

**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

FEBRUARY 1989

P.O. Box 17831 Tucson, AZ 85730

OFFICERS

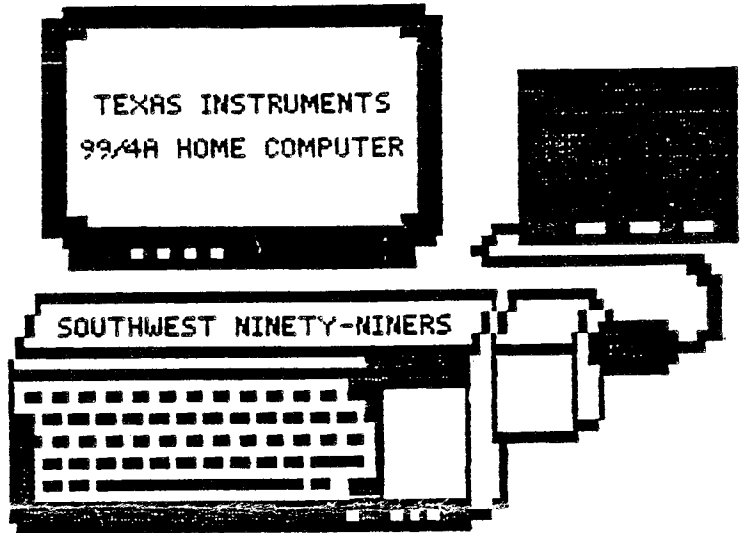
- BJ Mathis - President
- David Ormand - Vice President
- Ed McDullough - Secretary
- Les Neff - Treasurer

NEWSLETTER

- BJ Mathis - Editor

LIBRARY

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



ATTENTION NEWSLETTER EDITORS

There is NO TUCSON 99er Users Group! In many of the newsletters, sponsorship of the Fest West has been credited to the Southern California Computer Group with support from the Los Angeles 99er User Group and the Tucson 99er User Group. Somewhere along the way our group name has been confused with the name of our city. We are the SouthWest Ninety-Niners. Anyone looking for a TI User's Group in Tucson needs to be aware of the correct name!

ATTENTION MEMBERS!!

Next meeting, Thursday, February 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!!!

FESTWEST '89 PREP MEETING

Final preparations for our trip to San Diego for Fest West. Please plan to attend Tuesday, February 7th at 7:30pm - Mathis home 5941 E 26th - 747-5046

GENEVE USERS WORKSHOP

Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (February 14th). David Ormand's home - 2227 E Drachman - 795-2005

GENERAL USERS WORKSHOP

Canceled this month due to Fest West.

ADVANCED LANGUAGES WORKSHOP

Fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (February 28th). Includes: FORTH, A/L, etc. Rod Stallard's Home - 7575 E Logan - 745-6071

() THE SOUTHWEST 99ERS USER GROUP
() PRESENTS
() THE CACTUS PATCH BBS
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PARADIGM BBS VERS 2.0
(C) COPYRIGHT 1988
BY
MIKE KIMBLE
&
TRAVIS WATFORD

300/1200 BAUD - PARITY 8N1
24 HOURS A DAY, EVERY DAY

() () () SYSOP: DAVE ORMAND ()
() () () CO-SYSOP: TOM WILLS ()
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FEST WEST 1989

Fest West 1989 will be held at the Clarion Hotel in San Diego, CA on February 18th and 19th. Members of the SouthWest Ninety-Niners will in charge of registration, and design and distribution of the name tags. SouthWest Ninety-Niners will also have a booth at Fest West. Membership information in the SouthWest Ninety-Niners will be available at the booth.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

New officers elected at the January meeting are listed on the front page of the newsletter. Ed Hallett and Al Armstrong were instrumental in the continued success of the SouthWest Ninety-Niners and I wish to thank them for the services they have rendered to the group.

We had a total of six members willing to run for four offices. Rod Stallard and John Hale are to be commended for their willingness to serve. Many groups in the TI community have trouble finding anyone to run for each office, let alone more than one!

