

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



**TI99ers
On-Line
User Group**

www.ti99ers.org

AUGUST 1986

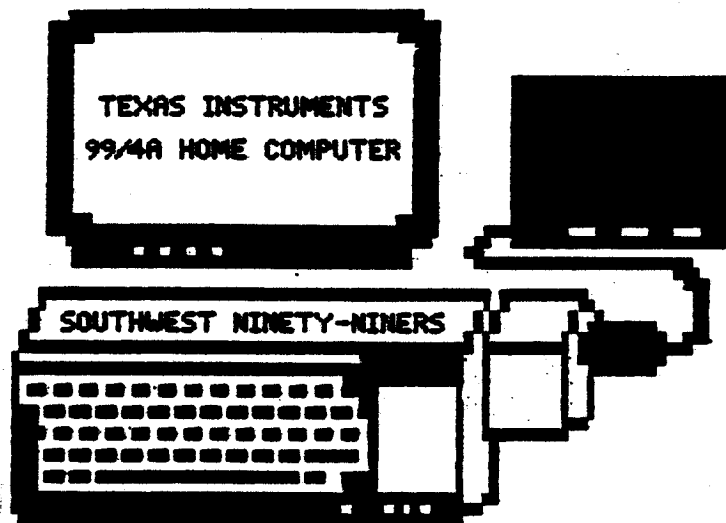
P.O. Box 17831 Tucson, AZ 85730

Officers

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

Newsletter

John McCleary - Editor
BJ Mathis - Assoc. Editor



ATTENTION MEMBERS

NEXT MEETING: August 5, 1986 at 7:30pm. Location-Tucson Fire Department Training Center on Ajo Way just west of Park.

WORKSHOPS & SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS: Will not meet during the month of August. These meetings will resume in September.

**SPECIAL PROGRAM
SEPTEMBER 2, 1986**

Earlier this year several members attended the Los Angeles computer fair. While there they met and spoke with Les Merryman of MYARC. He offered to come to Tucson to speak with our group about the new computer developed by MYARC based on the TI-99/4A and their other products.

An offer was extended in the name of the Southwest Ninety-Niners for Mr. Merryman to appear at our September meeting. He has kindly accepted and now it's our turn to show him true Tucson hospitality by turning out in force on September second. The meeting will be held at the regular time of 7:30 pm at the Tucson Fire Department Training Center on Ajo Way just west of Park Avenue. Everyone is invited to attend and to bring guests. We are inviting all those who have TI's and the students in the community who use them in classes in the various schools. The rooms we use can accommodate several hundred people so there should be plenty of room for everyone.

We are looking forward to a **BIG** turnout and an outstanding presentation. So mark the date on your calendar now **September 2, 1986 7:30pm** and make plans to attend.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope all of you are as excited about the prospects of meeting Les Merryman of MYARC and hearing his presentation on September second as I am. It should be a truly exciting opportunity for us all. We are getting the word out to everyone we can about the event and hope you'll do the same.

The July meeting was momentous for the Southwest Ninety-Niners as the members voted

to establish Group Memberships. This was in response to the needs in our community to offer services to schools which use the TI-99/4A in their classrooms. We hope that by reaching out to these young people we can aid them in becoming more computer literate and in finding greater enjoyment and use from their TI's.

Briefly, the constitution and By-Laws were amended to allow educational institutions to have group memberships. The group membership requires a minimum of fifty paid non-voting student members. The intent is to offer these memberships at an enormous reduction from regular membership rates. Each student will get a special membership card and have full purchasing and borrowing privileges. The institution will have one vote on all business matters and will get a copy of the monthly newsletter. Additionally, the club will provide technical assistance and speakers for the school. Regular meetings are opened to student members and the club will consider requests for special meetings at the schools on topics for the students.

The members voted to set the dues per student at fifty cents each per year at this time. That should adequately cover the costs of implementing the program. There is a potential to increase our membership by over four hundred with the establishment of the group membership. Presently we are in a position to share how to network existing classroom computer operations and to streamline programming or offer new programs. This should facilitate schools in the area signing up for this new offering.

