NET 99er
HOME COMPUTER USERS GROUP
PO BOX 534
HURST.TX 76053

Hello there! Fellow 99ers

NOTICE

Next meeting is the 12th of JANUARY
at 9:00 AM at the Hurst Public
Library. Hope to see you there.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable
holiday season and that Santa brought
at least some of what you wanted.
Somehow he managed to backorder my
99/8 but maybe he will deliver later
in the year. Speaking of 99/8's, if
all goes well we are scheduled for a
demo of a real TI 99/8 soon. We are
still working out the details and
will let you know as soon as
possible.

I got what you could almost call a
surprise Christmas gift--I received
my copy of Home Computer Magazine
just before Christmas. It took all
of an hour to read. The most
interesting part was the letters from
other readers. I disagree with the
majority of the letters. I would
like to have many advertisements
mixed in with the technical data and
program listings. This could be one
of the few ways I have to learn of
new products and software. Otherwise
I am stuck with people who like to
charge for their catalogs. I am
thankful for the various inter-group
communication links which have been
established across the country. This
seems to be one of the best ways to
pass information on new offerings.

We of the membership owe a special
thanks to those who contributed to
the NET 99er Christmas Album. I hope
this excellent product got fairly
wide distribution before Christmas.

I tried to spread it around. Many
thanks to Gerry Myers, the Crossons,
the Webbers, Gary Higgs, Larry
Williams and the library of programs.
This shows what our members can do
with a little organization and
inspiration.

Another big thanks to Mike Bowen.
Mike gave us an excellent overview of
MULTIPLAN for our last program. Mike
was, I think, able to help everyone
to learn a little something. I know
I did. I feel that we can now use M
a little bit easier/better than
before.

I hope that all members of record a
of 12-11-84 received the membership
list mailed separately (I received
mine on the 26th). If you didn't
please let me know at 429-2039.
know of two errors that I didn't fi
prior to publication: I failed t
note that Jim Yingst was a libraria
and I failed to remove Mike Maier a
a librarian. I am sorry for that
If you find any other kind of erro
please let me know. We want the lis
to be accurate.

I know that you folks have been doin
a good job spreading the word abou
our UG. I can tell from all th
calls that I have been receiving
Many of the newest callers ar
desperately looking for hardware an
software. We try to help whe
possible. One call of interest: Th
lady asked, 'Is this the TI number'
I replied that she might say that an
asked what she needed. She proceede
to tell me that she had just bought
SPEAK and READ and the case wa
missing. I referred her to the T
Exchange Center. It appears tha
that nameless toy store that wouldn'
dare let us place cards there befor
now gives out our number for anythin
that has TI on it. I'm glad that T
doesn't sell cars.

Our January program will be Dic
Webber with a PLATO demo. PLATO i
an educational series owned b
Control Data which TI was going t
market. The PLATO Interpreter an
some of the study programs ar

1   2

intermittantly available via mail order even now.

Future programs will include a mechanical disassembly of the 4A console and discussion of its parts by Sam Weller. Also, as previously mentioned, there will be a 99/8 demo--if possible.

Charles Clines has notified me that due to such minor considerations as making a living, he will be unable to host the FORTH Interest Group for the months of January and February. It would be nice if we could get a volunteer to fill in for those months. If you can and will please let me know.

Now comes the subject of elections. Our constitution requires that we elect officers for the year at the first meeting of that year which will be the January meeting. I would like to repeat something that was said at the last meeting: you don't have to wait for someone to nominate you--VOLUNTEER. Your services will be appreciated. Response demonstrated by nominations has been nil thus far. You should notice that we all ready have two programs planned for the new officers. That should get them off to a good start. I think that the club is ready for some new blood now. I will step aside and let someone else take over.

I feel that one more request is necessary. My successor will need a new chief librarian. Gerry Myers will be retiring as chief--he will continue to be a lending librarian. Please if any of you feel like you have the time to receive new programs, catalog them and update the three librarians let us know. The club needs a volunteer to carry on the excellent work that Gerry has started.

