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.

DECEMBER 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!!

Wext meeting, Thursday, December 1st 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!!! This will be the SouthWest Minety-Niners Christmas party. Please bring your family, friends and some goodies to share.

FESTWEST '89 PREP MEETING

Those interested in attending the Fest West '89 in San Diego on February 18th and 19th should plan to attend this preparation meeting on Juesday, December 6th at 7:30pm - Mathis home 5941 E 26th - 747-5046

GENEVE USERS WORKSHOP

Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (December 13th). Rod Stallard's home - 7575 E Logan - 745-6071

GENERAL USERS WORKSHOP

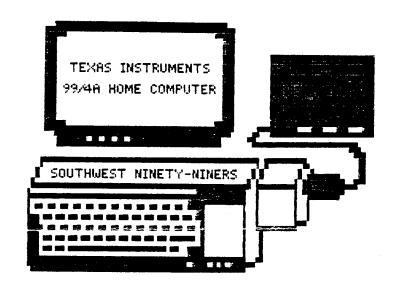
Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (December 20th). Includes: Basic, ExBasic, Writer, Multiplan, Databases, hardware problems, etc. Mathis home 5941 E 26th - 747-5046.

ADVANCED LANGUAGES WORKSHOP

Fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (December 27th). Includes: FORTH, A/L, etc. Rod Stallard's Home - 7575 E Logan - 745-6071

ELECTIONS UPCOMING

The annual meeting of the SouthWest Ninety-Niners is scheduled for Thursday, January 5, 1988 at the Executive Dining Room at 6150 E Grant at 7pm. In accordance with our constitution election of officers will be held at that time. A nominating committee has been appointed to select



nominees for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. In accordance with the constitution, the committee is surveying the membership and requests members to submit their nominations on the form included with this memsletter by mailing it to the group P.O. Box or by handing it to a committee member. Nominations from the floor are also permitted on the date of the election.

NOVEMBER - DISK OF THE MONTH

Your Christmas Disk contains a Christmas Concert. If you press \$4 on the Menu all the songs will play except Three Kings which will run only in Basic. You must have Extended Basic to run the Concert. Animals is a guessing game for children which runs in Basic or XB and Murder is a Text Mystery to solve. If you prefer to run each song separately, list the program and look for a RUN statement at the end of the program. You may delete or Rem that statement.

Merry Christmas SouthWest Ninety-Miners, hope you have enjoyed the DOMs as much as I have enjoyed putting them together for you.

Ida McCargar 1 294-3024

CASSETTE OF THE MONTH

As no one got a cassette of the month in November, those cassettes will be used as December cassettes of the month also. If no one is interested in receiving these cassettes we will discontinue this service.

NOVEMBER SW99ERS' MINUTES

Thursday November 3, 1988

- Pres. BJ Mathis asked Dave Ormand to conduct the Question and Answer period.
 - Q. Will the BBS begin operating again soon?
 - A. Dave Ormand advised us to ask him again next month,
 - Q. There were other questions but 3 missed them. Sorry Ed M. (And BJ can't remember them either!).
- 2. We need articles for the Newsletter. If any member is using any kind of program the rest of us do not have, write about it and let us print it in the Newsletter. Membership includes approximately one tenth cassette users and one tenth Geneve owners. BJ does not have a Geneve and is not always sensitive to materials for cassette only users, so if you want to see information that pertains to your use of your TI-99/4A or Geneve then you need to write some articles for YOUR newsletter.
- A meeting for those interested in attending the TI-Fest West in San Diego on February 18-19, 1988, will be held on December 6th at the Mathis home.
- Some more overlay strips are being made up. We need some volunteers to put in the red marks and help with the cutting.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This newsletter includes some ideas for Christmas that you may want to show to your Santa Claus! If Santa is interested in purchasing any of the items listed or other computer related items they can contact me to be Santa's helper.

One of the SouthWest Winety-Niners has made himself a gift to the local group. Tom Wills will no longer be a non-attending member! He and his wife expect to be set up in Tucson by the January meeting! Tom has been the President of Sheboygan 99ers, Wisconsin, and SysOp of Mearer the take BBS. He is also a SysOp of People Link, a national Bulletin Board along the lines of GEnie and CompuServe. I'm sere we will be hearing more about PLINK once Tom is around to tell us about it. Welcome to Tucson, Tom!

Another, just in time for Christmas, gift to the SM 99ers, from Dave Ormand, the new BBS is expected to be on-line on or about December 3, 1988. The phone number will be 622-7113 (that's area code 602 for out of staters!). Dave

- 5. BJ announced that beginning in January we will have to start charging for the disk of the month. The cost will be \$1 for attending members and \$1.50 for non-attending members.
- 6. Election time is approaching us and we need volunteers for the Nominating Committee. Les Neff volunteered to be Chairman. Dave Ormand and Jim Shoun also volunteered to serve. Thanks fellows, it is nice to see different people participating in the various activites of the group.
- 7. Ida McCarger has extra copies of the early 99ers and HCM Magazines. She would like someone to volunteer to take them home to store them for the club. She is running out of storage space. Leonard Taffs and John Hale volunteered to take these items. Ida may have more for others to store and transport to meetings.
- 8. The next club meeting will be on December 6, same place, same time. This will be our Christmas Party. Bring your relatives and friends, and some goodies.
- Jack Mathis showed the members some ways to shorten and thus speed the operation of Basic and ExBasic programs.