If you would like to volunteer to assist with the school programs please contact one of the club officers. Your continued participation will make this new program the success all our other endeavors have been. Thanks.

John McCleary * 296-8198

Bytes & Jots

This month we are going to take a short recess from Workshops and Special Interest Group meetings. This will give us all a breather, the meetings will start again in September on the same schedule as before.

The line feed motor on our Star Micronics Gemini 10X printer burned out the week after the last meeting. So we spent some time looking at printers. We checked out every source in town and got samples of print from every printer in our price range (under \$400). We decided we wanted to have Near Letter Quality print available, plus italics, pica, elite, condensed, and enlarged print in draft quality. We liked the print from the Panasonic KXP-1091 and the Star Micronics NX-10 the best. We had to get nit-picky about the individual letter formation to decide between the two. One of the main factors in our decision was the two year warranty from Panasonic. We ordered a Panasonic KXP-1091 for \$244.54 including shipping through Magnetic Media in MA. We are anxiously awaiting its arrival, maybe we will get it today. I am not saying that everyone would prefer the Panasonic because it is a matter of personal preference. If you want a Gemini 10X, you can still get one at a couple of places in Tucson.

Many people at the last meeting said they would get me a check to send to Paolo Bagnaresi for BA-Writer, and I know of many more that are using the program that did not indicate whether they had sent any money. I received checks from two individuals for BA-Writer and one check for DM-1000. I will wait until after this coming meeting to send this money on to the authors, please get me your contributions for these programs at the meeting, if you want the group to handle this for you. The requested

amount for BA-Writer is \$18 and has to be put into an International Money Order for Paolo. The requested amount for DM-1000 is \$10. Contact me with your contribution, checks should be made out to the group.

BJ * 747-5046

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MULTIPLAN PRINTER COMMAND FILE

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Version 1.0

By Jack C. Mathis

If you use Multiplan or are considering it this article is for you. The development of this software by Jack Mathis came out of the needs he saw for improving the capabilities of printing Multiplan. Jack has worked tirelessly for the improvement of the Southwest Ninety-Niners and the TI-99/4A. Thanks Jack. Ed.

MULTIPLAN PRINTER COMMAND FILE is new freeware. This file will allow you to place printer commands into any BLANK cell on your Multiplan spreadsheet. You can turn off and on different commands at any point as long as you have a BLANK cell to copy into. This means the title can be printed in enlarged characters, certain information can be emphasized, italicized, or whatever you want to do, as long as your printer has the ability to do it.

Due to the way that Multiplan works it is necessary to have the exact printer commands for each printer. The current versions of this program cover the Gemini 10X, Epson, Prowriter, Panasonic KX-P1091, GE TXP-1000, and Seikosha (Gorilla Banana). If you have a different printer, please send a copy of your printer's special commands, and I will be glad to set up a file for you.

The instructions are simple, when you want to use a printer command in your TIMP spreadsheet make sure you have a BLANK cell to copy into. Press X for external copy, type PRINT, tab and type the name of the command you want to use from the table provided in the documentation for your printer. Then Tab AGAIN and press N. You do NOT WANT THIS FILE TO BE LINKed! Once this is done you are ready to print or add any information you wish. If you wish to change the printer commands simply BLANK them out and external copy following the instructions above again.

To get your copy of the MULTIPLAN PRINTER COMMAND FILE send a formatted disk to Jack C. Mathis, 5941 E. 26th, Tucson, AZ 85711.

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TRANSFERRING TI MULTIPLAN FILES TO ANOTHER (NON 99/4A) COMPUTER

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by Gary Matthews from A9CUG CALL, Atlanta, Georgia, April 1986

Multiplan spreadsheets can be saved to disk three basic ways:

- 1) The standard way which is how you save it to disk then bring it back in for normal usage.
- 2) As a PRINT file which is an ASCII text format which looks like your usual spreadsheet, but has no formulas associated with it.
- 3) As a SYMBOLIC format which is an ASCII representation of the spreadsheet that does have the formulas and cell formatting intact.

