

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



**TI99ers  
On-Line  
User Group**

**[www.ti99ers.org](http://www.ti99ers.org)**



# SOUTHWEST NINETY-NINERS

JANUARY 1989

P.O. Box 17831 Tucson, AZ 85730

## OFFICERS

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

## NEWSLETTER

BJ Mathis - Editor

## LIBRARY

BJ & Jack Mathis - Co-Chairman  
Ida McCargar - Fairware Librarian  
Ida McCargar - Lending Librarian

## ATTENTION MEMBERS!!

Next meeting, Thursday, January 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!!! We will be electing new officers at this meeting, please be sure to attend.

## ELECTIONS UPCOMING

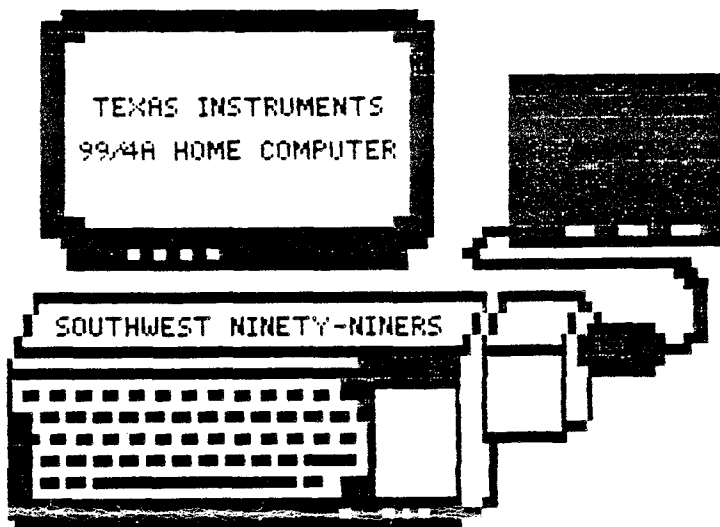
The annual meeting of the Southwest Ninety-Niners is scheduled for Thursday, January 5, 1989 at the Executive Dining Room at 6150 E Grant at 7pm. In accordance with our constitution election of officers will be held at that time. A nominating committee has been appointed to select nominees for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. In accordance with the constitution, the committee has surveyed the membership and requests members to submit their nominations on the form included with last month's newsletter 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.

## FESTWEST '89 PREP MEETING

Look at the program we'll use for registration and practice using it. Also, review the items for sale and discuss any questions that may be brought up. If you are planning to attend the Fest West in San Diego on February 18th and 19th and cannot make it to this meeting please let me know so name tags can be made for you. Otherwise, please plan to attend Thursday, January 12th at 7:30pm - Mathis home 5941 E 26th - 747-5046

## GENEVE USERS WORKSHOP

Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (January 10th).  
Rod Stallard's home - 7575 E Logan - 745-6071



## GENERAL USERS WORKSHOP

Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (January 17th).  
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 (January 24th).  
Includes: FORTH, A/L, etc. Rod Stallard's Home - 7575 E Logan - 745-6071

## JANUARY - DISK OF THE MONTH

- BATMAN - another poster to print out
- COLORIFIB - a graphics design that runs only in Basic
- BXB - merge this program into a basic program and it will run in extended basic. e.g. Load Colorific B, then Merge DSK1.BXB. Now RUN and the program will run in extended basic.
- CROSSFIRE - a game in which you shoot in 4 directions at various enemies with limited supply of ammunition.
- 69640 - A GEE routine. If you have learned to use GEE (Nov. DOM) you may find this interesting.
- HISCOR - file for TETRIS game
- JOY - Use the joystick to draw on screen
- MATH - Flashcards for use up to about Grade 6
- MUTUALFUND - determine the value of investments
- PRINT/DOC, PRNT/UTIL - a file printing utility. READ THE DOCS.
- SOFTSELL - display a moving message on your TI screen
- SPREAD/SHT - a mini-spreadsheet, FAIRWARE from Glenn W. Bernasek, of Strongsville, Ohio.
- STARMAKER2 - requires the Triton SXB module as it uses the Draw'N'Plot routines. Includes Docs and a demo (STAR2)
- TETRIS - An addictive XB game, courtesy of the KGB!
- WINDOW!! - A dizzying display of graphics in Extended Basic.

