

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



**TI99ers
On-Line
User Group**

www.ti99ers.org

SOUTHWEST NINETY-NINERS

AUGUST 1988

P.O. Box 17831 Tucson, AZ 85730

Officers

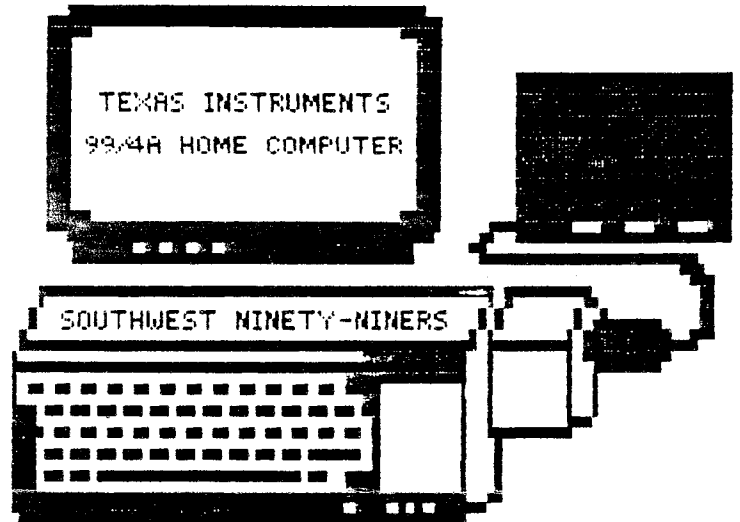
BJ Mathis - President
Ed Hallett - Vice President
Ed McCullough - Secretary
Al Armstrong - Treasurer

Newsletter

BJ & Jack Mathis - Editors

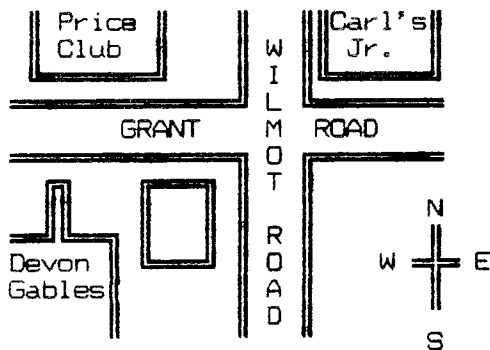
Library

BJ & Jack Mathis - Co-Chairmen
Joe Lenox - Fairware Librarian
Ida McCargar - Lending Librarian



ATTENTION MEMBERS!!

Next meeting, THURSDAY, AUGUST 4th at Devon Gables Health Care Center in the Executive Dining Room at 6150 E Grant across from the Price Club at 7pm. Look for the BLUE AWNING!!!



UPCOMING EVENTS

This month Al Armstrong will present more information on disk drives. His presentation on disk drives in April was very informative. Many members missed that meeting, though and Al says his research uncovered more information that he did not present at that time. If you want to understand how your disk drives work and how they interact with the rest of your computer, be there!

Geneva Users Workshop

Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm (August 9th). Ed Hallett's home 5600 S Country Club #64 - 889-5525.

TI Users Workshop

>>>>NO MEETING IN AUGUST!!!!<<<<

Advanced Languages Workshop

Fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (August 23rd). Includes: FORTH, A/L, etc. Rod Stallard's Home - 7575 E Logan - 745-6071



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As President of this group I get a place in the newsletter to spout off about anything I want to, that is unless Jack doesn't like it! Since we are the newsletter editors we can cut the space for the Presidents's Corner or increase it as we please. So this month I am going to use my space to praise some of the hard working members of the SouthWest Ninety-Miners!

Ida McCargar is one of the hardest working members of our group. She is the Lending Librarian and as such brings books, newsletters, modules, etc. to the meetings and stores them in between meetings, as well as keeping track of which member has each item. Between meetings she indexes all the newsletters we receive so that members can look up a subject and find all articles relating to that subject. All this is a monumental task in itself, however...

Ida has also taken it upon herself to put together a Disk of the Month for us. Ida downloads programs, gets suggestions from group members, and then plans, tests, copies and labels the disks for us. These disks have so far been free to members attending the meeting and only \$1 to those who cannot.

