

**Southwest
Ninety-Niners
Newsletter
contributed by
- Tom Wills -
SW99ers User Group President of Record
compliments of**



**TI99ers
On-Line
User Group**

www.ti99ers.org

JUNE 1986

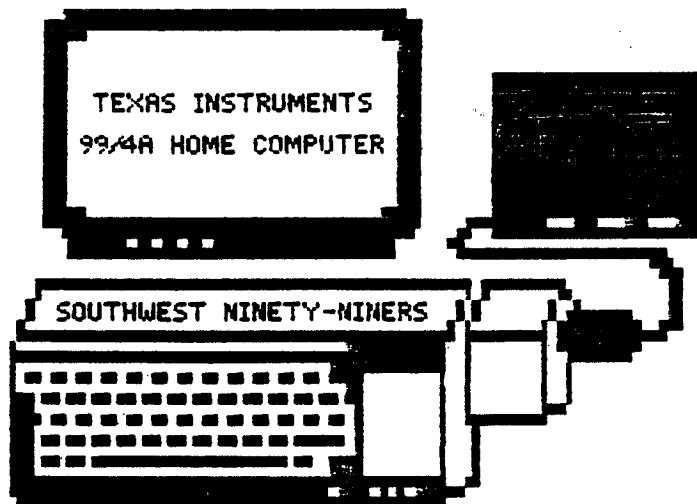
P.O. Box 17831 Tucson, AZ 85730

Officers

John McCleary - President
Ed Hallett - Vice President
Wesley Eng - Secretary
BJ Mathis - Treasurer

Newsletter

John McCleary - Editor
BJ Mathis - Assoc. Editor



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ATTENTION MEMBERS
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NEXT MEETING: June 3, 1986 at 7:30pm. Location-Tucson Fire Department Training Center on Ajo Way just west of Park. The program will include a demonstration by Al Armstrong of some new things for Personal Record Keeping.

WORKSHOPS: Basic - 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 pm. (June 12th). Ex-Basic - 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. (June 17). Both at the Mathis Home - 5941 E. 26th - 747-5046

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS: Writer & Multiplan - 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 pm. (June 19th). Mathis Home - 5941 E. 26th - 747-5046
Assembly Language & FORTH - 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm. (June 24th). Joe Lenox Home - 8252 E. Zensky - 722-2464

OFFICIAL NOTICE: At the July 1st meeting the membership will be asked to vote on amendments to the constitution and bylaws of the group which will more clearly define membership and create a group membership. This is in response to requests by area schools for membership.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER
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Congratulations! You all deserve an award for your participation in the activities of the Southwest Ninety-Niners. The workshops and special interest groups are a great success. If you haven't attended one of these do so over the summer or get your kids involved.

We're continuing to grow with new members joining each month. Now we have the prospect of adding nearly two hundred new members this fall. I've been working with a special committee on group membership and after discussions with an area school we're prepared to create this new membership category. Details will be provided at the upcoming June meeting with a vote to amend the constitution and bylaws scheduled for July 1, 1986. The creation of group memberships will help us reach more people in the Tucson area who have TI's and more effectively carry out our constitutionally stated goals.

John McCleary
296-8198

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Bytes & Jots
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If you are contemplating buying a DSDD disk drive, you may want to quit thinking about it and get it done. The dollar is loosing ground against the YEN and prices are on the upswing. Already the price of some drives have risen \$10 to \$20.

TI KEYBOARDS (\$2.95) and TI SWITCHING POWER SUPPLIES (\$1.25) are available from:
Electronics Parts Outlet
2275 S. Federal Hwy.
Del Ray Beach, FL 33444 (305)265-1206

Tell them you are answering their ad in Computer Shopper, May issue, Pg. 47 lower right hand corner. If they are out you can try their other two stores, Phoenix, AZ (602)375-0181, or Scottsdale, AZ, (602)941-9377,9357,9328,9329.

The New Horizons Ramdisk sells assembled for \$180 (SS) or \$230 (DS), but for only \$50 you can purchase the bare circuit board, manual, and operating software on disk. Then an additional \$72/\$105 (SS/DS) will buy you the kit of parts to complete it if you have about 3 hours and some soldering experience or can find someone who does. This is a good deal, not to be beat unless you know of a source for 6264LP15 memory chips for considerable less than \$3.95 each. There is a 16% discount on 5 or more boards and a 5% discount on 5 or more parts kits. This is a true ram disk with re-chargable battery back-up. The card can be removed from the PEB, taken to another location, plugged in and all the programs will be there and accessible at RAM memory speed. Also, through assembly language routines new routines can be added to Basic. If you are interested in more information talk to Ed Hallett at the meeting, he has one. If you want to place an order let me know.