An Executive meeting took place on January 23rd. Several ideas were discussed for the coming year. Les Neff proposed finding a way to allow members a chance to try out a national BBS. David Ormand would like to see the group develop a program of interest to the entire TI community. These and other ideas will be brought to the group at future meetings.

Ed McCullough and David Ormand plan to put together their various extra equipment for an expansion system to be brought to group meetings without taking down the Cactus Patch BBS each month.

Please check the bulletin for the new meeting place for the Geneve Workshop, and notice the General Users Workshop

has been canceled for the month of February due to the proximity of the Fest West.

The demonstration of TI-Base has had to be postponed, neither Bob Broomfield nor Ed McCullough feel familiar enough with it to give a good demonstration. Tom Mills will demonstrate TI-Artist this month. In March you can expect a report on the Fest West and we will have a guest speaker, Tom D'Angelo who will demonstrate the Star Micronics MX-1000 Rainbow printer, and answer questions about other computer equipment.

Bill Yanneck, a new SouthWest Ninety-Niner found a place to order half height TEAC 355BR 5 1/4" disk drives for \$69 each plus shipping. Jack recommends these drives. Two can be installed in the expansion box with some modifications. If you are interested in ordering these drives please contact Jack or me. Jack will help you get them installed and can provide the necessary cables for approximately \$10.

Ida McCargar is working on updating the group's fairware library. Contact her if you think you have fairware that is not in the group library. We would appreciate a copy in time to include it in our fairware box at the Fest West on February 18th and 19th.

BJ Mathis - 747-5046

JANUARY - DISK OF THE MONTH

1. Scarborough Fair- song hit of Simon and Garfunkle, words and music. No graphics, try your hand at adding some.
2. Care/Bear- A Happy Birthday song.
3. Fairware- suggestions from Jim Swedlow of the Orange County Users Group.
4. House Adventure- text adventure for use with the Adventure cartridge.
5. Max-RLE-2- updated version of Max-RLE, courtesy of Barry Traver. This is an example of the nice things you get when you subscribe to Genial Traveler - the biggest bargain in software. This is an EA/3 program--you need Editor Assembler or Funnelweb.
6. PForm- I had to include this! Downloaded from GENie. GENie description "Tired of dumping long DV80 files to your printer that spill over page boundaries and generally look ugly? PFORM (for Geneve or 4A) will put top and bottom margins, a wide left margin for holes, and optional page numbers. Source included."

GENie Sysop noted that this EA5 pgm will run only on the 9640 and only in MDOS Mode. You might see the author (D. Ormand) about adapting it for TI.

7. Solitaire- a familiar card game for one person.
8. Whl_Puzz2- additional file to use with the Wheel of Fortune Game that appeared on August DOM.
9. Law_P & Romans_P- files to try with the new Max-RLE.
10. Boot, Charal, Load- usual Menu program.

I use FUCAT to do the catalogs. I like it, because I can do a 3-col. cat. and it identifies the EA/opt 5 pgms. That reminds me, FUCAT is Fairware and I must get my payment sent to:

Rick Grisson
379 Antelope Cr SE
Albuquerque NM 87123

Have you paid for your Fairware?

Ida McCargar & 294-3024

THE LENDING LIBRARY

The following items are available to be checked out from the SouthWest Ninety-Niners Lending Library, requests may be posted on the Cactus Patch BBS (795-1953) or by calling Ida McCargar (294-3024).