To top all that off, when I was recuperating from my recent surgery, Ida made me cookies and went to the grocery store for me. Thank you Ida for your devotion and concern for all the members of the SouthWest Ninety-Miners.

Ed McCullough as our Secretary, does what is expected of a Secretary, plus he brings me the mail several times a week, sorts the indexed data that Ida inputs, and lends moral support whenever possible.

July's Minutes

Thursday July 7, 1988

1. The July 7 meeting of the SN99ers U6 was called to order by Pres. BJ Mathis at 7:15pm at the new meeting place at Devon Gables.
2. VPRES. Ed Hallett conducted the Question and Answer period.
 - Q. How does one save data statements within a program to a file, search a data entry and resave to a different file?
 - A. The second file must be in an appropriate file length and type. Read back from file - use input statement.

Al Armstrong works diligently to keep our financial records up to date and tries to explain the complications of financial planning for our group's future. Al has also taken it upon himself to get the Advanced Languages Workshop on a course of learning. Al is an excellent source for solving Assembly Language and hardware problems. When we had to find a new place to meet Al followed up on the suggestions made by members of the group and one of them turned out to be the ideal meeting place for us.

Ed Hallett, Vice President, keeps us informed of the latest developments for the Geneve, as well as conducting a Geneve Workshop each month, and keeping the Ant Farm BBS up and running. He handles a lot of hardware problems and often helps Jack to resolve individual problems.

Jack Mathis, well the only "title" he will except is Co-Librarian and Newsletter Co-Editor, but the work he does for members of the group is boundless. He will drop everything to help members solve problems and his patience goes farther than mine! I recently saw an address label that Ida was messing around with it said: "JACK MATHIS - TI Doctor!". Perhaps that is the best explanation of Jack's usefulness to this group.

There are others in the group who help whenever asked, but the people above seldom wait to be asked and I wanted all of you to be aware of the contributions they are making to the SouthWest Ninety-Miners. Without them we would not be able to function as a group or at least not nearly as well.

BJ Mathis - 747-5046

3. BJ reported on the line officers meeting of June 27.
 - a. It was decided to order for the U6 Library:
 - TI-99/4A Hardware Manual for \$19.95.
 - Asgard Magazine subscription at \$6 for four quarterly issues.
 - The Writers Manual (Condensed version of TE-Writer Manual) at \$1.70 for ten or more copies.
 - b. The schedule of special programs for the business meetings for the balance of the year was set up.

August - Al Armstrong - More on Disk Drives
 September - Al Armstrong - Fix-It Program
 Eric Stollard - LOGO Overview
 October - Jack Mathis - Printer "Magic"
 Dave Wolfson - Programming Philosophy
 November - Jack Mathis - Basic & ExBasic Tricks
 Ed Hallett - Future's Workshop
 December - Christmas Party
 January - Election of Officers for the coming year.

- c. Planning another order of Disk Drives in September, if at least ten are ordered. TEAC 1/2 Ht Drives (including cables) will cost about \$170.00 a pair.
- d. Modems can be ordered by anyone at anytime for about \$70.00 plus 5% handling charge, since we cannot get a price break.

4. Financial Report:

Checking Account Balance \$1550
 Liabilities:
 Fairware Author Donations - \$10
 Designated for BBS Upgrade - \$315
 Newsletter (6 Months) - \$360
 Total Liabilities - \$775
 Required Bank Minimum - \$500
 Balance available - \$275 + dues for the balance of year & other incidental income, for Antfarm Support, buying disks, etc.
 (Bank service charge is \$8/month if balance is less than the \$500 minimum.)

Disks cost about \$300 for 500 and would be a major purchase, so it is important we keep our bank balance at \$300 or more above the \$500 minimum.

5. VPres and BY80P Ed Hallett reported on the status of the BBS (Ant Farm).

The group's computer system is used on the BBS, which he maintains at his home. The cost of operation for electricity and a separate phone line is about \$28 per month. Ed supported the BBS for the first year of operation and is now asking the group to participate in the support of the system, due to his current financial situation.