The purpose of the Symbolic format is to allow the spreadsheet to be converted to universal form that is usable by the Multiplan no matter what machine is running it. Restated, that means a Multiplan spreadsheet that was created with a TI 99/4A could be used by an Apple running Multiplan, or an IBM, or in this case by Digital Equipment Corporation's Rainbow computer.

First the spreadsheet is created (on a TI). Then the spreadsheet is saved to disk in 'symbolic' format. Next that 'symbolic' file is transferred to another machine using some communications program (Fast Term for example) that allows the transferring of ASCII files. The Other machine is using a communications program that will capture and put to disk the ASCII file it receives. Now the other machine can run Multiplan and load the file it received in 'symbolic' format. All the formulas are intact. The spreadsheet is a duplicate of the one originally on the TI.

All this is great except for one thing. It doesn't work. The TI Multiplan 'symbolic' format which is supposed to be ASCII isn't. Doing a directory of a 'symbolic' file shows it to be INTERNAL/128. If it were ASCII, it would be DISPLAY/128.

Guy Stefano Romano, who mans the Annion Helpline 415-753-1455, owns both a TI 99/4A as well as a Rainbow computer. He found he could not transfer his TI Multiplan files to his Rainbow. The standard way to do this with 'symbolic' files did not work. He discovered the reason was because of the information covered five sentences ago, and he also found a way to fix it.

NOTE: This is easier to do if the files is copied to an empty disk so your file will be the only one on it. Using a disk sector editor program (like DISKO), find the 2nd to the last byte of the first line of the file. In HEX, you will see it is an 02. Change it to 00. That will cause the file type to be converted from INT/128 to DIS/128. Now the 'symbolic' file format will BE a true ASCII file and it can be successfully transferred to another type of computer and loaded into Multiplan.

Thanks to Guy for sharing this information.

FREWARE

Here are some more of the programs offered through FREWARE, but NOT currently available through the Group Library. This listing was compiled by the LA 99ers. If you send for any, please bring a copy to the group librarians (Jack or BJ). Your disk will be replaced. If you would like the group to send for one of the programs let the group secretary (Wesley) know.

Requirements:

- disks sent for freeware must be initialized
- unless otherwise stated, you must include a stamped, self addressed return mailer to receive the Freeware
- be patient, those offering Freeware are not doing it for a profit

[1] FAS-TRAN Bill Harms, 6527 Hayes Court, Chino, CA 91710. A fast checkbook spreadsheet routine for 12 months. Also good for budgeting and income tax. A utility for many related tasks. (\$5)

[2] DRAGON STORM, L. E. Benson, PO Box 283, Eden NC 27288.

[3] FILE READER, Martin A. Smoley, 6149 Bryson Dr., Mentor, OH 44060. Three

excellent programs. 1. Filereader will read and print out most DIS-VAR files.
2. MS-LABEL. 3. 132 PRINT.

[4] GRAPH PAPER, Tom Wynne, 16233 70th PL W, Edmonds, WA 98020. Make professional graph paper with your Eposon-compatible printers. 1 to 30 partitioned squares. Very good. (\$2)

[5] TI99/OPOLY, The Sydney Australia User Group, PO Box 149, Pennant Hills 2120, N.S.W. Australia. It gives you a chance to play that old favorite 'Monopoly' on your computer. (\$10)

[6] SUPERCART DISK, Dick Romer, 213 Earl Street, Walbridge, OH 43465. Two programs, E/A loader and DIS-FIX 80 loader. A super cartridge module loader.

[7] TAX 1984, Mike Conway, 911 Dover Dr., South Bend, IN 16614. Uses TI MULTIPLAN module. Can be updated to handle other years. Transfers info to 1040 form.

[8] CATALOG FILM, John Armstrong, 4801 W First St. Space #90, Santa Ana, CA 92703-3141. Keep track of your FILM or VCR list or labels.