Don't get me wrong, I have enjoyed the past year as president and I plan to enjoy the next as an active contributing member. I STILL don't know of any computer on the market that I would want over my 99/4A at

any price. There is nothing to replace it yet(?). I would like to thank all of you who helped me this past year. I was refused very seldom. Two special thank-you's should go to Gerry Myers and Bill Duncan. These guys did good work without me having to worry about whether they did it. There were many others who volunteered their time and help to help the club along. We managed to have two adult BASIC classes and even one for the kids. This seems to be popular and I hope that we will be able to continue it in the future. We participated at our first computer fair and I hope that we can repeat this year. Once again, many thanks to ALL of you who helped. After all, it is the members who make the group what it is.

LeRoy Thompson

The following information comes to us from member Ken Dominiec (656-1473). He has the dual cassette cables for sale at $10 each. It's kinda nice to have a local source. Folks really are still looking for them. Ken also calls our attention to the fact that our very own RF modulators are available, on sale at Radio Shack for a mere $4.75. He also said that if you missed one of the local deals the Shugart SA-455 half-high disk drives are available from Arlington Computer Products in the Chicago area for $125 each (plus $5 if you want the Y-cable for power). Their phone number is 312-882-3724. He had good service from them.

NET 99ERS USERS GROUP
Dec. 6, 1984
President Leroy Thompson called the meeting to order. Treasurer Charles Bathman gave a financial report and said the group had $375.60 in its account.
Editor Dick Hatton asked for ideas from members for a Logo for the newsletter, and asked for more copy input from members.
Thompson announced that Dan Yingston has taken over the library that was operated by Mike Maier. The new

library is located in Arlington at
3812 Glen Gate. Phone number is
817-478-1998.
Thompson also reported an error in
the last newsletter, noting that
Fulton Cook is head of the Assembly
Language Special Interest Group
instead of Harold Stanton.
There was a discussion of possible
ways to raise more money for the club
in order to buy extra equipment. A
raffle was suggested, and Charles
Bathman said one would be held at the
next meeting for a TI LOGO II
software package.
Thompson announced that a Plato
demonstration and officer elections
will also be held at the January
meeting.
After a buy-sell-swap session, a
Christmas music demonstration was
given by head librarian Gerry Myers.
He wrote the music and other members
contributed graphic programs.
Mike Bowen closed the meeting with a
demonstration of Multiplan.

DFX-PRINT
By Gary Fuquay

When I saw the article in
Micropendium last month, I could
scarcely believe what I read. It
said that there was an Assembly
language screen dump that would print
the screen by the mere press of a
function key. Not only that, but it
could, with a simple hardware fix,
print the screen from most TI
modules!

Well, I certainly couldn't pass up
the opportunity of trying that, so I
sent my check for $24.95, to
Data-Flex Software, Marion IN, and lo
and behold, about ten days later I
received my disk!

I opened it up and read the
instructions. This utility is very
versatile. It can be used with EXB,
E/A, or Minimem. Also required, 32K
Expansion, RS232, disk system, and
compatible dot matrix printer. There
is also a cassette version for the
Minimem, although it will not print
module screens. It is prompt

controlled, and all you have to do is
follow instructions on the screen to
set it up. It is nice if you have a
widget, since you can switch from
module to module easier, but not
essential.

I loaded the utility into memory and
tried it out on several disk programs
first, and everything worked just
like the article said it would. When
you have a screen that you want
printed, you press Function 5, and
the program freezes, while the
printer is running. When the
printout is complete, control is
passed back to the program, and it
continues running.

A day or two later, feeling brave, I
decided to try dumping a module
screen. I went to Radio Shack and
bought some micro-switches, #
275-1547, and wired up the
load-interrupt switch according to
the diagram in the instructions.
It's very easy, especially if you
have a Speech Synthesizer. The first
module I tried was Tax Investment
Record Keeping, and it worked
beautifully. When you have a screen
to print, you press the micro-switch,
and the printer starts running.

The only problem I have encountered
is with the Home Budget Management
module. After some experimentation,
I got it to work properly. The
explanation is too lengthy to go into
here, but if anyone has a problem
with it, I will be glad to help.

All in all, I think this is the
easiest to use, and best screen dump
utility to come down the pike in a
long time. On a scale of 1-10, I
would give it a 100!

P.S. for my money, the price is
right, too!