The BBS enables group members to leave messages, up-load and down-load messages, programs and files. It has been in operation for a year and a half now. About 2400 calls have been made to date.

Ida McCarger moved that the group underwrite the cost of the BBS at \$10.00 per month. Motion was seconded by Joe Lenox.

Several individuals have supported the BBS on a month to month basis (Bill Queen, Jack Mathis, Leon Dorros, Aaron Traiger, Ida McCarger and Ed McCullough).

Benefits of the Ant Farm to the group as a whole include:

- a. Fairware programs down-loaded and up-loaded from National Network Services
- b. Knowledge sharing within the group.
- c. Experience in using Telecommunications equipment and procedures.
- d. Available to out of state members.

The system provides 1000 sectors for down-loading. Plans are to double this capacity and increase speed with a NYARC Controller.

Prorated cost per member per year would be about \$6, for the 58 members.

The motion passed.

- 6. A copy of the Landing Library Periodical List was made available to all members.
- 7. New Business cards are available for the members to use, to give to people who are known to have TI equipment. Put your own name or an officer's name on it.
- 8. A TI system is available for sale.
- 9. An Advanced Diagnostics Program packet is available to the club to be raffled off. The raffle idea was not working, so the program was sold to Rod Stallard.
- 10. Demonstrations were given by Ida McCarger - PRBase and Rod Stollard - Forth.

*Ed McCullough, Secretary
 Wes Eng, Assisting*

FROM THE LIBRARY

NEW BOOKS

Software Development Handbook, Geoff Vincent & Jim Gill, Texas Instruments October 1981. A guide to software development from Texas Instruments dealing with "power BASIC" and Assembly Language programming.

Data and File Management for the TI-99/4A, John P. Grillo, J. D. Robertson, Henry M. Zbyszynski. "A sincere effort to simplify and demystify the subject of data structures. The topic of data structures is useful only as long as it relates to the practical aspects of how to manage data. The programs included should show you how these techniques can be useful in many common applications."

Get Personal with Your TI-99/4A, William Manning & Lon Ingalsbe. "This book is designed to provide background information and programming skills for the TI-99/4A personal computer.... This computer is not a toy! It is a powerful tool to help you with daily activities.... If you suffer from cyberphobia (fear of computers) or cyberphilia (obsession with computers) this book can help!"

COMPUTE!'s TI Collection Volume One. "With over 30 TI-99/4A games, applications, utilities and tutorials - most never before published - this anthology contains the best from COMPUTE! Publications. Arcade-style games, data base management, a sophisticated character editor, and much more, provide something for every TI user."

Please call if there is anything you would like from the library at our August meeting (294-3024) or leave a message on the Ant Farm. You may ask for a specific book, books on a subject, Newsletters from a specific group, Newsletters with special articles on subjects such as FORTH, PASCAL, A/L, ExBasic, Ram Disks etc., or just a pack of recent Newsletters. I will not be bringing the 3 boxes full of all the newsletters. You are also welcome to come to my home and pick up anything you need between meetings. We also have Assembly, TI Writer, Super Extended Basic, and a few cassettes to loan. Beginners or new members should be checking into some of the informative material we have.

The disk of the month has a second lesson on the constellations, an article by Barry Traver, and a Wheel of Fortune game that plays like the one on TV--the author regrets that memory limitations prevented him from including Vanna and the prizes. Have fun!

Do we have any Science Fiction fans? Western New York group has a column in their Newsletter called "Tidbytes from the TI Zone (Eerie music required)". These are short sketches or stories with a sci-fi flavor. The May tale, titled "Therapy" dealt with the dangers of becoming a bulletin board addict. June's story, "The Blue Light Special" is about a new kind of shoplifting.

