk was able to spin freely in the drive now.

"Console-ing the Orphan"

Cont'd.

Firing up DM1000 from the ramcard, I tried to list the disk. Hesitantly the disk catalog jerked up onto the screen. There were those missing files! They could be catalogued but not run. Now to find out if they could be copied! Using the file copy utility DM1000 ground the read head with agonizing slowness. Bit by bit the files found themselves transferred to a ripple-free floppy. The wonders of technology, EH? The newly

created disk was slipped into drive one, the system was activated and behold, the sweet sounds of Christmas music flowed forth from my TI. I smiled... peace to all



mankind, well at least to most of them. There's a certain letter carrier I'm having a hard time feeling charitable toward.

I don't guarantee that resorting to such drastic measures will work every time you run into some difficulty with the post office. However, it is nice to know that some of life's irritations and annoyances can be "blown away". I'm the one now who has a little chuckle each time I spot the letter carrier walking up my driveway.

TRIPPING TO THE BIG T.O.

During the March Break a number of the KAWARTHA 99'ers trekked to Toronto along with Tom Jakabfy of the OSHTI user group. Our first stop of the morning was to drop by Randy Rossetto's place of employment to pick some PE box expansion Unfortunately, Randy had to work, unlike the members of our contingent who were on holiday or are retired. After a short visit where we learned that Randy and a few other members of the 9T9 group will be visiting the Lima, Ohio TI Faire on the long May weekend. Our group will be well represented as will OSHTI, right Tom?

After visiting with Randy, we next headed

to the O.P.A. building. We made somewhat slow progress, the traffic was fine but Tom was navigating from a seat somewhere in the back of the van. Eventually, we met up with Gary Bowser, owner of O.P.A. hardware/ software manufacturer. Several of us purchased "RECALLIT +2", a mailing list program (see write up elsewhere in this issue). Tom was looking for a "TIM" card and an "SOB" card. These are the cards which plug into the console and enable you to get an 80 column display with an analog monitor. Gary had had a run on the cards on the previous weekend and didn't have any in stock. Tom had to make another trip later in the week.

Once the visiting, purchasing and demonstrating had run its course we headed off, with Gary, downtown to "Active Surplus", our favourite rummaging spot for electronic (and other) stuff. Next came lunch at "T.J.'s", a real greasy spoon. T.J.'s is a favourite of Tom's for some reason.

After visiting several more coputer stores and finding some great bargains we took the scenic route home. Everybody gave suggestions as to where I should go, and as usual I tried to grant everyone's wishes. It was a great day, everyone came home with some treasures. Several people who weren't able to go had their requests filled. I hope more of the members will be able to join us in future on one of these club jaunts.

WRESTLING WITH RAMBO

Having had an opportunity to work with the program "RECALLIT +2" from O.P.A. software I have discovered all kinds of things about it. The program was written by Cecil Chin of the 9T9 user group of Toronto. Credit is also given to O.P.A.

RECALLIT +2 is a mailing list database program which only works with a Horizon 3000 ramdisk, from Bud Mills Services, equipped with RAMBO from 0.P.A. I currently have version 1/26/91. The program

is made up of 6 files; "RECALLIT", "RECALLIU", "RECALLIV", "RECALLIW", "LOAD" and "NOTES". Somehow the example file didn't get copied onto my disk when Gary made the copy for me. The program comes with very readable manual although it is not very thorough.

The files can be copied onto your ramdisk. If you are using John Johnson's "MENU" loader which comes as part of the ROS 8.14 software for the horizon card, you do not need to the "LOAD" program. The program can be run off floppy disk as long as you have the above mentioned hardware configuration. There must be some unused, unformatted memory on your ramdisk for this program to create and hold files. The greater amount of unallocated memory, the greater the number of records that can be held in the file, up to a maximum of 4000 records. The files can be saved to the ramdisk, a hard drive or a floppy drive (drives 1-9,*A-Z).

The drive default is set to DSK1, I have used a sector editor to change the default to DSK7 which is the ramdisk allocation that I have chosen. You can change the default to whatever you want if you know how to use a sector editor. It would be more helpful if these kinds of configurations were available through a menu in the program.

The printer commands can be configured within the program. You will need your printer manual to put in the correct commands for compressed, expanded, elite and pica pitches for your brand of printer. Unfortunately, the set up is saved with the file rather than as part of the program, so you have to enter the printer codes for each new file that you create. I see this as a drawback to the program.

Because the program and its file is running out of ram instead of from floppy it is lightning fast. This is a BIG PLUS when it comes to sorting or manipulating the records or searching for records in a file. This speed is the program's strength.

Sorts can be made on any field as can searches. Searches can utilize up to 10 characters in a string. Searches made on the "CODE" field can be based on 1 to 4 codes, which you put into the database when you set it up. Codes can also be changed, deleted or added to at any time. (nice feature).

The adding and editing of records uses the TI Writer editing features, F1 deletes, F2 inserts etc. You can return to the previous field by using F8 and return to a previous record with F9. A menu or prompt is always available to you throughout the program, another nice feature.