Ida McCargar # 294-3024



## DECEMBER SW99ERS' MINUTES

*Thursday December 1, 1988*

1. Pres. BJ Mathis opened the meeting at 7:15PM.
2. Al Armstrong conducted the Question and Answer period:
  - Q. Bob Shank asked for some help on a Graphics Program.
  - A. Dale Ussery has the same program so they will get together on it later.
  - Q. Leonard Taffs had questions about the TI-Count.
  - A. He was advised that it is a business system.
  - Q. Leonard Taffs asked about a sort program.
  - A. Ida McCarger suggested he try the J. P. Hoddie Sort Program.
3. In the December Newsletter we had indicated that we were going to charge for the Disk of the Month, however, we have concluded that we will still be able to provide it free to those who attend the meetings.
4. We have a new supply of blank Disks available at \$4.00 for a pack of ten, and \$6.00 for multicolored jackets (ten in a pack).
5. There will be a meeting to plan for the Fest-West activities at the Mathis home on December 6th at 7:30PM. Also, those planning to go, should get their hotel reservations made right away, as the rooms that have been reserved for the TI group are going fast.
6. We still have need of volunteers to help with the cutting and putting in the red lines on the Overlay Strips.
7. Election time is next month and we need volunteers for the various offices to contact the Nominating Committee (Chairman Les Neff, Dave Ormand and Jim Shoun).
8. Dave Ormand would like some suggestions for the name of the new BBS.
9. The Club could use some help in; reorganization of the Public Domain Disks by subject, handling of bulk disk orders for the group, retyping articles from other newsletters, writing articles for YOUR Newsletter, editing articles, assisting the Lending Librarian, contributing your downloads from other Bulletin Boards to the group disk library, setting up one or more workshops, planning and presenting demonstrations of programs you use, send for Fairware and make sure the group library gets a copy (if the author is agreeable).
10. Harry Brashear has published "Home Publishing on the TI-99/4A" and has offered it to the TI Community at \$15. How many would like to order?
11. John McCleary, a former president of the SW99ers has two complete systems available for sale.
12. January is election month. Be sure to come and cast your vote for the club officers.
13. We have tentative plans for a demonstration of TI-BASE in February.
14. We have the possibility of a presentation by Tom D'Angelo in March. Tom is a local computer repairman, and should provide an interesting program for us.

*Ed McCullough, Secretary*

## SWAN'S POND

*by Ida McCargar*

The first issue of 9640 NEWS has arrived from Beery Miller. This is a double-sided disk (720 sectors) of archived files, including a simple Data Base for MDOS, a Label program and contest (prize for the best addition to the program), a 130 sector(arc'd!) file of E/A enhancements for GPL mode, the latest MDOS (1.14), and a lengthy article with news about the 9640, new programs and developments, features of MDOS, etc. At the last Geneve meeting we experimented with Prt SC and learned some interesting things--ask Rod about them!

This is planned to be a regular publication (I think 5 issues) and the asking price is \$25. He made an introductory offer of a sample copy for \$5, which I accepted, and I intend to enter my subscription for the year. This is to be strictly 9640 news and programs and offers rewards for contributions. Mr. Miller asks for information about your system, number & kind of drives, controller type, Ram Disk or Hard Disk, etc. so he can tailor the disks to fit your system. 9640 News comes from Beery W. Miller, 5455 Marina Cove #1, Memphis TN 38115.

## FROM THE MATHIS' DISK LIBRARY

*by Jack & BJ Mathis*

We have put together several disks that may interest members of the TI community. Some are Fairware written by others that we have modified, one is a Fairware disk containing programs and utilities we originated.

### TIMP\_PRINT and OTHERS

Our fairware offering is "TimpPrint Command File", a program that allows the insertion of printer commands anywhere on a Multiplan Spreadsheet. The documentation is included on the disk. Printer commands for several printers are included:

- Epson (and other "true" Epson compatibles)
- Panasonic KX-P1091
- Gemini 10X
- Star Micronics SG-10
- Star Micronics NX-10
- Star Micronics NX-1000
- Citizen MSP 10/15
- GE TXP-1000
- Seikosha GP-550A
- Seikosha (Gorilla Banana)
- Prowriter
- Okidata (Model number unknown)
- Smith Corona Fastest-80

We are willing to support other printers, if the owner will send a copy of the printer's commands. The documentation is a good reference for anyone trying to write a program to be used by several printers and allows comparison of the features available on different printers.

Also, included on the disk is ColorFun, a program BJ wrote for our son. It is an XBasic program that uses the Speech Synthesizer to teach preschoolers their colors.

The LOAD program on this disk is written to run in BASIC and ExBasic. The menu choices include "Adding Machine", "Gas Mileage", "Payment Formula", and "Disk Catalog". Disk Catalog prints to screen or printer. When sent to printer it includes lines that allow comments to be written beside each program name.

We ask \$5-10 for the disk depending on your usage and what you think is "Fair".

### SCREENDUMP for C.Itoh and Axiom Printers

We have modified Danny Michaels' Screen Dump program to work with both Prowriter (C.Itoh) and Axiom printers.

Danny Michaels' Screen Dump and these modified programs are Assembly Language programs that are loaded from ExBasic or Console Basic with Editor/Assembler, and will allow screen dumping of some cartridges (with a Load Interrupt Switch). We will be happy to pass on these modified programs to anyone requesting them and furnishing me with disk, mailer, and return postage or for \$3, We will provide them. Please specify C.Itoh or Axiom printer. Contributions to the author should still be sent to Danny Michaels.

