## KAWARTHA KRONICLE

### PETERBOROUGH, ORT.

The monthly newsletter of The Kowartha 99'ers

224 Woodward Ave Peterborough, Ont Canada K9L 1J7

Vol. 10 No. 07

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\* SEASON'S GREETINGS \*

Dec. 1992

## TI 's the Season of Celebration

Once again the Yuletide Season is approaching for all of us good TI'ers. Have you sent your letter to the North Pole as yet? If you haven't by the time you receive this newsletter, then you had better get your modem warmed up!

The Kawartha 99'ers will celebrate the Christmas Season at the home of Jean & Glen Daniels, on December 9th, 1992 beginning at 7:00 p.m. A map showing the location of Jean & Glen's home is inside this newsletter. Each of the attendees are asked to bring some home-baked (as opposed to half-baked) goodies to share. We will get a chance to see some of the terrific Christmas programs of music, graphics etc. available for the TI. The club system will be available for making copies from the library and many hardware and software items will be offered for sale, just in time for the "giving season". So be sure to get to the meeting and give yourself a good time.

On November 30th, The Kawartha 99'ers will be sharing their time and expertise by hosting the "Cheers for Children" booth at Lansdowne Place between the hours of 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. We hope that you can help our group in promoting this event by dropping by and giving some of YOUR time. We will have a TI system set up with Seasonal software to attract the attention of shoppers and passers-by. All of the funds raised by Lansdowne Place will be used by the Salvation Army to provide Christmas toys for children in less fortunate circumstances within our community.

As our Merrry Band heads into 1993, we are gearing up for our group's 10th Anniversary of celebrating our favourite Orphan's existence.

With the end of 1992 in sight I would like on behalf of our Newsletter Team to wish each and everyone of our readers a CHRISTMAS filled with JOY and WONDER and a NEW YEAR blessed with PEACE.



#### Index

Page 1 - Season's Greetings

Page 2 - Group Info

Page 3 - Console-ing the Orphan

Page 4 - Tricks & Notes

Page 5 - Multiplan Part 4

Page 7 - Computer Recycling Depot

Page 8 - Horizon Lockups

#### 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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Meetings are held on the SECOND Wednesday of each month (Sept. to June) 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 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, though interested children / teens are welcome and encouraged to take part. 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 staff or sent to the group's mailing address. Articles may be submitted in print, disk or electronic format

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.

# CONSOLE-ING THE ORPHAN

... In With the New

by Phil Townsend

Before I get carried away with the hot issues of the day, I would like to draw your attention to the map featured on this page. Hopefully it will get you to Glen & Jean's home with a minimum of adventure. Thanks to Glen Bulmer for subjecting himself to working on my Mac to create this work of science - by the way this map is not to scale.

PETERBOROUGH
Highway 7

Springville

Highway 115

Daniel's Place is the second house north of 115 on the west side of the highway.
Phone 741 4876

Now that the important details of this month's column have been covered I hope that you will be able to maintain interest in my other ramblings.

At times it seems incredible that our TI Orphans have been able to remain so useful and active for so long. Just as it seems that interest is on the wane, some programmer or developer introduces a new breath of life into the TI. Case in point - how about the newest wordprocessor on the block in the form of "First Draft", by Art(hur) Gibson and distributed by Asgard Software. (Thanks Chris Bobbit). For \$39.95 U.S. plus shipping and handling you can be the first TI'er on the block to have this wordprocessor for the '90's. First Draft's features include: 25,000 word spell checker, 40/80 column versions, TI Writer compatible, built in disk manager, pull down menus, can use a multi column format, will handle and contain Page Pro 99 graphics, has built in printer commands - you don't have to use programming printer codes, has a built in screen preview function and is compatible with Funnelweb, Horizon Ram disk ,TIM/Mechatronics/Dijit and the Geneve 80 column displays and the HFDC card by Myarc. All of this and more for less than \$40,00 U.S.!! I am very curious to see this beast in action.

Dick Bulmer played me a part of an audio tape the other day that was of very high quality sound reproduction. The selection of music wasn't what I would rush out to buy, but the quality of sound was terrific. Then, the rascal tells me that the recording was made with the help of the TI and a MIDI interface and is being distributed by Harrison Software. Well, you could have blown me off my chair with a RAM chip! You have to hear

this for yourself - be sure to be at the next meeting for the demo.

The newest members of our group are just getting their collective feet wet with the TI and computers in general. We, the older bunch, are looking forward to learning right along with them and having these young folk teach us what they

discover along the way.

Has anyone heard from Gary Bowser lately? Apparently he was a "no-show" at the Chicago TI Faire on the Hallowe'en weekend. Gary has some fine products for the TI. His business and marketing skills don't live up to his high standards of quality products unfortunately. Gary has always shown himself to be honest with those of us in this area, however his lack of organization in running his business is causing him some embarrasment, especially south of the border. A new year is coming, Gary - time to mend fences and come good for all of those misplaced orders. We TI'ers need folks like you, don't let us or the Orphan down!