Books

101 Programs, Tips, & Tricks
36 Texas Instruments TI-99/4A Programs for Home, School & Office
BASIC: A Simplified Structural Approach
Best of 99er
Best Texas Instruments Software
Bunyard Hardware Manual
Computer Playground
Compute's TI Collection
Compute's Guide To TI-99/4A Sound & Graphics
Compute's Beginner's Guide To Assembly Language on the TI-99/4A
Data & File Management For The TI
Easy To Understand Guide To Home Computers
Fundamentals of TI-99/4A Assembly Language
Get Personal With Your TI-99
Home Publishing
How To Use The TI-99/4A Computer
How To Feel At Home With A Home Computer
How To Build Your Own Working 16-BIT Microcomputer
Innermost Secrets of The TI-99/4A
Introduction To TI BASIC
Introduction To Assembly Language FOR THE TI HOME COMPUTER
Kids & The TI-99/4A Computer
Last Word on The TI-99/4A
Learning TI-99/4A Home Computer Assembly Language Programming
Programs For The TI Home Computer
Programmer's Guide To The Best of 99er

Programming BASIC With The TI Home Computer
Programmer's Reference Guide To The TI-99/4A
SHUGART 400L Service Manual
Smart Programming Guide For SPRITES
Software Development Handbook
SOURCE User's Manual
Starting FORTH
Technical DATA
Terminal Emulator Protocol Manual
Texas Instruments Users Encyclopedia
Texas Instruments Computer Program Writing Workbook
TEXNET Information Service User's Manual
Things To Do With Your TI-99/4A
TI Beginner's BASIC Manual
TI Extended BASIC Manual
TI FORTH Manual
TI User's Reference Guide
TI-99/4A Intern
TI-99/4A User's Guide
TI-99/4A Printer Manual
TI-99/4A BASIC Quick Reference Guide
TI-99/4A Console & Peripheral Expansion System Technical DATA Manual
TI-Writer Tips & Tricks
Tool-Kit Series-TI-99/4A ED.
Tutor: Assembly Language Tutorial
Understanding BASIC
User's Guide To TI Computer Software, Peripherals Etc.
Using & Programming The TI-99/4A, What Every Programmer Should Know

Magazines

99er Home Computer Magazine Nov 1982-Jul 1983
Home Computer Magazine Vol. 4 and Vol. 5
Micropendium Oct, Nov, Dec 1984, 1985-all except Feb, 1986-all except Apr, Jun, Jul, Dec, 1987-12 issues, 1988-Jan, Feb, Mar, Sep
Asgard News, v.1 #2, #3
Compute Magazine - Selected articles & programs in folders
PC Computing Dec 1988, Interview with BJ Mathis

Cassettes

TI-99/4A: 24 Basic Programs
TI-99/4A: 51 Fun Educ. Programs
Best of 99er-5 cassettes
HCM v.5 #3
Oldies but Goodies
Teach yourself Basic

Newsletter index on diskettes

4 Boxes of Approx. 950-100 Newsletters

Modules

Home Financial Decisions
Household Budget Management
Personal Record Keeping
Personal real Estate
Tax Investment Record Keeping
Super Extended Basic, Manual
Editor Assembler
Microsoft Multiplan
TI Writer
Plato Interpreter
Programming Aids II (disk)
Teach Yourself Basic(disk)

Folders

Miscellaneous Technical Data
Technical Diagrams
Bit map Mode on TI
Let's Talk Ram Disk
List of Books for the TI

TI-994A Sound Chip Accuracy Chart

NOTE: CALL SOUND (Measured) COMMENTS
 Frequency (CALL SOUND)
 Reported page (frequencies)
 III-7 of Users (that generate)
 Ref. Guide. (this note.)

