

**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

MARCH 1989

P.O. Box 17831 Tucson, AZ 85730

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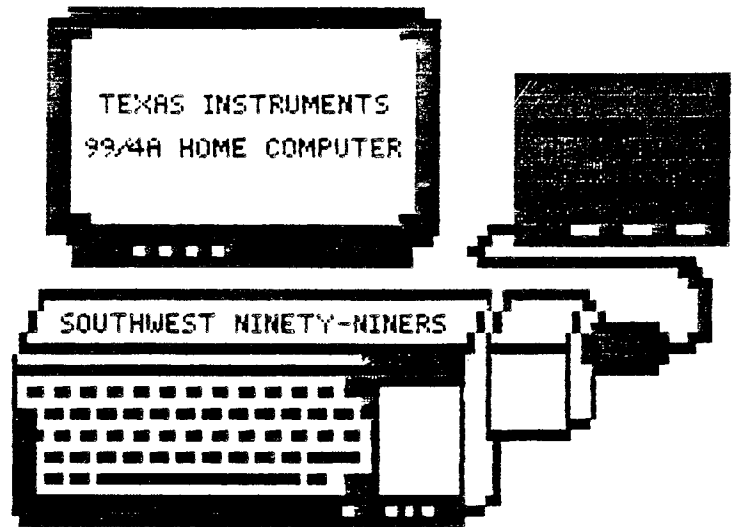
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NEWSLETTER

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ATTENTION MEMBERS!!

Next meeting, Thursday, March 2nd 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!!! Tom D'Angelo is scheduled to demonstrate a Star Micronics Rainbow printer. He is a Star Micronics authorized repairman and also works on disk drives.

GENEVE USERS WORKSHOP

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

GENERAL USERS WORKSHOP

Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (March 21st). Includes Word Processing, Multiplan, Data Base, Basic, ExBasic, Hardware, etc. Mathis home - 5941 E 26th - 747-5046.

ADVANCED LANGUAGES WORKSHOP

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

MARCH - DISK OF THE MONTH

Includes the new version of MAX-RLE with the Docs. Also included is a program called Slide Show which runs from Extended Basic and allows you to use MAX-RLE without the Assembly Language Module. You can use this program to show other RLE pictures by changing the Data statements. If you have any questions, check with me. I put a new set of pictures into the program.

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Fest-West preparations kept us so busy that I didn't have much time to work on DOM this month. There will be more programs next month, I hope!

You will also find Regena's San Diego program which appeared in January's MICROpendium. This program runs in Console Basic and shows a map of San Diego and points out places of interest.

Ida McCargar - 294-3024

FEST WEST '89

by *BJ Mathis*

February 17th and we're off! Jack, Tim, Chris & I are in Ed McCullough's van. Wes Eng is here, too. I am tired from all the preparations, but I'm soo hyper, I can't quit talking. Jack finally told me to shut up and get some sleep. So with the sun slowly rising behind me, off I go dreaming of the wonderful things and people I will see over the next few days. Suddenly I think of something I wanted to tell Ed Hallett, I jerk awake only to realize, he is in the car ahead of us and it's difficult to hold a conversation that way. Oh, well, drift away....

Ah, now San Diego is spread out before me. We have arrived at a hotel right out the 1940's and the pastel colors seem to blend all through my dreams. Oh no! We lost Ed Hallett, never mind we found him again! Tim and Chris want to go swimming! You're kidding of course, it's February. Suddenly I see them swimming around in a huge pool, loving every minute of it despite the cold.

Drifting into view are Rodger Merritt and Steve Mehr of Comrodine with Bill Gaskill lending a helping hand at their booth. Terrie Masters, Gail Farr, and Fred Moore are diligently working at LA 99ers booth. Barry Travers is showing someone Genial Traveler. Mike Wright has the Boston Computer Society library with him. Diji Systems graphic pictures are flowing thru my dream. Franz Wagenbach is smiling as he answers questions. RAVE 99 keyboards and speech cards are doing a merry dance before my eyes. Regena is happily showing her San Diego program to someone who wants to go sight seeing. Tom Freeman is busily stirring up something with a hard drive in the T & J Software booth. Jerry Price of TexComp is happily selling piles of books and disk drives (that can't be the right price!). Jim Peterson's software packages are floating by now, but I can't find Jim anywhere, oh well just buy, buy, buy. Ray Kazmer is talking too fast for me, never mind, Ida will keep up with him.