Jack and I received a letter from Home Computer Journal informing us that Home Computer Magazine has quit publishing with Volume 5, Number 6 being the last issue. The balance of our subscription will be filled by Home Computer Journal. We are supposed to receive "a number of issuses equivalent to the value remaining on our HCM subscription. HCJ will be published quarterly and come with a computer disk. They enclosed a card for us to fill out. According to the letter they could not fulfill my subscription unless we returned the card. If you should have received a card and didn't (many didn't), write to:

Home Computing Journal
PO Box 70703
Eugene, OR 97401

Texas Instruments seems to still have some interest in Users' Groups. The group received a letter from them asking if the group was still active. We are to answer it within 45 days or they will remove us from the list. Be assured the letter is on the way.

From the San Fernando Valley Newsletter: If you need a TI-WRITER manual, for use with TK WRITER, BA Writer, or FUNLWRITER, they are available from Texas Instruments by calling 1-800-TICARES (yes they are are still there). The price is \$3.00 plus postage. If you are interested let me know, we can save postage by having several sent at once.

Jack and I actually took the time to key in a program this month. It is a grocey list program. It requires Extended Basic, a printer, and a disk drive. Grocery List is easy to to use, saves your master list to disk. When you run it you indicate which items to buy and those for which you have a coupon. You can add some items at the end of the main list that are special to this time only, without including them

in the master list. The master list which you create can be changed or updated to include more or different items up to 200 and may be able to handle even more. Grocery List is available through the club library. The fellow who wrote it, John Martin, did so to get his wife started using the computer. She does now but only to make her Grocery List.

BJ * 747-5046

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BOOSTING POWER IN THE EXPANSION BOX

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by Dick Paschal

Purpose: To allow the addition of two half height drives in the Peripheral Expansion Box.

Parts needed: 1 7812 (T0220), 1 6-32x3/8 Or 1/2 machine screw,
1 6-32 standard nut.

Equipment needed: needle-nose pliers, long Phillips #2 screwdriver,
voltmeter, soldering iron, and solder.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS THROUGH BEFORE BEGINNING!

STEP 1: Unplug your expansion box, remove all cards and drive(s). Plug in and measure the 12V connector of the disk drive with voltmeter and record the voltage for future reference, then unplug again. Remove the Phillips screws from the box on the sides and bottom; remove only those screw from the back that are next to the edges. Be sure to leave the screws in place that hold the cover latches. When all of the necessary screws have been removed, the outer metal cover will slide toward the front of the box and the insides will stay together. On the left side (as you face the chassis from the front) you will see a circuit board. On the transformer side of the board at the bottom you will find two more Phillips screws. Do not remove them, just loosen them so that the mount will slide out toward the edge. Carefully draw a picture of the connectors and label them, then remove them so that the circuit board is free of the entire chassis.

STEP 2: Locate the T03 7812 (see drawing). Turn the board over and find the nuts which hold the T03 in place and remove the center nut of the three and the screw from the regulator. Replace the screw with one which is 1/4" longer and place a nut on it. Place the T0220 7812 on top of the nut, plastic side out (metal in) and place another nut on top position as shown in drawing. Tighten the nut carefully so the regulator doesn't move. Carefully bend the outside legs of the T0220 7812 regulator down and out so that they are over the pins (soldered to the foil -- see drawing) on their respective sides at the corners of the plastic case. If everything is correct, the only things touching the pins will be the legs of the new regulator, and the body will be above them if the nut is there. The center leg will almost touch the opposing nut, and can be left alone. Carefully solder the legs to the pins.

STEP 3: Refer to your drawing, replace the connectors on the circuit board and replace the board. Connect a voltmeter to the 12 volt output. Make sure that the switch is off, connect the power cord and plug it in. Turn the switch on just long enough to measure the voltage. If the voltage is not between 11.5V and 12.5V, immediately note the voltage and turn the power switch off, because you have a problem (see below). If the voltage is within range, turn the power off and unplug the cord. Check to make sure that the circuit board mount screws are firmly but not tightly holding the mount to the chassis.

STEP 4: Replacing the housing and turn the box upside-down. Locate the hole in the bottom panel (not the side edges) and replace that screw first. Replace the other screws in the edges, etc. but do not tighten any of them until all of the screws are in place. Replace cards, drives, etc.

In the event that you have a problem with out-of-range voltage you should review all of the steps to make sure that everything was done right. If the voltage is 0, you may have a faulty regulator or a direct short someplace. If the voltage is just low, a regulator may be faulty. If the voltage is too high, the input circuit may be making contact with the output circuit, either through the regulator or around it. Check carefully. If you can't solve the problem easily, take the box to a competent service technician. Trying to run the system with a defective regulator has ruined transformers in expansion boxes.