### PRBASE UTILITIES and Conversions for Version 2.1

Even with the introduction of FirstBase and TI-Base we feel there will still be a lot of use of PRBase, so we have modified John Johnson's PRBase Utilities to allow the use of only one disk drive, allow the user to view a record, and for PRBase ver2.1 to mask off the disk as used sectors. This masking allows users with DSDD to utilize the rest of a the data disk for programs (PRBase itself for instance!). Or in the case of a small data base the disk can be masked to show only 360 sectors used allowing DSDD and SSDD to use the balance of those disks as well.

We have also written a program that will convert PRK files to PRBase, provided all the data is characters (as in an address file).

We have written a program that will easily convert PRBase 2.0 files to PRBase 2.1. This program was written for the user no special expertise is involved in using it, and it can be done with only one drive.

PRBase was written by Bill Warren, modifications in version 2.1 were by Mike Dodd. PRB Utilities were originally written by John Johnson, with modifications for use with PRBase 2.1 by Jack & BJ Mathis. PRK converter and PRBase 2.0 to 2.1 converter were written by Jack & BJ Mathis. Both PRB Utilities, PRK converter, and PRBase 2.0 to 2.1 converter all use a Sector Read & Write Utility from Barry Boone, so who do you send the money to? Well, we would be happy with a small donation for the work we have done, and mainly to just hear from you that you use and appreciate the work involved!

We will be happy to pass on these modified programs to anyone requesting them and furnishing disk(s), mailer, and return postage or for \$3 per disk, we will provide the disks. Jack & BJ Mathis, 5941 E 26th, Tucson, AZ 85711, phone (602)747-5046.



## RE-INKING RIBBONS & WD-40

*by Ed Machonis - QB Monitor, Bayside, NY 11/88*

With all this talk of printing, a word about ribbons is in order. Lately several newsletters have carried articles about restoring ribbons by spraying with WD-40. I tried this a couple of years ago, it works. Then I happened across the following book which contained this excerpted paragraph:

From: EPSON, EPSON, READ ALL ABOUT IT!  
by Julie Knott & Dave Porchow

"Warning: Some Epson owners feel that the life of their printer's ribbons can be extended through the liberal application of the lubricant WD-40. This could be the most costly mistake you can make with an Epson printer. The WD-40 will revitalize the dried ink in the ribbon's fabric, but it may also gum up the pins in the printhead. Although the lubricant consistency of WD-40 is ideal for large gears, it is not suitable for close-tolerance pin movement. Your choice as an Epson owner is between buying a new ribbon now or paying for a new printhead later."

## NOTES FROM THE FAIRWARE LIBRARIAN

*by Ida McCargar*

I have received several new Fairware disks. One is a CHRISTMAS SPECIAL from Deanna Sheridan of NorthCoast 99ers, Ohio. I did not receive it in time to get the announcement out before Christmas, but you might like to have it to practice before next year. Also, some of the graphics are suitable for other times than Christmas. There are almost 720 sectors, chiefly graphics. These include: 24 TI-Writer transliterates which can be incorporated into a letter or other text without any kind of graphics program, just by pressing a key. There are 32 CSGD graphics, mostly Christmas themes but some others, a novelty letterhead, some fonts, a Christmas Crossword puzzle, a Santa RLE, and a song with graphics. In addition, the 32 CSGD graphics, 4 fonts, and 14 pictures are translated into TI-Artist format. A real bargain for \$5.00!

Another interesting program is BIBLE TRIVIA by Steven DeGeare of KC 99ers. This is version 2.0 and contains questions on the Old Testament, New Testament, Bible Books, Bible Quotes, Prophets/Prophecy, and Guess Who? The questions are Multiple Choice or T/F and there is a scoring device. I found the program interesting and was surprised to find how much I DIDN'T know. This is a program for all ages, and would be good for children's Bible Study. Sources are given for the answers. Steven wants the program distributed widely, and asks only \$5.00 if you feel it is worth that to you.

I would disagree with classifying WD-40 as a large gear lubricant but the book seems otherwise authoritative and appears to have an Epson connection. I only know of one person who regularly used WD-40 on his ribbons. I, also, only know of one person who had to replace the printhead on his printer. Coincidentally both are the same person.

Upon reading the above, I purchased a Mac Inker, and am reasonably satisfied with it. I think it is terribly over priced and if you are handy you can make one. I find re-inked ribbons do not last as long as the originals, but some of the ribbons have been re-inked 6 times and are still going strong. The big advantage is I always have a fresh ribbon to throw in at the first sign of weakness. Perhaps that's why they don't seem to last as long. Ink cost is about 10 cents per inking.