AUGUST - Disk Of the Month

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=====
NAME=DOM:8/88   FILES=17   USED=354   AVAIL=4   DATE=07-18-88
=====
FILENAME  SIZE  TYPE  LANG  DESCRIPTION  ;;
ALPHA/SONG  5  #####  B-XB  Children's song  ;;
BANANAS    39  #####  B-XB  Music with Graphics  ;;
BOOT       27  #####  Pgm_  Main Menu  ;;
CHARA1     6  #####  Pgm_  Character Set for BOOT  ;;
FILEREADER 15  #####  XB__  Reads any file not in program format  ;;
LINUS      13  #####  B/XB  Prints a Poster: Security is...  ;;
LOAD       5  #####  Pgm_  Loads BOOT  ;;
LUNCH/MAN  26  #####  B-XB  TI goes out to lunch--nice graphics  ;;
REALITY    6  #####  XB__  Graphics for a hot summer day  ;;
STAR2      33  #####  EA/5  More about the constellations  ;;
TELECOMM   23  D/V80  Text  Barry Traver discusses BBS  ;;
WHEEL/DOCS 10  D/V80  Text  Docs for WHEEL OF FORTUNE Game  ;;
WHEEL/LOAD  2  PROG29  ___  Loads WHEEL game  ;;
WHEELV2    55  I/V254  ___  ;;
WHL1       10  #####  Pgm_  WHEEL OF FORTUNE Game  ;;
WHL_BONUS  27  I/F64  ___  ;;
WHL_PUZZ   52  I/F64  ___  ;;
=====

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CATLIB COMPANION REVIEW

by Todd Clifton - SouthWest Ninety-Niners

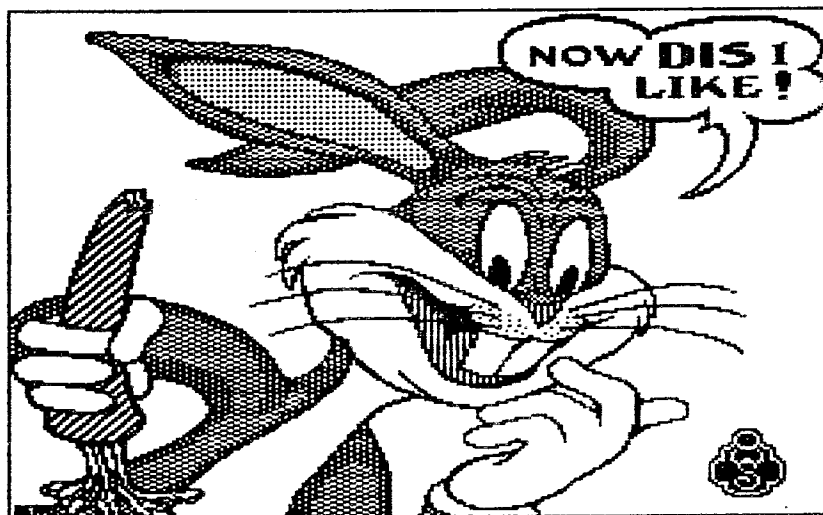
A few months ago I did a review of the latest version of Catlib by Marty Kroll. In that review I mentioned that Mr. Kroll stated at the end of the doc file that a "companion" program was coming out to be used in conjunction with Catlib. Well Catlib Companion is here at last.

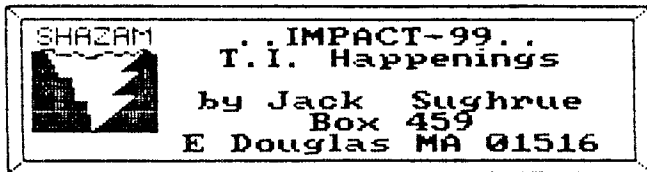
Upon booting the program you are faced with a menu that is as straight forward as the menu in Catlib. What Companion does is load the data and disk files from Catlib and allow you to add keywords and comments to each file in your library. It thus creates a database of commented files/disks and allows you to create nicely formatted printouts of this information. Clean and simple.

I found the program easy to use and very forgiving if you blunder from time to time. One real nice feature is if you delete some files from your Catlib data, Companion will update its file if you choose. The documentation that comes with Catlib Companion is well written and complete and will have you using this fine program in no time at all. All in all another fine program from this prolific fairware writer!