[9] COMPUTER CRAPS, Ramsoft Enterprises, 1501 E Chapman Ave. Suite 338, Fullerton, CA 92631. Simulation of Las Vegas style craps. An excellent 'California Layout' game. (\$5)

"I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!"

by BJ Mathis

I recently came across a short program in Topics - LA 99ers newsletter by Chick De Marti:

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100 CALL CLEAR :: PRINT "HERE I GO": : :  
110 GOSUB 200 DELAY_ROUTINE :: PRINT "I'M BACK"  
120 END  
200 FOR D=1 TO 400 :: NEXT D  
210 RETURN
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In experimenting with the above program Jack and I found that you can put comments after both GOSUB and GOTO. The only stipulation is that the comments must be continuous. That is why the comment above has quotation marks (" ") in it. This type of comment or REM statement would be super for keeping track of exactly what the program is going to do when you tell it to GOSUB or GOTO. Try it, it really does work!

TI PUBLICATIONS - a review

by John Martin for SNUGLETer, Las Vegas, NV.

Over the past few months, there have been some changes in the periodicals covering the TI home computer. While I don't subscribe to all of them, I am familiar with them, and do subscribe to the majority.

Super 99 Monthly has been an excellent source of programming techniques, both for the novice and advanced user. It covers BASIC, XB, MULTIPLAN, FORTH and ASSEMBLY. They also do reviews of programs and products. Super 99 was published from Sept 1984 to Feb 1986. In March 1986, Richard Mitchell, of Super 99, entered into an agreement with Craig Miller of Miller's Graphics to combine the Super 99 monthly with Miller's newsletter THE SMART PROGRAMMER.

THE SMART PROGRAMMER was published by MG from Feb 1984 through the Sept 1984 issue (which came out a year late). Everyone who subscribed to THE SMART PROGRAMMER still had 3 issues coming at the time of the merger. The first new issue of TSP has been delivered with the date June 1986 on the cover. It has continued with the original format of hints, tips, tutorials, FORTH screens, and memory maps. Not much of Super 99 Monthly is visible within this first issue, but that may be due to the fact that Miller had been working on one final issue of The Smart Programmer before the merger. Both publications were excellent sources of information about the 99/4A, and I hope Mitchell is able to blend the two together in proportion over the next few months. I'm looking forward to the next issue!

HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE ceased publication with the volume 5, no. 6 issue. They have recently mailed out the first issue of the replacement publication, HOME COMPUTER JOURNAL, but from what I've seen written about it in other newsletters, it's definitely NOT worth the \$75 a year price they are asking.

The Genial TRAVELER is a magazine on disk. It is published as a project by Barry Traver. The first 3 volumes have been sent to subscribers already (along with 2 bonus disks (not advertised nor part of the subscription price). Most of the programs, tutorials, and articles are geared toward the more advanced user, but there is something for everyone. Most of the things on the subscription disks themselves are copywrited, but the bonus disks are FREeware/FAIRWARE. The disks are commercial "flippies", so you get DSSD equivalent program space.

RYTE DATA COMPUTING newsletter is an informative newsletter from Canada. Normally a 12 page newsletter, the latest issue has gone to 24 pages (probably because they combined the March and April issues). The editor, Bruce Ryan, has been traveling across the country going to the various TI shows this year, and got somewhat behind in his publishing schedule. This issue is the first to have an article by Bill Gronos, formerly with Enthusiast 99. Bill is very well versed in 9900 Assembly language and I, for one, am glad to see him writing again! R/D also has many hardware modifications and construction tips. It is also geared to the more advanced user.

Computer Shopper is a tabloid type publication. They feature advertising for virtually any type of computer equipment you can think of. I have found a number of good bargains on equipment within the pages of this publication. They also feature articles on a variety of computers including the TI. The articles are well written and informative. This is one that I have been meaning to subscribe to but haven't yet.