Even the SouthWest Ninety-Niners are hard to focus on, as they busily sell books and copies from their disk library

NEW FOR THE LENDING LIBRARY

THE ORPHAN CHRONICLES by Ron Albright, Jr., M.D.
Fascinating reading on the history of the TI-99/4A.

TI BASIC COMPUTER PROGRAMS FOR THE HOME by Charles D. Sterberg. Includes home financial, automobile related, kitchen help, scheduling, list programs, and more!

while registering anyone who will allow them to do it. Jack Mathis, Al Armstrong, Wesley Eng, Ed Hallett, John & Maxine Hale, Ida McCargar, Ed McCullough, Dale Ussery, Larry Newman all spin past me and now I can see I am there working, too!

Into my conscious mind comes the realization that, both Lou Phillips of MYARC and Les Merryman, their west coast distributor, are not here. In alarm I hurry about the room searching for them. Alas, they are too ill to come. Ed Hallett reassures me he will come to the rescue for anyone who wants MYARC products. He is determined to get his Hard Floppy Disk Controller on this trip to the coast. I run about frantically obtaining orders from anyone who will listen to me, and Ed says he will drive up to Los Angeles Sunday morning. Ed brought back his HFDC, as well as one for Rod Stallard, and placed paid orders for two Geneves and a MYARC Disk Controller in Les Merryman's hands. That should make Les happy!

Already, it's Sunday afternoon and the exhibitors are packing up. The Grand Prize has been awarded to someone in Las Vegas, and the SouthWest Ninety-Niners are wanting to know what are we going to do about dinner tonight!

Pizza is the suggestion, but let's bring it to us. The hotel gives us permission to eat in the breakfast room, as long as we clean up our mess. Ed McCullough asks Regena and her family to join us. Will he ever quit bringing the pizza in?

Then we are in the van heading for home, still eating pizza and sorry it's over, wish I could have asked more questions and talked to more people.

"bj.....bj.....BJ! Wake up! We're here, it's time to get set up for the Fest." "What! You mean I've still got time to learn about TI-Base, Jiffy Flyer, Form Shop....." "BJ, you're crazy. Now let's get to work!"

USER'S GROUPS HARDWARE REPRINTS compiled by Chicago TI/99 User's Group. If you want to try some hardware modifications this manual may be what you are looking for!

BEGINNER'S BASIC TUTOR on disk, a TI package.

GET THE MOST OUT OF PRINT WIZARD

Deanna Sheridan, Northcoast 99ers, Cleveland, OH 12/88

Print Wizard was introduced by TRIO+ Software last year at the Chicago Faire. It has gotten some nice reviews lately in the various newsletters on our exchange list.

If you have ever seen or used Print Master for the MSDOS machines, you will recognize that Print Wizard is patterned very closely after this package (within the limits of the TI's memory space). As with most long XBASIC programs, it takes a long time to load and get ready to run. In scanning the code, I cannot determine if it has utilized any Pre-Scan operations and it seems to take forever to start running.

As with Print Master, Print Wizard offers you a choice of greeting cards, signs, or letterheads. The manual is one of the best I have come across in a long time and guides you through each step. You are allowed a border, text and graphic at the same time. The card does print in all the right places to fold for a standard greeting card.

You have a choice of 3 sizes for your graphic and depending on that choice, a variety of ways to place that graphic on your screen. There is a small box on the screen which shows you how many of your graphics can go on a side and where you can choose to place them. If you also want text, it sometimes becomes tricky not to intermingle them.