In my earlier review of Catlib I said that Catlib was a "must have" for anyone with a disk system. On working with Companion I can't go as far to say that. The file data and comments that Companion produces are among the most complete that can be had in this type of program. However, keep in mind that YOU must assign all keywords and comments. If you have a library of 500-2000 files this setup could take quite some time. Companion is the type of program that will give you only what you put in it. Companion is a good name for this program, because only the end user can decide if the things Catlib Companion does are worth the set up time involved.

In conclusion I recommend that everyone who has Catlib check this program out and see if it will enhance your diskfile tracking.





GOOD OLD DAYS ARE COMING BACK!

Remember those good old days of 1982-84 when there were loads of books and magazines for us TIers? When we could buy text materials for our computer faster than we could read and use them?

Methinks these days may be returning. At least a little.

At recent fairs and meeting I've attended there has been lots of talk about the disappearing textware in the TI World Community. No more books. No more magazines. No more...

Actually, there is more good, intelligent, useful TI stuff being written for textware today than there was four or five years ago. It's just that most of it is being written by users in user groups, not by some writer in an ivory tower somewhere. Most of these new writings are free (in newsletters with membership or in exchanges with other groups) and readily available.

Someday, I'd love to publish a list of my favorite dozen newsletters worldwide, but then the IMPACT column may be reduced to only 12 publications.

So much for that idea.

Joining a user group, even by mail if there aren't any nearby, may be the most sensible investment a 99er could make.

However, there are still lots of other sources for textware in our fellowship.

COMPUTER SHOPPER (\$21 for 12 monthly issues) P.O. Box 1419, Titusville, FL 32781-9988. This 10 X 14 500-plus page giant is probably the best single source for inexpensive disks, drives, cables, monitors, printers, what-have-you. It also has a listing of user groups (Check to see if yours is there.) and a TI classified section. But the reason most of us subscribe is the TI FORUM written by Ron Albright and John Zittrain. These two guys have a folksy approach to the realm of TI computing. Their monthly articles are full of wit and information and lots of heady reviews and predictions.

MICROpendium (\$20 for 12 monthly issues) P.O. Box 1343, Round Rock, TX 78680. This is the best magazine source for all TI owners, from super techie all the way down the ladder to people like myself. The 40-page newsprint periodical is totally devoted to the TI world and is as up-to-date as one can get. If you can only

afford one TI magazine, this is probably the one. (John Zittrain, Ron Albright, Barry Traver, Chris Bobbitt, and Bruce Forbes are probably going to kill me for saying that.)

ASGARD NEWS (\$6 for 4 quarterly issues) P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20850. Though this magazine is fairly new, the editor - Chris Bobbitt - has been programming and writing steadily for the TI community since his teenage years. So it's a natural step up to see a full-fledged magazine come out. Most of the first issue was devoted to previews of coming attractions and reviews of many of Asgard's products. Each issue, though, has an extended article (the 9640 vs the 99/8, for example) and editorials and regular columns and corners. Lots of small, helpful hints and comments are given on a variety of TI subjects.

Genial TRAVELER (\$36 for a one-year, six-disk subscription; \$65 for a two-year subscription. These subscriptions also have bonuses.) 835 Green Valley Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19128. In a way Barry Traver's diskazines are not strictly a hardcopy magazine, but the DV/80 files dumped will give you the equivalent of a novel. To be a 99er with a disk drive and not have this service is to live a deprived life. These are packed! Really packed disks of an incredible variety of things for the TI: music, utilities, games, wordprocessing, everything else. Far less than a penny a sector, these disks may be ordered as Volume One (the set already complete), Volume Two (still some to come), or both. I would recommend Volume One first.

All of the above you may already own or at least know about. But there is another text/disk setup out there that is really worth discovering. It's been around since September of '87, and it is another large value for we 99ers, though it just hasn't gotten the attention many other TI efforts have gotten.

TId Bits is a bimonthly magazine for only \$8 (6 issues) for hardcopy or \$12 (6 issues) for disk (SSSD floppy). The disk contains lots of additional PD and Fairware stuff to extend to two sides. The magazine contains photos and graphics.