A.....	110.....	NA.....	Vol too soft to meter
A#.....	117.....	NA.....	Vol too soft to meter
B.....	123.....	NA.....	Vol too soft to meter
C(low C).	131.....	131	
C#.....	139.....	138.....	Off 1HZ, & 5% flat
D.....	147.....	147	
D#.....	156.....	156.....	5% sharp
E.....	165.....	165	
F.....	175.....	175.....	5% sharp
F#.....	185.....	185	
G.....	196.....	196	
G#.....	208.....	207.....	Ref Guide high 1HZ
A.....	220.....	220.....	5% sharp
A#.....	233.....	233	
B.....	247.....	247	
C(mid C).	262.....	261.....	Ref Guide high 1HZ
C#.....	277.....	277	
D.....	294.....	293.....	Ref Guide high 1HZ
D.....	311.....	311	
E.....	330.....	329-330	
F.....	349.....	349-350	
F#.....	370.....	369.....	Ref Guide high 1HZ
G.....	392.....	392-393	
G#.....	415.....	415-416	
A.....	440.....	440-441	
A#.....	466.....	466	
B.....	494.....	491-491.....	Ref Guide high >=1HZ
C(high C)	523.....	522-523	
C#.....	554.....	553-555	
D.....	587.....	584-587	
D#.....	587.....	584-587	
E.....	659.....	656-659	
F.....	698.....	697-701	
F#.....	740.....	738-743	
G.....	784.....	780-784	
G#.....	831.....	826-831	
A.....	880.....	878-884	
A#.....	932.....	929-935	
B.....	988.....	986-994	
C.....	1047.....	1041-1050	
C#.....	1109.....	1102-1112	
D.....	1175.....	1172-1183.....	5% sharp
D#.....	1245.....	1236-1249	
E.....	1319.....	1309-1323	
F.....	1397.....	1389-1406	
F#.....	1480.....	1462-1481.....	10% flat
G.....	1568.....	1565-1586.....	5% sharp
G#.....	1661.....	1657-1681.....	10% sharp
A.....	1760.....	1734-1761.....	15% flat

LET'S GET ACQUAINTED

by Tom Mills

A short time ago I was approached by BJ Mathis who asked me if I would do a little article for the newsletter about myself. As I have always liked the idea of members getting to know each other better, I said "Why not!", so here is my life story... well, maybe not quite that much.

My name is Tom Mills. My wife, Carol, and I live at 3950 East Blacklidge Drive, Apartment #225, Tucson, Arizona 85712. I have 4 children (3 girls, 1 boy) and 5 grandchildren (4 boys, 1 girl). I am 44 years young, and a new resident of Tucson having moved here this past December from Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

I am employed at Pima County as a Programmer/Analyst. I have been in data processing for 11 years now. I spent my last six years working for Sheboygan County in Wisconsin, starting as a P/A and finishing up as a Systems Analyst.

I have been a member of the SouthWest Ninety-Miners User Group for almost two years now, but only in the past month have I been able to be an active member. But, in Sheboygan, I was very active in TI activities. I was Vice-President of the Sheboygan Area 99'ers User group in 1986 and 1987, and President in 1988. I also operated a part-time BBS for the SA99UG named Nearer The Lake for the past 1-1/2 years. For almost 3 years I was a delegate from the SA99'ers to the Wisconsin 99er Computer Council. I also was Chairman of the Lakeshore Computer Users Coalition and one of the SA99er representatives on that board. I am also the TI/Geneve section Chairman (SysOp) on American People/Link (national service out of Chicago) and The Daylight BBS (a local Sheboygan BBS). Even though I gave up most of my duties, I am still doing the SysOping.

My system now consists of the following: TI-99/4A (w/32k built-in), speech synthesizer, P.E. Box, CorComp disk controller, Horizon Ram Disk (DSSD), 2 DSSD 5-1/4" floppy drives in a 100 amp power supply, 1 3-1/2" combo floppy drive (DSSD to 1.44 meg) in the P.E. Box, monitor, 2400 baud Anchor modem, SG-10 printer with a 64k print buffer, Geneve 9640, Myarc hard disk controller, 20 megabyte hard disk, Radio Shack power center, more software than I know what to do with, and many odds and ends. I mainly use my computer for word processing, telecommunications, and hacking.

I hope this gives you a good idea of who I am. I would like to see this type of information published on a regular basis on All of the SW99UG members. That way we can all get to know each other better. The more we know each other, the better friends we can be. If BJ gives me the go-ahead, I would like to do this on a regular monthly schedule.