The ink used is a special ink and contains lubricant for the printhead. It can be obtained from Computer Friends who advertises in Computer Shopper and also sells the Mac Inker. I don't think using stamp pad ink would be a good idea as it lacks the lubricant.

BILLY BALL is a disk of programs from the U.K. which I downloaded from Genie. The programs are Fairware and feature a character called Billy Ball. The games are fast-moving with graphics and sound. Some use joysticks, some use keys. Included are 3 Billy Ball games, a weird and frustrating game called Flooraway and a game called Noteworthy in which you have to catch musical notes.

ZODIAC is another Fairware disk, this from The Nutmeg TI'ers. It displays a colorful wheel showing the signs of the zodiac. When you enter your birthdate, the sign under which you were born is displayed along with an important event that happened on that date and some other information regarding your sign. This is a 344 sector disk which may be of more value for the programming possibilities than the actual program. The data was compiled in several DVBO files, and on the disk is a program called CONVERT which was used to combine them into one 208 sector d/f28 file called DATES. Another program is included which converted all small letters in the Data file to capital letters, since so many sprites were used that no small letters were available. Then, foreseeing a need for including special information for a particular birthdate (to personalize it for a special person perhaps?) a program called CHANGEIT is included. During the program, the cursor changes from the letters CT (for Connecticut) to a map of that state, and a program is included which shows you how that is done. Quite a lot for only \$6.00!

## DESIGNER LABELS REVIEW

*Harry Brashear, Interface, 12/88*

There's a new labeler that I have to tell you about. It's called DESIGNER LABELS and Textaments is distributing it. Yes, I know, we're up to our necks in label makers, but this one is for those of us that are more creative.

In a nutshell, the program gives you a series of label borders in instance format for TI-Artist. These instances are sized for all standard label formats and 3X5 card stock. The idea is that you can load up one of the borders, use all the facilities of Artist, (fonts, instances, hand drawing, etc.) to design with. Then you save your design back as an instance and go into the Label program. You select your format, load the instance, and tell it how many you want to print, in what density. The next thing you see are super labels dumping out of your printer at a rate of about one or two a minute, depending on size. It's easy, fun and produces a real pro looking product.

There are also a couple of support disks now available at \$9.95 and \$7.95. Designer Labels itself is only \$9.95. Go for it!

## JIFFYFLIER

*by Jim Swedlow - RDM Fountain Valley, CA 11/88*

JIFFYFLIER is a new release from Rodger Merritt, one of TI's graphic gurus. It is an elegant program that does its job quickly and simply. In other words, I liked it.

JIFFYFLIER makes one page fliers. It requires 32K, one disk drive, XB, and an Epson compatible printer. It supports the color capabilities of the Star NX1000 Rainbow printer. Rodger points out that you will also need "lots of paper to enjoy the output".

The flier can have border, a graphic within the flier, one line of large text and up to 40 lines of small text. The large text line can be regular or inverted characters.

The distribution disk includes lots of borders and small text fonts. There are 55 graphics for inside the flier. You can also use other CGSD "/GR" graphics.

## ASGARD NEWS REVIEW

*by Ida McGargar*

I have just received vol.1 #3 of Asgard News. This third issue is even better than the first two. It contains an Editorial with some sensible suggestions which Myarc should heed; a 4 1/2 page article on the evolution of word processors, and features of the new PRESS, a word processor rumored to rival any popular PC-based word processors. Harry's Corner discusses Fairware and he proposes a startling DARE for every user. Jack Sughrue writes an article to guide you through the mysteries of TI-Base. Jack is a sixth grade teacher, and any sixth grader should be able to follow his instructions. I may even try TI-Base again. Part I of a new department, Beginner's Corner, describes all the peripherals and what they do. Geneve Corner lists new PD and Commercial releases. There is also a list of many of the TI-99/4A and Geneve hardware and software developers, with their addresses. There are over 3 pages of News(not confined to Asgard products) and Rumors. Finally, on the last page, a subscription offer--4 issues for \$9.00. If enough subscriptions are received, the magazine will go bi-monthly or even monthly. A magazine worth having, nicely printed on good paper and my issue came by first-class mail.

-See me for subscription forms.

Choices are very simple - use the <SPACE BAR> to change something and <ENTER> to accept it as displayed. The flier is shown on your screen half a page at a time. Once you are done, you can save your flier to disk and edit it with TI Writer.

The documentation is straight forward. It is only three pages long but that is all that is needed as the program is simple to operate.

Printing is very fast due to a new screen dump Assembly routine by Robby Robinson.

At \$11 JIFFYFLIER is an outstanding value. If you want a copy, send your check to:

Rodger Merritt  
1949 Evergreen Avenue  
Fullerton, CA 92635

Be sure and mention where you heard about JIFFYFLIER!