It only seems a short time ago when I first entered a meeting room at the Queen Alexandra Community Centre, with about 90 others. We had all recently purchased a TI 99/4A for \$99.00 and were wondering what to do with it. many of those folks have since given up on computers or gone on to develop a great wealth of knowledge about them. That was November of 1983. The few people who had formed the original Kawartha 99'ers were overwhelmed by the vast numbers who had suddenly tried to jump headfirst into the technological pool. It has been a great swim for those of us who stuck it out. As those early group leaders helped us as they learned, it is now our turn to help our newer members. The youngsters who have joined us are the key for the "Orphan" to survive and to help the rest of us in the future. Let's make sure that we give these new TI'ers a great start and a warm welcome in 1993. And to those of our group who have moved on to different adventures - we will always appreciate your friendship.

> Have an enjoyable, Christmas season and ... Keep on "Console-ing the Orphan",

#### TI TRICKS

by WESLEY R. RICHARDSON NORTHCOAST 99ERS, CLEVELAND, OH

BACKUPS When you are writing any program or document on any computer, it is a good practice to save your work every 15 minutes. If the power. goes off or if the computer locks up, you will only loose the last fifteen minutes of work. I also make it a practice that when I finish a session on the computer that I first save the document or program to two different disks and then print out a listing of it. If something should happen to the disks, retyping the information is a lot faster than creating the material from memory.

TI-WRITER If you are using two different files and combining information, when you do a loadfile (LF) or Savefile (SF), you can put both filenames on the prompt line and TI-W will only use the first name. for example, OSK1.FILE1 OSK1.FILE2. By doing this you don't need to remember the other file name or retype it when you are finished with filel. If you want to insert or delete several spaces on sequential lines for formatting purposes such as a table of numbers, it can be done quite easily. First put a character which you haven't used anywhere else such as : on each line at the point that you want to insert or delete spaces. Turn off word wrap with CTRL O. Then 'do a ReplaceString (RS) using the form /:/ non/ to add spaces or the form /: " to delete spaces. The replace string is also useful for removing the nonprinting characters such as CR or LF. The CTRL U function will work in the command line the same way it is used within a document to access the ASCII characters from 1 to 31.

EXTENDED BASIC While developing a new program. use line 90 REH DSK1.PROGOD1 at the start of the program. Each time you save the program, do so by typing 90 then FCTN X. Press (ENTER) then FCTN 8 for redo. Delete the 90 and press enter and your program will be saved to disk. Press FCTN 8 again and change to DSK2 to save to a second disk. Do 90 FCTH X again and increment the name to PROGOG2. By doing this, if the last changes you make to the program created new problems, then you can go back to the previous revision. When your program is done, delete line 90 and save the program. Save the program with a different name using "DSK1.PROGM", MERGE format. Then type NEW, then MERGE "OSKI.PROGH". Then save the program to two disks using the final name.

#### Shotaun Notes

Like a short-barrelled shotgun blast, neither sharply focused nor far reaching, here are a few things I have encountered in the past month:

Try the KIDWRITER program published in last month's newsletter if you have children starting to write essays.

The TI-WRITER STRIPMAKER program, also in last month's newsletter, deserves top marks.

The 3/COL CATALOG PRINTER program, added to our library last month, also deserves top marks. Though compressed, the characters are sharp and readable. Also, the alphabetical listing of the files suits me vertically in each of three successive columns, not horizontally by line.

The MIDI rotential of the TI-99/4A should be explored if you are interested in computerized Having read articles about the MIDI99 interface in a few newsletters but still wondering about the TI's ability to run with the big boys and produce music that sounds like it has been produced on conventional instruments. I wrote Dolores Werths whose name had been mentioned a few times. A few days ago, I received a reply with, much to my delight when I played it, a demo cassette tape of computer- generated J.S.Bach music. Totally enjoyable. To ear, MУ it sounded . like live of recordings *Piano* and organ recitals. A far cry from the sounds I feared. I may have some more information in time for the December m<del>ee</del>ting. At the moment, it looks like the Harrison Software approach would YOU æt enable. to involved computerized music for much loss cost than other systems without missing out on many features.

Dick Bulmer

#### MULTIPLAN - ARTICLE 4

By Pat McGllen

As of the end of the last article, you had your spread-sheet set up for a budget of your monthly expenses. Now let's look at the command menu's, what they mean, and how they work.

ALPHA-- enter text; "A" must be typed before entering text in a cell

BLANK-- cells; and identify by row and column.