PRODUCT REVIEW
By David Gore

The MBP Clock/ADC PC BOARD(PCB) kit
remindes me of the Jack Daniels

slogan, "All goods worth price charged." The system contains a battery backed real time clock and a 8 input-channel multiplexed, 8 bit, analog to digital converter. This gives your computer the ability to monitor up to 8 different electrical signals in the 0 to 5 volt range, and tell the month, date, day, hours, minutes, and seconds. Once the clock has been initialized you need only console basic and a Peripheral Expansion Box to access the Clock/ADC. The completed kit fits in a slot of your P.E.B. and will keep time even when the P.E.B. is turned off. You can also remove the kit and install it later without affecting the Clock. Use of the kit doesn't restrict the utility of your computer in any way, and doesn't require giving up one of your RS232 ports. The Clock and ADC are memory mapped in such a way that you access them using Call Peek statements.

NOTE: To initialize (set) the clock you must have access to either Extended Basic and 32K Mem. or Mini memory or Editor/Assembler. Also, the demonstration disk that comes with the kit was written in Extended Basic. I didn't have a disk drive so I asked for a casette tape and they sent me one.

The applications are endless. I think one of the best ideas was put forth by MFB. You could make a data logging weather monitor station. You could log wind directions and velocity, air temperature, barometric pressure, relative humidity and so on. You might even try writing some forecasting programs. Security systems also provide some interesting possibilities. The kit comes with a demonstration disk, and instruction manual, a printed circuit board, and a few miscellanous parts. NOTE: you will have to buy around $35.00 worth of parts to install on the PCB. Most of the parts can be bought through Jameco Electronics (an order form is enclosed with kit) and the rest of the components can be bought at Radio Shack or almost any electronic store.

I found the parts easy to get, and the installation took only 3 1/2 hours. I did have some minor complications (my own fault) but found the people at MBF to be most helpful. I also found out that MBF plans to market other products to be used with the ADC, such as an electronic thermometer to measure temperture inside or out. They also said they were going to send newsletters to all their customers to let them know about new products. All in all I can do nothing but sing praises for MBF and their new product the MBF Clock/ADC PCB kit. The kit costs $39.50 plus $2.00 shipping. For more information you can write MBF 5522 East Harry, Witchita, KS 67218. Or you can call via modem to Witchita Tibbs at 316-681-3167. If you leave a message on the system for them to call you back expect a collect call—they are a small company.

P.S. Witchita Tibbs has an interupt routine that continously displays the clock in the upper right hand corner of the screen—even while running programs.

I highly recomend this product!!!

Charlie's Chatter

A hearty WELCOME to the following new members since our last newsletter:

Larry Fick
4244 Pepperbush
Fort Worth, Texas 76137
232-4242

Curtis J. Fredeck, Jr.
2200 Jimmy Dee
Irving, Texas 75060
(214) 254-5612

David Gore
1001 Harvestglen
Plano, Texas 75023
(214) 424-8261

Ron Heflin
5108 Cliffview
Fort Worth, Texas 76112

457-6957

Joe Barton King
P.O. Box 721
Allen, Texas 75002
(214) 542-5152

Trent A. Marion
309 Chapman
Crowley, Texas 76036
297-7089

Singer Micro Users Group
c/o Singer-Link Company
Kirkwood Dept. 444
Binghamton, New York 13902

Yellow Rose Information Services
c/o Marylee Catalan
193 Desiree Lane
Lewisville, Texas 75067
(214) 436-5621

I'd also like to recognize the following members for their outstanding perception and foresight in renewing their memberships:

Larry Blalock
Charles Clines
Bob Lindley
Peter and Mrs. Rokkas
John Wells

Well, here it is the New Year and what better to start it off than something different.

Those of you who attended our December meeting will remember that we were about to raffle off a LOGO II package when we realized that it wouldn't have been fair if we didn't give all our members a chance at it. We decided, therefore, to set up some new guidelines, in advance of our January meeting, so that every member will have an equal chance at the prize. So here are the rules:

1. A raffle Ticket will come with each $1.00 donation to the NET 99er Users Group.

2. Each raffle ticket will be in the form of a small envelope (3 and 5/8 inches by 6 and 1/2 inches,

approximately), into which the member's $1.00 donation has been placed.

3. Each member should print their COMPLETE return address on the upper left-hand corner of the envelope.

4. For members wishing to enter the raffle and who will be at the Jan. meeting, there will be blank envelopes available at the meeting.