You get all of the above with Print Master, also, except that with the additional memory available, you can actually see what the finished product will look like before it is printed. There are now many libraries of graphics available for Print Master, but I have yet to see any new fonts or borders. This is where our slow-poke Print Wizard has the advantage. You can convert your TI-Artist fonts and graphics (in fact all the graphics and fonts on Print Wizard come from a companion disk for TI-Artist produced by Trio+ Software) and convert them to Print Wizard format. Although I have not tried it, there are instructions to create your own borders. This makes Print Wizard a very versatile program.

But, if it wasn't so slow, you say. It takes up to 45 minutes to create and print just one card. There is no way to save your cards, or is there? There is an advertisement currently running for a discount department store where the woman chants with a one-purpose thought, "paper towels, paper towels". Computer users should always be thinking "print to disk, print to disk". This will make Print Wizard a completely new program for you.

At the menu screen, where you are asked to configure your printer, use DSK1.FILENAME (whatever you want to call it) and when it comes time to print the card, it will print it to disk. The time will be the same as when printing to the printer, but if you want multiple copies, they are printed in a fraction of the original printing time.

The idea for this came from Tom Wynne of the Tacoma 99ers last fall. He said most of the graphic programs could be printed to disk and then run through an XBASIC program for multiple copies and speed (since the printer commands are already converted). In the case of Print Wizard, I use a little program similar to:

```
100 OPEN#1:"DSK1.FILENAME",INPUT,VARIABLE 128
110 OPEN#2:"PIO.CR",OUTPUT
120 IF EOF(1) THEN 140
130 LINPUT #1:A$ :: PRINT #2:A$ :: GOTO 120
140 END
```

With this in mind, I have geared up to use Print Wizard in the following manner. I have printed out all the borders and given them the same names as in the manual. I am planning to take my favorites graphics for special occasions such as Christmas, Easter, Valentine, Birthday, etc. and make up a disk. Then as I run onto some favorite sayings or poems, I will create a disk with the various fonts provided or convert some others. THEN, when I need a card for that special occasion, I can print it out in about 5 minutes or less. If you return your paper to the starting position after printing the border, or graphic, or text, it will be perfectly placed on the paper just as though it had been printed all at once. Also, using this method, I can mix and match borders, graphics, etc. and can also print in a variety of colors and can even use more than one graphic on a page. It has made using Print Wizard a pleasure instead of frustrating. The little program above could be enclosed in an array so that multiple copies could be made without resetting. A person with a set of templates and the above program would not even need Wizard to create cards.

I have spent most of my time on Print Wizard doing cards as it seems to have more potential than others we have for doing that. The sign program is also nice, but there are much better programs available for Letterheads, and I don't plan to use that feature at all. For \$19.95 and the above suggestions, you could do some very creative Christmas cards next year!

THE POWER OF RELATIONAL EXPRESSIONS

Jim Peterson - Topics LA 99ers, Nov '89

What are those, you say? You may well ask. The "blue book" that came with your computer says nothing about them, and most of the programming tutorial books on the subject are equally silent. If you waded through the computerese and mathematese text of the User's Reference Guide, you found them discussed on page 11-14 under Relational Expressions and on page 11-51 under IF-THEN-ELSE, but you probably didn't realize their potential. Then, you graduated to Extended Basic and found those easy-to-use, in-the-clear logical expressions AND, OR, NOT and XOR, and you looked no farther.

So, what can a relational expression do? Nothing that can't be done without it. But it can often do the job so much more compactly, so much more efficiently, and therefore so much faster!

So, let's learn to use them. And let's learn in plain English, not computerese. The following may not be technically correct, but it's the way it all works out.

First, every expression has a true/false value, which is entirely different and separate from the value of the variables or numbers or strings it contains. On the TI-99/4A, a false statement has a value of 0, which is easy to remember - A FALSEHOOD IS WORTH NOTHING. Unfortunately, a true statement has a value of -1, which doesn't fit in too well! On some other computer you may have learned that a true expression has a value of +1, but on the TI it's -1.

So, in ...F=7 :: IF F=8 THEN...., F=7 has a value of -1 because obviously F does equal 7, and F=8 has a value of 0 because it is not true.

Second, when an IF refers to a variable without an "=" sign, it means "<>". For instance, IF X THEN 1000 means "if X is more or less than 0, if it is not 0, if it is anything other than 0, then go to 1000".