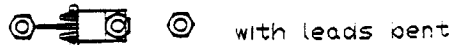
component side view of T03 7812



foil side view of T0220 7812



after mounting plastic side out



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TIMP TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

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by Steve Zimmerman
From the Southern California Users Group

One of the most useful features of Multiplan (and one I miss on my Tandy 200 portable!) is WINDOWS! Windows are a BIG THING now -- just read the magazine reviews and ads for programs such as Framework and Symphony. Windows enable you to see two parts of the screen, in different areas of the work sheet, at the same time. Sounds simple enough, but what good is it? Well, let's say that you have a worksheet with about 60 rows of labels in Column 1, and that you enter data for each day in a month in columns 3-32. Since your basic column width shows only 4 columns, you can see the labels only when you are entering the first 3 days data. If you make the columns narrower of course, you can see more -- if the numbers aren't too long! If the numbers are too long, and you make the columns narrow, you just see "****", an error symbol which means that you have too many numbers to display in that column width. To enable you to enter later columns of data in the proper rows, you need to create a window.

To do this, position your cursor (the cell pointer) in R1C2 (one column to the right of your labels), hit the W(indow) key. On the next menu, you want to key S(plit). On the next menu, key V(ertical), and Multiplan will respond with "at column 2", linked yes no, with the NO highlighted. Use the Tab (CTRL 2) to move the command cursor from the 2 in "at column" to the Linked field, enter key Y to link the windows, and then key Enter. With practice, this command sequence becomes W S V Tab Y ENTER. You now have a window, linked vertically. As you move the cell pointer down in the active window (the one you just created), the labels will move along. As you move the cell pointer to the right, columns will disappear on the left side of the second window, but the labels will remain in view.

To 'uncreate' this window, key W(indow) C(lose); Multiplan will respond with #2, key Enter, and the window closes. You can do the same thing with horizontal windows, if you have labels across the top and you want to see them as you move up and down.

You can move the cell pointer between windows by using Ctrl 6 (change window), which makes a different window the active window. Ctrl 6 again will take you to the original active window.

There IS a way to keep your row labels on the left in view and also keep your column labels in sight. To do this, you must use the Title option, rather than the Vertical or Horizontal options. The command sequence is W(indow), S(plit), T(itle).

Before you enter this, make sure that your cell pointer is in the column to the right of your labels column and in the row below the row which contains your column labels. Multiplan will propose the number of rows and columns to be contained in the label windows, so if you didn't have the cell pointer in the right place, just enter the appropriate number of rows, tab over, enter the appropriate number of columns, and hit Enter. Multiplan will create 4 windows, numbered clockwise from the upper left, 1, 2, 3, and 4. Window 3 will be the active window, containing your data. You can now move to any row or column of your worksheet and still be able to see your row and column labels. This is a great help in entering data in a large worksheet!

One other command in the Window area, and the one which I haven't used much is the Border command. This command places a border around the active window or windows (depending on how you use it). On a 40-column display, this takes up room that I feel I need for data display (after all, 40 columns by 20 to 24 lines shows little enough as it is!). On a larger screen I imagine it would be useful.

I have been able to set up borders around 3 or 4 open windows before having "Window will not fit" appear (on my 4th attempt).

It is possible to link multiple vertical or horizontal windows so that they will scroll together. Generally, however, in the V or H split mode, the last window opened as a linked window overrides any previous linkages which conflict. This brings me to the last command in the window group, the Link command. This command allows you to redefine links between windows, thereby linking unlinked windows or unlinking linked windows. When you key L(link), you see a command saying, Link window number: X with number: Y Linked: (yes)no. As with other Multiplan commands, you use the Tab (CTRL 2) to move your cursor between fields. The first window number will be the active window, the second will be the previous active window (or previously created window), and the linked field will show whether they are linked at present or are not linked at present. To unlink, Tab down and change Yes to No. To link a different set of windows, change the window numbers shown to those you wish to link. If Multiplan finds a conflict (or an intersection), it will reply, "cannot link those windows". If this happens, you will have to unlink the conflicting windows before establishing the new link.

To sum up, Split lets you create multiple windows, Border lets you highlight or separate windows visually, Close lets you uncreate windows, and Link lets you set up or break links between windows. You can Split your screen into up to 8 windows (if you can get them to fit and still show you anything!), you can Link windows to make them scroll together, and you can use the Title command to show row and column labels to make data entry easier on a large sheet. To move from the active window (which is the most recently created window) to another, use Ctrl 6 (change window).

The ability to use multiple windows is one of the most powerful features of MULTIplan (and, as I mentioned, one I really miss when using my portable machine!). I suppose I had to give something to obtain portability...

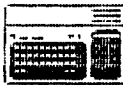
I hope this 'raises the shades' for those of you with windowing questions!