Mail to Bruce Forbes, editor; Route 2, Box 412; Sumerduck, VA 22742.

It may be hard to make a decision about which version to get - disk or text. Although the disk contains the exact text of the hardcopy (and a lot of other surprise goodies besides), I personally am partial to the hardcopy for a number of reasons.

TId Bits pilot issue contained some screen photos, graphics of an envelope cataloguer, and a screen graphic to go along with a program printed out.

The next issues, however, contained some of the best photographs I have ever seen of the internal structure of our computer. The text talks about chip replacements and

gives some very precise, easy-to-follow photographs and enlargements that make the process very logical, very clear, and - even to a non-techie like myself - very unfrighteningly practical.

It's one thing to see drawings (which are also in the magazine), but it's quite another to have step-by-step photographs of the entire process.

These magazines are jam-packed with all kinds of stuff that you don't find in MICROpendium, ASGARD NEWS, or - because of the nature of the zine - Genial TRAVELER.

Bruce supplies the reader with all kinds of inside information on a large variety of things for us 99ers. Lots of prices of things. Lots of addresses. Lots of reviews. Lots of programs.

It's a one-man operation at this point, and each issue gets better and better.

Bruce has promised to continue this magazine through at least one year's subscription. And hardcopies of all past issues will be available through 1988 with each subscription. The disk versions will continue to be available, I assume, for a long time to come. Newsletter editors may be interested in getting this version for an excellent source of some interesting material.

Bruce says of his excellent efforts, "A lot of thought went into the pricing of TID Bits. We were keeping in mind that the TI community has been shafted too many times. Therefore, we set a break-even factor projected to December 1988. If we should pick up a sponsor or advertiser throughout the year, those funds would be used to lure a TI Brain to produce unique articles for us." [It's available, Bruce.]

"We are committed to 1988 and are cautiously optimistically looking to 1989. If the world doesn't end or the TI community completely collapse we project some kind of survival into 1989 and beyond."

Hooray!

Writers and programmers and techies and non-techies, take note! Here is a good source for you to get those articles and designs and comic strips published.

Readers, here is another great TI source that needs

all our support. For only \$8 we could be supporting our own futures with our fabulous machines.

Good luck, Bruce!

HELPFUL HINT OF THE MONTH

This has to do with TI WRITER (or any version: FUNNELWEB, BA WRITER, whatever).

Did you know you can type anything you want after a carriage return ON THE SAME LINE and it won't print out. But it'll SAVE. This is great for text notes for screen reading. I've used this a lot, particularly when I'm writing articles or poems. Very handy.

Also handy is the space use in LF and SF.

When you LF and there is already a DSK2.HEMENWAY up there on auto and you want to load DSK2.KONG, all you have to do is type the KONG and press the Spacebar and Enter, even though it'll say DSK2.KONG WAY on the screen. Actually, you can even SAVE a file with a long (up to 80-col) note after a filename and space. This will disk SAVE and screen read but not print out. Lots of handy reasons for this on working disks.

Another handy-dandy is letter saving. If you write as many letters as I do (between 30 and 40 a week), it's a good idea to let your FUNNELWEB do the sorting and hard work for you. Just name the letter by date and name in the following way. If I write to Jim Peterson on May 17 I would SAVE the file as DSK2.517JIMPETE. Always month first (5) followed by day (17) and the name as far as it'll go. So if I wrote to Jim on November 27 it would be 1127JIMPET, but if I wrote on April Fool's Day it would be 41JIMPETER. This is also handy if you write a lot of letters on the same day, as TI WRITER will sort them for cataloguing first by number then by letter. So they will be numerically AND alphabetically sorted in the catalog.

Have any handy-dandys of your own (or ones you've come across)? Send them along. I'll be happy to IMPACT them for you, with full credit, of course.

BUYER'S GUIDE

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.

Oldies but Goodies Part 1 \$5 (cassettes), Ghost Town Adventure (cassette, module not included) \$8; Modules: Car Wars \$4, Chisholm Trail \$4, Hunt the Wumpus \$4, The Attack \$4, Tombstone City \$5, Munch Man \$5, Football \$6, Multiplication \$7. MANUALS INCLUDED!!! Call Kyle Sikorsky 743-7378 (Weekdays 5pm-10pm or Weekends 8:30pm-10:30pm).