COPY--- right; number of cells, starting at the one you're in.
down; number of cells
from; cell to cell-- "ctrl A" to take cursor to next
field to identify destination

DEL (delete) -- rows -- # of rows starting at; between columns; and; columns -- # of columns starting at; between rows; and;

EDIT---- change the information in the highlighted cell

FOR (format) --cells-- align; D-default, C-center, G-general,
L-left, R-right, - no change
cd; def-default, cont-continuous,
exp-scientific, fix-fixed point
gen-general, int-integer,
\$-dollar, \*-bargraph, %-percent
-no changes

-- # of decimals

-- default-- cells; align; c, gen, l, r
code; cont, exp, fix, gen, int,
\$, \*, %
# of decimals

-- width; width in characters (8)
-- options-- commas; formulas;

-- width -- in characters or default (3-32)

HELP -- on my program, this option was not available

INS (insert) --row; # of rows; before row; between columns; and;
--column; # of columns; before column; between rows;
and;

LOCK--- cells-- cells; status; formulas-- enter "Y" to confirm

MOVE-- row-- from row; to before row; # of rows column-- from column to left of column; # of columns

NAME -- define name; to refer to (cell)

5

## MULTIPLAN - ARTICLE 4 (continued)

OPT (options) -- recalc (yes or no), mute (y or n), iteration (y or n) completion test at; (enter reference to cell(s))

PRINT-- printer-- on printer; file--on file; margins--left, top, print width, print length, page length; options-- area(enter referance to cell), set-up (PIO.LF) formulas (y or n), R-C num (row-column, y or n)

QUIT-- enter Y to confirm

SORT -- by columns; between rows; and; order

TRANS (transfer) -- load > file, save > file, clear--enter Y to confirm, delete--filename, options--mode; setup (DSK?.), rename--filename;

WINDOW--- split-- horiz; at row; linked , vertical; at column;

linked, title; # of rows; # of columns;

border-- change border in window

close-- window number

link-- window number; with window number; linked;

This should help in deciding which options are the best for the situation at hand. The more you use Multiplan, the more proficient you will become with it's uses and applications. Good luck, and keep pounding the keyboard.

#### 12900

In our November newsletter, we printed out Tony McGovern's "PROGRAM LISTER TO TWO COLUMNS." Apparently the photocopy registration left a little to be desired. The top line or two of a couple of columns were missed on some, but not all. We have no way of knowing which, or how many, we missed. If you copied the program and missed lines 370 and 530, just let one of the co-editors know. We'll give you the full text.

Dick Bulmer

#### December and January meetings

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# TI 99/4A Recycling Depot

PE Box complete w	ith: - <b>\$200.00</b> - TI 32K card - TI RS 232 card - 2 half height DS/SD 5.25"	- TI disk controller card - TI PE Box Interface card disk drives	<ul><li>quiet fan installed</li><li>manuals included</li><li>everything works like new</li></ul>
TI Cassette Record	ers (2) - \$25.00 each - data cables	- manuat	- dust covers included
Dot Matrix printer	#1 - \$50.00 - Epson /IBM compatible	- prints text & graphics	- comes with manual
Dot Matrix printer	#2 - \$20.00 - IBM compatible - TI printer cable included	- prints text only - uses common ribbons	- comes with manual - very good condition
TI 99/4A Console	s (2) - \$25.00 each - manuals	- all cables	- excellent condition
Speech Synthesize	r - \$20.00 - like new, works perfectly	- has manual	- black & silver
Colour Monitor 10	Panasonic - \$100.00 - composite colour - excellent condition	- video & audio inputs/outputs - headphone output	
Monochrome Mon	nitor 10" inch - \$40.00 - black & white	- 9" screen / composite signal	- has carry handle
WICO Trackball - \$	325.00 - has manual	- comes with power adapter	- standard joystick interface
Parts - assorted pri	ces: - printer cables - replacement keyboards es c/w manuals - assorted p	- cassette recorder cables - monitor / printer stands	- console power supply - parallel printer plugs

- Typing Tutor, Paint 'n Print, Console Writer, Mind Challenges, Story Maker . . .

(Most hardware items are in their original boxes and have manuals)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL PHIL AT 705-745-3757

### Horizon RAM Disk Lockups

### (Don't dump that data yet!)

Certain coincidences this morning have made me decide to write an article, or sort of a quick reference guide for users of Horizon Ram Disks (HRD) of all types. This morning started with a call from our newsletter editor asking questions about a new HRD test program from OPA and problems he was having with one of his HRDs. We disscused his problem, determined that it was must likely the hardware and decided on a course of action. We said our goodbyes and

I went to my system to work on something only to find that my own system would not boot. This is where the real story begins. Anyone with a HRD, with any of the new Ram Operating Systems (ROS) installed in memory, as opposed to some of the Eproms that are available has had this problem. ( Come on be honest ) At this point you have a lot of options. You can shut everything off and walk away, but that will not solve anything. You can pull the batteries on your HRD(s) and start over, but that means you have since your last backup. (YOU DO

we are not all lucky enough to have that option because the old cards do not have the switch. You could take out the card, put it in the closet and you will never have the problem again. (No, No, that just wouldn't do) These are all options. but not very good once so let's discuss the alternatives. I am the club librarian and when trying out many new programs, or reviewing older ones, i often have conflicts with the ROS on my cards that make the system appear to be totally messed up. If, however, I remember some simple rules, I can often recover from what would seem a complete disaster. First 1 start by having the ROS config program HRD No.1. Then when my system locks up, I start at the top of flowchart and follow it through with my fingers crossed. Generally only the ROS is damaged and when reloaded, usually all of the data is intact on the cards.