MYARC HFDC REVIEW

by Steve Mickelson - Oct '88
West Penn Piers, Jeannette, PA

One of the main reasons TI users abandon their 4A has been the limited size of space available to store data files. The problem has been addressed through double and quad density floppy controller cards, as well as RAM disks with battery backed memory, up to one full megabyte in size. The price however (\$590 US for an assembled one meg Horizon RAMdisk) has made many TIers balk at such prices, and tough it out with a limited system. Enter the Myarc Hard and Floppy Disk Controller, HFDC Card, and we see a whole new world of data storage.

The Myarc HFDC card, (approx. \$325), is a multi-function card which will permit either the TI-99/4A or Geneve computers to interface and control up to three hard drives, four floppy drives and one tape streamer. The streamer can be used to back-up the hard drive(s). Hardware requirement for the HFDC are 99/4A console or Myarc 9640 card, monitor, TI Peripheral Expansion Box (or equivalent), Myarc or TI 32K expansion memory (not needed for Geneve), one or more floppy disk drives and cables, and hard disk drive (including cabinet and power supply).

The HFDC can support up to three hard drives, each having a capacity of 134 megabytes. The drive must be ST506/412 compatible.

The Floppy controller will support up to four drives, either 3-1/2" or 5-1/4" single/double sided; single, double or quad density, with 9, 16, or 18 sectors per track. The head step can be set to 16, 8 or 2 sec. The memory capacity of each drive can be either 360K or 720K with 40 or 80 tracks. All settings for each of the four drives can be set by means of DIP switches on the board, allowing mixing of various types of drives in your system. Provision has been made also for 80-track, 36 sector, 1.44 meg capacity drives (possible future expansion).

The card comes in a standard plastic case, along with a TI-style three-ring binder, containing a well written user's manual. My compliments to Walt Howe for a job well done. In addition are two cables, one 34-pin edge connector and another 20-pin cable with edge connector on one end and a slotted pin connector on the other. This will enable the user to connect the HFDC to any standard hard drive, (e.g. Seagate ST-251).

The software consists of Myarc Disk Manager V, for use with both the TI and 9640, with upgrades for the Geneve software to permit the 9640 to access and use hard drives. The 9640 software, namely MDOS, V1.06; GPL, V1.01; and MY-Word, V1.20, will enable access to the hard drive(s),

but at present, not floppies. This necessitates keeping your old floppy controller card and setting the CRU address of the HFDC at 1000, until an update of the MDOS operating system is complete. This review will be restricted to use of the controller with a 99/4A, as this is the most complete application of the HFDC card.

The manual is well-written, with a very useful trouble-shooting section. It guided me through several problems I had initially, with formatting the hard drive. Formatting the drives, unlike other computer systems, does not have a low and high level of formatting; rather a single format command results in the software and firmware going through a format and verification process, similar to that found with standard 99/4A floppy disk manager software. It appears both low and high level formats are performed at the same time. However, with a large capacity drive of more than 30 megs, be prepared to have a coffee or two during first initialization.

There are two sections, in the manual, covering selection of drives, setting of the DIP switches to configure the card, command sets supported by the card and software, connecting the cables. Also, included is an addenda sheet for the manual.

For the software writers, a chapter covers Basic and Assembly Language support for the card, with full memory map, CRU definition, internal disk data structures, and software interface specs.

One useful feature is DSK1 and DSK emulation, which enables the HFDC to have programs normally restricted to residing on DSK1, or a specific DSK, (e.g. DSK.TIMP for Multiplan), located on the hard drive with the same name. When software, such as Multiplan, looks for the disk called "TIMP", it finds it on the hard drive under the root directory TIMP, containing all the pertinent files, which are loaded, as if from a floppy of the same name. For such specific disk directory access, the HFDC looks in the hard drive first to see if the specific disk is emulated on the hard drive. If not, the HFDC will look through the floppies for the disk specified by the software.

The card comes with an optional extended warranty, which may be purchased by the user, for up to four years, at about \$25 per year. This entitles the user to any updates of the software, released during the warranty period. I would highly recommend this option for a card which is relied upon so heavily.