PRESENTING THE AMAZING

CSGD I AND II

BY DAVE ROSE



REVIEW

by Tim Jobe

From Suncoast 99er's - April 1986 - St Petersburg, FL

You have probably seen examples of these creations in newsletters. Dave Rose of Fairfield, Ohio is marketing these very exciting programs designed to quickly make professional looking graphics with your printer. The requirements are disk system, memory expansion, printer and Extended Basic. Beginning users of graphics will find CSGD I and II very easy to use. You may have seen ads and wondered what each set does and what the user disks can do for you.

The first set CSGD I is composed of three diskettes. The first is the program itself; the second is the data containing graphics files, picture files, and character sets; and the third is the complete instructions that print from an option on the program disk. The eleven pages of instructions take you step by step through the motions of creating your own graphics, character sets and pictures, or you can print messages from the ten character sets that are on the data diskette. This diskette also contains ten graphics that will print on either side of the messages, and four pictures that you can print with or without a customized frame. All graphics and pictures can be inverted, reversed and converted to reverse dot pattern as well as printed centered on the left half, right half, or full page. Sound like a lot? Will it work with your printer? It will if it is Centronics or Epson compatible. You can configure the parameters to match your printer exactly as far as dots per line. After configuration your parameters are saved and are auto-loaded the next time you start the program. The graphics are on a five by five grid, each character being eight by eight pixels. Entering each pixel can be done with either the joystick and fire button or through the keyboard entering the hex codes for the pattern desired for an entire character. Pictures are allowed to be forty characters down and thirty characters across (that's right 1200 characters or 76,800 pixels!). Of course most don't get that big because you like to leave room for a frame or two. Mr. Rose has also included blank forms for designing graphics and pictures as well as samples created by others for you to type in for practice.

CSGD II will not allow you to create character sets or pictures, but it will allow you to create graphics, print messages, and make banners! It will print BANNERS using the character sets files. Included with the programs diskette is a data diskette with sixty-six new graphics and eight new character sets that can be used with CSGD I also. For that matter, all the graphics and character sets will work with either program I or II. An instruction file comes on the program diskette that

you can print as an option. The Banner program is fairly quick considering you are printing in graphics mode. A banner that contains ten characters with graphics on each end takes ten to fifteen minutes to print, these are pixel by pixel representations of the same characters used to print professional looking messages. For those of you who have seen PRINT SHOP for other Brand-X computers and wished it was available for the 99/4A, your wish has nearly come true.

Mr. Rose has also taken the trouble of collecting graphics, character sets and pictures that users have created and put them on three disks in two sets. The first user set contains seven new character sets, one new picture and three new graphics. The second set (two diskettes) contains twenty-two new chracter sets, twenty-six new pictures, and eighty-six new graphics. If you buy the works you get forty-seven character sets, thirty-one pictures and one hundred sixty-five graphics all on eight diskettes.

Nearly all the programs are in Extended Basic. Some assembly routines are used in the Banner program. Flowing from one section of the program to another is smooth, but sometimes the loading time is somewhat long because you must go back to the original LOAD program. The joystick input goes quickly. There are some nice commands to use when inputting the character patterns like the one to instantly fill the entire character grid with dots if it is easier to take a few pixels off than add many. Included with all the literature are instructions on how to make letterhead stationary and your own personalized greeting cards! This is a well documented collection of software.

Prices:

CSGD I\$17.95
 CSGD II\$12.95
 USER DISK #1.....\$ 5.95
 USER DISK #2A,2B....\$10.95

From:

Dave Rose
 2781 Resor Road
 Fairfield, Ohio 45104-5053
 Or through Group Orders

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BUYER'S GUIDE

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The following information is provided as a service to our members. The items listed are for sale by the individuals indicated and are subject to prior sale. The group assumes no responsibility for items listed and makes no claims as to their condition or interface capability with the TI-99/4A computer. Only computer related items will be accepted for publication in this newsletter.

Zenith RGB color monitor with switchable green screen -\$400; 1 complete expanded system including tan Console, PE Box, 32k, TI disk controller and drive, and RS232 all new TI equipment in original shipping boxes -\$500; 2 TI-99/4A Consoles -\$50 each; PE Box (empty) -\$150; Extended Basic -\$50; TI LOGO -\$25; (plus the following cartridges) Tax/Investment Record Keeping; Attack; Number Magic; Car Wars; Tombstone [21st Century]; and TI Invaders. Documentation and cables included. Call John 296-8198.

TI Disk Controller, Internal Disk Drive & External Disk Drive w/own power supply, Disk Manager II with documentation. All for \$180. Call John Karsh 883-1613.

Hunt the Wumpus command module \$3. TI Program Cassette Recorder w/cable \$25. Call Mike 722-8620 evenings and weekends.

Volksmodem 300 Baud with 9 volt power supply \$50. Call George 742-3091.