COMPUTE! Magazine still has some articles and programs for the TI. Lately however, Regena's column is about the only thing you can count on in each issue. While her column alone may be worth the price of the magazine, I would like to see more coverage of our computer within it's pages. My subscription ran out a couple of months ago, and I haven't renewed it.

I have saved the best for last. MICROpendium is the best all-around publication for the TI-99/4A. They have everything from program reviews to key-in programs. They have things for the beginner as well as the advanced programmer. They are responsible to the user's groups and the TI community in general. Having the largest

circulation base, you are more likely to find products advertised here before anywhere else. They also have a FREEWARE section that keeps us abreast on all the new offerings in that category. They also have (as far as I know) the best track record for keeping to a publishing schedule of any commercial TI publication in history. If you haven't already subscribed to this one please do. You won't be disappointed!

There may be more publications that cover the '4A, but I am not aware of them.

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WARNING!!

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From The Front Ranger - Colorado Springs, CO. Author Unknown

The SURGEON GENERAL has determined that COMPUTERS can be hazardous to your marriage. And he has issued the following self-test questionnaire. If you can answer YES to ANY of the following questions, then perhaps you are spending too much time at the keyboard and you might want to start paying more attention to your mate. Remember, this little quiz can only help pin-point a potential problem IF you are totally honest in you answers.

- 1) Does your mate let the kids use your floppy disks for Frisbies?
- 2) Do you ask "What's for dinner?" and you are served a plate of broken up game cartridges?
- 3) Because the peripheral box fan is too loud and your mate can't get to sleep, does he/she shove a pencil through the back of your P-box, stopping the fan?
- 4) After being called to dinner 3 times and each time answering with "I'll be there in a minute", does your mate come into your computer room and dump a serving size spoon of tuna cassarole on top of your console?
- 5) When the bedroom window keeps falling down does your mate use your console as a window prop?
- 6) Do you think the kids are spending too much time with the computer, because they start listening to program cassettes on their portable stereos?
- 7) In divorce court, the ONLY thing your mate doesn't demand half of is your computer?

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NEW PHONE LIST

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A new telephone list is being prepared for the Southwest Ninety-Niners members. This list will be available beginning in September but as always is only available at meetings and then only to members. If you prefer not to have your number published you must contact BJ at 747-5046 by August 15, 1986.

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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-994A computer. Only computer related items will be accepted for publication in this newsletter.

Prices listed in this ad are negotiable. Zenith high resolution RGB color monitor with switchable green screen \$420; 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; 1 TI-99/4A Console \$50; PE Box (empty) \$150; Extended Basic \$50; TI LOGO \$25; (plus the following cartridges) Tax/Investment Record Keeping; Attack; Number Magic; Car Wars; Tombstone City; and TI Invaders. Documentation and cables included. Call and make an offer John 296-8198.

Hunt the Wumpus command module \$3. TI Program Cassette Recorder w/cable \$25. Call Mike 722-6620 evenings and weekends.

TI 99/4A Console, PE Box, RS232, 32K, Disk Drive and Controller, Disk Manager 2, Extended Basic, TI-Writer, Multiplan, Personal Record Keeping, Data Base Manager Module, Personal Report Generator, Mini-Memory, Personal Real Estate, Securities Analysis Module, Beginning Grammar, Video Chess, Typing Tutor, Household Budget Management, Tax/Investment Record Keeping Module, TI Logo Users Manual, Name & Address program and several other programs on disk, many instructional manuals too numerous to mention. Selling as a unit all for only \$450. Call Dave Blevins 747-5620 after 6:20 PM.

Signalman Mark III 300 Baud (connects between phone company and your phone) with 9 volt power supply \$50. Sakata SG1000 high resolution green monitor composite video w/video cable \$60. Call George 742-3091.

Parsec \$3, Terminal Emulator II \$6, Personal Record Keeping \$6. All documentation included. Call BJ 747-5046.

From the SOUTHWEST NINETY-NINERS - Personal Real Estate \$3, Household Budget Management \$2, Home Financial Decisions \$3. All documentation included. Call BJ 747-5046.