There are a variety of printout options; the SCREEN, so you can view the files and the PRINTER for lists (single/ double column options) and labels with the correct spacing for the standard mailing labels. The 2 column print out on the program version I have is too wide for the standard size paper. (big problem) I have a wide carriage printer so it is not a problemfor me but a standard size printer will not give a satisfactory print out at this option. Also on this version there is no place to put in the name of the country in the address and there aren't enough lines in the label printout to accommodate this needed field either. These shortcomings will make it difficult for anyone wanting to make serious use of a mail The "REMARKS" field cannot be printed in the label format as yet, though Gary has mentioned that this is an upgrade he sees forthcoming.

My biggest problem with the program occurred when I tried to use a database that I had previously created. When the file was loaded in, most of the records had their data scrambled with many weird characters appearing on the screen. After several frustrating hours of editing and retyping, to no avail I decided to phone Gary. He suggested that I remove the SUPER EXTENDED BASIC cartridge since RAMBO doesn't get along with it. That solved the problem. RAMBO doesn't like my TI EX DASIC cartridge either. Sometimes, RAMBO doesn't like speech

"Console-ing the Orphan"

April, 1991

Cont'd.

synthesizers according to Gary. As it turns out, Rambo is the problem, not the software. None of these problems are documented either in the manual nor in the "NOTES" file on the disk. Hopefully this will be rectified shortly.

At the moment "RECALLIT +2" sells for \$10.00 in Canadian funds. When the problems are put right this program could be terrific, but considering the major bugs and shortcomings in the program I would advise that you wait for a corrected release before purchasing it.

The next meeting of the Kawartha 99'ers will be on Wednesday, April 10th at the meeting room of the Peterborough Police Department. Those members who have the components of the club system are reminded to have them at the meeting before the 7:00 p.m. start time. We ask Lindsay Brown to be kind enough to bring his printer. You will get a chance to see the new KAWARTHA KALENDAR programs, you'll never forget what day it is again! We will also celebrate the start of ball season with our all new BASEBALL disk. See you at the meeting!

Want Ads

For sale:

-black and silver TI consoles

-education 7game modules c/w manuals(\$4-6)

-console power supplies (\$5)

call Phil at 745-3757

For sale:

-Peripheral Expansion box

-1 SS/SD internal drive

-console (black & silver)

-TI - 32K card, TI disk controller card

-TI - RS232 card

-TI Logo/Ex. Basic/loystick adapter call: Ron Brown (Oshawa) 416-432-3113

For sale:

-DS/SD 5.25" disks... 10/box... \$4.99 call Glen ... 742-9869

(this is a group fund-raiscr)

For Sale:

-black & silver console ... working order call Glen ... 742-9869

For sale:

-Comprodine and Great Lakes Software

-all titles in stock

-immediate delivery

-call Phil at 705-745-3757 or use the the **Kawartha 99'ers** mailing address for price lists or orders.

If you have computer related items for sale or wish to purchase computer hardware/software you can advertise in this newsletter free of charge if you are a member of the Kawartha 99 ers.

-- BVBNTS --

PICKERING HAM RADIO AND COMPUTER FLEA MARKET ...

Pickering High School Saturday; 9a.m.- 2 p.m. Apr. 13th - Adm. \$5.80

OTTAWA TIFEST/ 91

Merivale High School, Nepean, Ont. Saturday; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Apr. 27th (more details will be forthcoming re. motels, leaving times for the "KAWARTHA KOACH") etc.

LIMA MULTI-USER'S GROUP FEST

Lima, Ohio, U.S.A.

Friday evening & Saturday; May 17th-18th (takes place on the long May weekend)

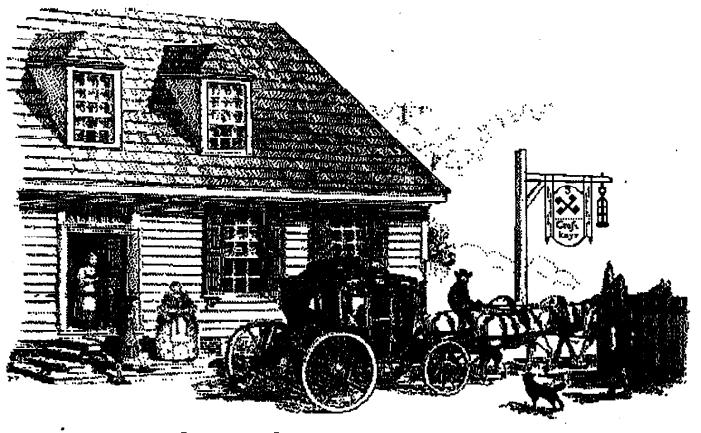
ONTARIO COMPUTER FAIRE

Bowmanyille, Ont.

Sunday; 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. June 2nd Admission - \$5 - We have \$1.00 off coupons

That's it for now.
Keep on "CONSOLE-ING the ORPHAN", EH!

Phil



Kawartha Koach 1991

April

S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

July

S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

May

S N T W T F S 1/2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 (18) (19) 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

August

9 H T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

June

S H T H T F S

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30

September

S N T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (11) 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