Ed McCullough, Secretary

would appreciate any suggestions for naming this new BBS, you can leave a message with me or tell Dave at the meeting December 1st.

I have announced a Christmas present to the TI community, from the SW 99ers, in this newsletter. Since so much interest has been shown in indexing information about the TI-99/4A and Myarc's 9640 Geneve, I am making the indexes of newsletters we have, available to the entire TI community.

If you, also, would like to make yourself a Christmas present to the SM 99ers and in so doing a gift to the II community in general, consider these possibilities. Nominate yourself for an office (the form to do so is included for members). Also, the group could use some help in the following areas: Re-organization of Public Domain Disks by subject, handling of bulk disk orders for the group (research information is available), retype articles from other newsletters, write articles for YOUR newsletter, edit articles, assist the Lending Librarian by

storing and bringing part of the Lending Library material to meetings, become involved with our indexing project by volunteering to sort some of the indexes, contribute your downloads from national Bulletin Boards to the group disk library, set up one or more workshops to gain computer knowledge in an area that interests you (databases, graphics, telecommunications, Multiplan, etc.), plan and present demonstrations of programs that you use — whether they've been presented before or not, help with the overlay project the SW 99ers is involved in, plan to go to San Diego for Fest West '89 and help with registration and/or the SW 99ers booth, send for fairware and make sure the group library gets a copy (if it is all right with the author). Every member of any group has something to share with the rest of the members. It is not necessary to

stand in front of the group, take on a major project, or become an officer to make a valuable contribution to your group and thereby the entire TI community.

Watch Out! - Chad Johnson of the Sheboygan Area U6, warns MDOS 1.11 may be a Trojan horse. MDOS 1.11 is available on many of the national network BBSs. Chad questions whether it is an official Myarc release and thinks it may have caused at least one hard disk to crash! I have not heard of anyone else having problems with this version of MDOS, however not too many people have hard disks, yet.

BJ Mathis - 747-5046

<u>USE OF INPUT</u> (as a TROUBLE-SHOOTING TOOL)

by Leonard Taffs

One of the most useful little tricks to use in programming whether you are doing your own program or trying to adapt someone else's program to do something special for your own use is the ability to stop programs at the points you wish to analyze what is happening. The use of TRACE is of course intended to help you in this but it sure is rough on the eyes to see the screen scrolling so many numbers. If one has Super-Ex-Basic you can get a printout of numbers, but sometimes interrupting the program with INPUT is much faster.

If you happen to be running a program with ON ERROR commands then it requires an intermediate step to check. What I do is disable the "ON ERROR" commands (by REMarking these lines--don't forget to look for the "CALL ERR" found on whatever line "ON ERROR" refers). Run the program and when it crashes at an error point it often locates an error for you.

You can use either "INPUT X" or "INPUT "":KY\$". "INPUT X" will stop the program but you will have to enter a number for the program to continue after the interruption. (In certain programs this might not do what you expect.).

"INPUT "":KY\$" is my preference because simply pressing (ENTER) allows the program to continue. Furthermore you can say anything you like between the quotes. This is really handy as you can identify what line point in the program you have interrupted it. (Yes, using FUNCTION CLEAR will do the same thing but of course you have to re-run the program each time (time-consuming!). So, using something like: "620 INPUT "HOLDING AT LINE 620":KY\$ will let you observe what is happening up to that point (with or without TRACE being at your option). Incidentally whatever letters you use after the colon in the input statement must be followed with the \$ sign.

I have found the use of the INPUT statement one of the best Trouble-Shooting Tools (or Learning Tools in the case of studying a new and seemingly Hard-To-Understand program) in any book of tricks. The use of INPUT statements combined with TRACE gives you a very good chance of finding your possible incorrect line references or why the program didn't go where you thought you told it to go. This works in plain BASIC as well as Extended or Super.

THE BUT FIFTH A SECOND TO SECOND TO

by BJ Mathis

Some time ago I indexed the SouthWest Ninety-Niners newsletters on PRBase, from the first newsletter we published through the current newsletters. I showed Ida McCargar and Ed McCullough what I was doing. We thought it would be a good thing to do with the exchange newsletters. Ida indexed all the newsletters on file and has continued to keep the index up-to-date. Ed McCullough has sorted the PRBase files by subject and they have been available to our members. Dave Ormand has benefitted from the indexing by getting all the information on "c". Al Armstrong got information on disk drives. Rod Stallard has been kept up on Forth articles. Other members have requested information in many other areas. This has allowed our members to benefit from all the information in the exchange newsletters without having to re-publish all of thes.