5. For members who will NOT be able to attend the Jan. meeting, they may mail their donation to the address below. I would recommend a check rather than cash.

NET 99er
Home Computer Users Group
P.O. Box 534
Hurst, Texas 76053

6. Only one $1.00 donation per envelope, please. You may, however. submit more than one envelope.

7. The winner need not be present at the drawing to win.

There are several reasons for holding the raffle under these rules. First. we must have at least sixty $1.00 donations to cover the cost of the prize. If there aren't enough donations, the envelopes with the return address will allow us to return the donations. Second, the envelopes make an easy-to-handle raffle ticket and also provide an easy way for members who can't come to the meeting to be able to participate in the fun.

If you like this idea, and enough members show enthusiasm for other software or hardware packages, let your officers know and we'll see what we can do.

On to other things and stuff:--

During December I received a post card with the following question on it:

"I'm looking for a printer for my 99-4A, and I'm thoroughly confused. How does one know what (printer) is and is not compatable?

Will any serial printer work with the RS 232 interface?

Thanks, Jeff Ball"

Well, I'd really like to answer Mr. Ball's question by phone or letter, but unfortunately he didn't give either his return address or his phone. So, I'll give a brief answer here since the question is valid for many of our newer members.

YES, any Serial or Parallel printer will work with the TI RS 232 interface provided the proper cable is used and the computer program is properly set up to operate the printer correctly.

the user will have to purchase or make up a cable so that the proper pin connections of the RS-232 interface will match the proper pin connections of the printer. The RS 232 interface manual contains a listing of its pin connections and a good printer should have documentation showing its pin conections. The user will then have to purchase of make up a compatable cable. The computer program will then have to be set up to address the proper RS 232 port, either serial or parallel, and will have to give the desired printer instructions. A thorough reading of the printer manual will provide all or most of the necessary instructions. Some experimentation will be necessary to insure that you get the propper printer operation.

Later in this newsletter you'll find a single page with the masthead of the VALLEY TImes. We thought you'd like to read the Editorial opinions of another TI users group for a change.

The NET 99 ers will have the following items available for sale at the next meeting:

BASIC TIPS by Amlist which includes cassette containing all the major programs ($11.50)

SMART PROGRAMMING GUIDE FOR SPRITES by Craig Miller ($5.50)

PROGRAMS FOR THE TI HOME COMPUTER by Steve Davis ($7.50)

In addition, the following member still have not picked up the diskettes they paid for.

Wayne Clovis — 1 box
Tom Crabtree — 2 boxes
Alan Harris — 2 boxes

Well, that's it for now folks Remember, our January 12th meetin will include the election of our 198 officers, the raffle of LOGO II an much more, so come one, come all an let's make 1985 the Year of The T 99/4A.

Charlie B.

EDITORS NOTE

Because of the holidays I got behin in every thing, therefore no logo fo the paper yet,but I will keep tryinc I have had some calls on not havinc complete information on adventur games or the games not working right. I have not been able to get past th first couple of frames in any of th games, therefore I think a plea fo help should be made at the nex meeting. Sorry I can not be of an more help.

DICK HATTON
(817)277-0515

VALLEY TImes

Newsletter of the Valley 99's
3434 Flint Dr. Columbus, GA 31907
Vol. 1   No. 11

ℋ𝒜𝒫𝒫𝒴 ℋ𝒪ℒℐ𝒟𝒜𝒴𝒮!

First and most importantly, I wish you all a very HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON. To all my friends locally and across the country, all my very best wishes for the SEASON and the coming NEW YEAR. It has been a MARVELOUS year, thanks to all of you!