TI-99/4A Console \$35 o.b.o. Call Ejaz 623-8257.

TI-99/4A Console, TI Joysticks, Thermal printer, Cassette Recorder, 12" TV(BW), all for \$125 o.b.o. Call Paul Garrison 747-3884(Days) or 573-0572(Evenings).

TI-99/4A Console & Home Budget Management \$35. Call Darlene Webb 885-0347.

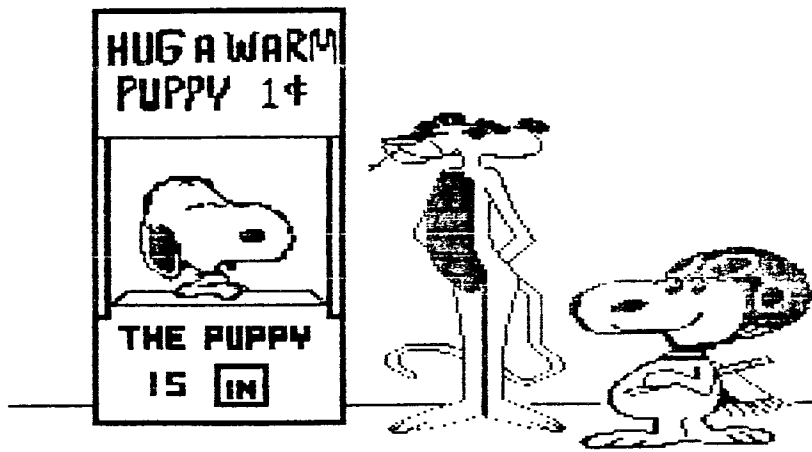
TI-99/4A Console \$35. Call John Hedspeth 885-0859 or 745-7253 (work).

Modules: Chisholm Trail \$3, Zero Zap \$6, Music Maker \$7, Terminal Emulator II \$7, Burgertime \$5, MicroSurgeon \$8, Personal Record Keeping \$4, Personal Report Generator \$4, Disk Manager I \$3, Alpiner \$5, Navarone's Disk Fixer \$5, The Attack \$3, TI Logo \$8, Car Wars \$3; Books: The Best of 99'er \$10, The Best of TI 99/4A Cartridges \$2, The Best Texas Instruments Software \$2. Call Ed Hallett 889-5525, all offers considered.

Teknika 13" Color Monitor Model MJ-22, RGB/Composite, TI compatible, not Geneve compatible, used 6 months, \$175, Box Car R8232/P10 Port Stand Alone \$40, TI Silent 700 Terminal Printer (uses thermal paper - 8+ rolls included) \$50, TI Extended Basic \$25, Multiplan \$15, Editor/Assembler \$15, Logo II \$15, TI Writer \$5, Spell Checker \$10, Home Budget Management \$3, Terminal Emulator II \$7, Personal Real Estate \$4, Personal Report Generator \$4, Personal Record Keeping \$4, Early Reading \$7, Microsurgeon \$8, Moonsweeper \$5, MASH \$5, Munchman \$3. Call Jack or BJ 747-5046.

Volkswodem 300 BAUD - Two switches: Talk/Data and Half/Full Duplex - Like new \$35. Call Leon Dorros 297-0965.

From SouthWest Ninety-Niners: Ribbons for Star Micronics NX-10 Printer \$4.50ea., "Best Newsletter" \$5ea., Overlays for TI-99/4A Computer, Cassette Cables \$3, Personal Record Keeping \$4, Tax Investment/Record Keeping \$3, Tombstone City \$3, Home Budget Management \$3, Addition \$5, Subtraction \$5, Multiplication \$5, Books: User's Guide to Texas Instruments Computer, Software & Peripherals \$2, Using & Programming the TI-99/4A \$6, Introduction to Assembly Language for the TI Home Computer by Molesworth \$4. Call Jack or BJ 747-5046.



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