At the time, we started this project we thought, maybe someday we could release the information to other users groups as a service to them. Shortly, we read about Johnson Space Center's project, so we wrote to them explaining our system and asking for a start-up package. We found that we did not like the system they were using because it lacked standardization in entries. We sent them a sample disk from the 15-20 disks we had indexed, suggested some possible changes and decided to continue our indexing project with the idea that we may be of service to them with the newsletters we had already indexed. I wrote to them again, and Ida has since written to them with no acknowledgement of our letters.

I have since read JSC has had a less than satisfactory response, so far, and has put the project on hold pending possible conversion to TI-Base to allow easier sorting. We have decided to make our index available to the TI We do not have all the newsletters in existance indexed, after all we do not exchange with all the groups, and there are some gaps in sequence due to not receiving some newsletters from the groups we do exchange with. However, we will make this index available to anyone interested in receiving it. The files can be sorted by groups or by subject. I have included the "Subject Authority List" we use for the main heading (each entry is also given a more specific heading, such as TI-Base, PRBase, TI-Artist, etc. and can be sorted on the specific topic), plus a list of the newsletters we have indexed and the date we started receiving each group's newsletters. Please indicate your interest area(s) and/or User group(s), include \$3 for the first disk of imformation and a \$1 for each disk thereafter, indicate whether you have single or double sided drives. Requires: PRBase 2.1 (we will provide this for an additional \$3), Extended Basic, 32K, and at least one disk drive.

Aloha US, Honolulu HA - 10/87 Bayou 99 UG, Bayou Byte, Lake Charles LA - 5/86 Boston Computer Society, TI-99/4A UG, MA - 2/87 Brandon TIUG. FL - 5/87 Central Pa 99'er, Harrisburg PA - 11/86 Central Texas U6, Paper Peripheral, Austin TX - 11/85-9/87 Chicago Times, IL - 4/87 Cin-Day UG, Piqua, DH - 9/84 Cleveland Area 99/4A UG Newsletter, OH - 6/86 Computer Bridge, St. Louis 99ers, Crestwood MD - 10/88 Computer Voice, SCCS, El Cajon CA - 10/88 Erie 99er, PA - 7/85 Eugene UG, TILT, OR - 2/86 Front Ranger, Colorado Springs CD - 5/86 HOCUS, Milwaukee Area UG, WI - 5/87 HUG. Houston TX - 11/87 Interface, Western New York UG - 8/85 JUG. Johnson Space Center UG, League City TX - 2/88 Kawartha 99ers, Peterborough Ont Canada - 11/85 KC 99ers, Kansas City MO - 9/86 LA 99ers, Topics, CA - 9/84 Lehigh 99er, Allentown PA - 8/84 New Jug North US. TI-dings. Dumont NJ - 9/86 Penn-Ohio 99/4A UG, Struthers OH - 7/86 Pittsburgh UG, PUG Peripheral, PA - 11/84 Pomona Valley Computer Group, CA - 9/86 98 99ers, 98 Monitor, Bayside NY - 4/87 ROM Newsletter, UGDC, CA - 12/84 San Fernando Valley 99er, Times, CA - 5/86 Sheboygan Area U6, Hardcopy, WI - 9/86 Salt Lake And Valley 99er UG, Ball & Chain, UT - 5/87 Southern Nevada UG, SNUGletter, Las Vegas NV - 8/83 South Bay UG, Bits & Bytes, San Jose CA - 9/86 Spirit of 99, Columbus OH - 9/85 Sudbury 99ers, Whitefish, Ont Canada - 1/87 Sun City Computer Club, El Paso TX - 4/87 Suncoast 99ers, Suncoast Beeper, Petersburg FL - 3/84 Tidewater 99/4A UG, Chesapeake VA - 1/87 Upper Pinellas UG, Largo FL - 11/87 VAST 99ers UG, Phoenix AZ - 11/86 Victoria 99ers U6, British Columbia Canada - 7/85 West Jax 99ers, Orange Park FL - 4/86 West Penn 99ers, Jeannette PA - 4/86

Our files are only partial for UGs listed below.

AVTI UG, Lancaster CA - 9/86,10/86,6/87 CALL Newsletter, Atlanta 99ers UG, 6A - 1/85-2/87 Chattanooga TN UG, CHUG - 2/85-6/85 Club 99, Attleboro MA - 3/87,4/87 Greater Orlando, The 99er, FL - 4/86-9/86 Hunter Valley, Australia - 6/87,7/87 JUG, Jacksonville UG, AR - 7/85-12/85 Mid-America Cursor, Shawnee Mission KS - 11/84-6/84 North Nevada 99ers, Reno NV - 3/86-12/87 Rocky Mountain 99ers, Tic Talk, Denver CD - 9/84-1/85