Have to take out my barbed pen ONE LAST TIME (for THIS year!), and give my own SPECIAL Holiday wishes for a selected few. I take editorial priveledge and the idea from December's POPULAR COMPUTING who gave out their "FIRST ANNUAL WARPED DISK AWARDS" honoring "Performance Beneath the Call of Duty". Truly marvelous issue. TI won two awards in their issue, FIRST, "IN GOD WE TRUSS [not misspelled]" award for the nerve to call their 44 pound Portable Professsonal Computer a "portable", and SECOND, an un-named award for "turning 2 million 99/4a computers into white elephants at the first sniff of a PEANUT". Well, those are CERTAINLY deserved if a bit tame. I have (did you have any doubt!) a few "warped disks" of my own to bestowe...and I KNOW these are deserved. The "IF THEY HAD ONLY LISTENED TO ME..." award goes to the innimitable DON BYNUM. If you don't know the story, Don Bynum was Chief Engineer at TI's Home Computer Division in the last 18 months or so of the 994/a's life. He is depicted in the grand article "DEATH OF A COMPUTER" (Texas Monthly, April 1984), as a rampaging PATTON (I prefer Hitler analogy), parading about till all other corporate executves followed his leads and, eventually, sunk the 99/4 through he and Bill Turner's blundering and mismanagement. The award is given for Mr. Bynum's recent comments at the Chicago TI FAIRE (a HUGE success; congrats to that fine GROUP!). Mr. Bynum says the future of the 99/4a is "gloomy" due (paraphrasing, now) 'rampaging software priracy'. (Mr. Bynum, OF COURSE, no longer with TI, has been trying to make a living with a outrageously priced sound card for the PE BOX and a few mediocre programs (TE1200, et al), AND reworking TEXNET. He appears to be failing miserably at all three.) Don, the problem is not present PIRACY but PAST foul-ups...and you, dear sir, are the chief "foul"! The "I WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND...my lawyer will be in touch" award goes to "Chuckles" LaFara. C.F. has come out from under the butcher's block of late and visited several selected UG's about the country, smooth-talking his way back into all our hearts. Well, old man, IUG is all-but-dead, and I'm afraid even Gronos cannot carry you any longer. There is no choice...its back to pork chops and burgers for you. No more free rides from suing 17 y.o. kids (TORRANCE PROGRAM EXCHANGE) and UG's...you'll have to work for a living AGAIN. The "HAVE I GOT SOME GREAT NEW PROGRAMS FOR YOU..." award goes to 'ARIZONA 99 UG', a one-man rip-off enterprise in La Puente, Arizona. Seems the former president of the Arizona UG (a once proud and truly active Group) took more than his gavel with him when he stepped down from office. Took the Groups good-name, a few Public-Domain programs, put his name on them, and started a cute little business. Bombed THE SOURCE with ads for a while (till the users shouted him OFF), and, probably made a little Judas change. His catalog boasts such goodies as SAM MOORE's music, programs from COMPUTE! and FORTH, etc. all at ridiculous prices. Well, if PIRACY is a problem, THIS is one reason why! Finally, last but, God Knows, NOT LEAST...the Rodney Dangerfield "I GET NO RESPECT" award goes to...you guessed it... poor, misunderstood GARY KAPLAN for sending out a letter condemning newsletter editors for berating his poor, sensitive "magazine" staff. Well, Gary, you're right. You have been belittled and will continue to be UNTIL you start putting out a magazine instead of a quarterly MARVEL comics. The TI user has long since passed you AND your staff by...we don' need tutorials on how to make a sprite move, etc. Too much marange...not enough pie. My collection of 99er/99 HCM/HCM ended with Vol. 4 No. 3 (or was it August 1984?). Put this in you next letter, Gary, if you can afford the stamps!
Sword back in sheath, barbs smoothed. It has been a terribly Fun year for, I hope, all users of our increasingly incredible computer. Thought dead a year ago, the 99/4a is going stronger than ever. More and better software and hardware appears regulary. Surely, we have lost a few cottage software industries, but the major sophisticated producers are still around and going strong. User Groups remain at the hub of the TI universe. FORTH appeared and breathed new life into our community. CORCOMP struggles on and WILL make it! I am content...with the past year, the TI users, and our friends, the hardware/software producers. The future is not "gloomy" Don, the real Santas for the TI number in the thousands...they are the users/groups who wouldn't let it die. 1985 WILL BE EVEN BETTER! Best to all!

Net 99ers meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Hurst Public Library at 9:00 A.M. (unless otherwise indicated in the newsletter)

Hurst Public Library

Loop 820 E.

H'way 360

Trinity Blvd.

Bell Spur Rd.

H'way 10

Brown Tr.

Road

Hurst Blvd.

Hurst

Airport

Fort Worth

H'way 121

820 N.

Pipeline

Freeway

Precinct Line

Norwood Dr.

H'way 183

H'way 157

to Dallas

DFW Airport

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CANADA T5J-3L1