Third, the computer will try to use the expression mathematically before it tries to interpret its true/false value. Remember everything within parentheses is worked first. For instance...X=1 :: Y=2 :: IF (X=1)+(Y=2) THEN 1000...Since both are true, this works out to IF (-1)+(-1)<>0 THEN 1000, and since -1 plus -1 is not 0, we go to 1000. On the other hand, X=1 :: Y=2 :: IF X=1+Y=2 THEN 1000 will first be calculated as X=1+Y, which comes out as X=3, and then as X=3=2, which has a true/false value of 0 (false) because X=3 has a true/false value of 0 (false), not 2!

Finally, always remember that a variable keeps its previous value until the calculation of an entire equation is completed. X=3 :: X=X+(X+3)*X-X/X^X+(X=0) is worked as X=3+(3+3)*3-3/3^3+(3=0).

Now that you have assimilated this vast knowledge, how can it be used? The most common way is in the expression IF (X=1)+(Y=2) THEN 200. In this case, if it is true that X=1 but Y does not equal 2, then -1+0 is <>0 so you go to 200. If X is not 1 but Y=2, then 0+-1 is still <>0, and if X=1 and Y=2 then -1 plus -1 is still <>0, so you still go to 200, but if X is not 1 and Y is not 2 then 0+0 is not <>0 so you do not. Of course, in Extended Basic, you could simply write IF X=1 OR Y=2 THEN 200.

If you want to go to 200 only if X=1 or if Y=2 but not if both are true, then you can write IF (X=1)+(Y=2)=-1 because either -1 plus 0 or 0 plus -1 will equal -1. In Extended Basic, this is the "exclusive OR", IF X=1 XOR Y=2.

And if you want to go to 200 only if both are true, you can write IF (X=1)+(Y=2)=-2, or more commonly IF (X=1)*(Y=2) because if either or both are not true the multiplication by 0 will give 0. In Extended Basic, this is IF X=1 AND Y=2.

And you can write more complicated versions, carefully watching your parentheses, such as IF (X=1)+((Y=2)*(Z=3)) which translates to IF X=1 OR Y=2 AND Z=3.

If you're programming in Extended Basic, why bother with all those parentheses? Why not just use OR and AND? In the above cases, that is true. But you have not yet begun to see the power of relational expressions!

Since the true/false value is a numeric value, it can be used in calculations, and it does not have to be used with an IF statement.

For instance, this is a statement that I have used within a loop to alternate control of the two joysticks between two players...X=X+1+(X=2)*2 :: CALL JOYSTICK(X,Y,Z). In this, the first time around, X has not been given a value, so the equation is read X=0+1+(0=2)*2 and, since 0 does not equal 2, 0+1+(0*2)=1 and joystick #1 is activated. Next time around, X=1 and X=1+1+(1=2)*2 gives X a value of 2, since 1=2 has a true/false value of 0. The 3rd time around, X now has a value of 2, and X=2+1+(X=2)*2 which is worked as X=2+1+(-1)*2 and then X=2+1+(-2) which is X=2+1-2 and X=1 again!

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.

Hunt the Wumpus \$3, TI Invaders \$3, Munchman \$3, Parsec \$4, Logo II \$10, Home Budget Management \$3, Terminal Emulator II \$7, Personal Record Keeping \$4, Early Reading \$7, Personal Real Estate \$4. Books: The Best Texas Instruments Software \$2, The Best of TI 99/4A Cartridges \$2. Call Jack or BJ 747-5046.

TI-99/4A Console, Expansion Box w/CorComp RS232, TI 32K, TI Disk Controller, SSSD Disk Drive, TI Extended Basic, Editor Assembler, Multiplan, Writer, Personal Real Estate, \$380. Optionally 2 DSDD half height drives. Call Dick Paschal 790-4779.

Parsec \$4, Donkey Kong \$8, Big Foot \$8. Call Dick Paschal 790-4779.

TI-99/4A Console, Speech Synthesizer, TI Joysticks, 7 modules, 24 basic programs on cassette, make offer. Call Sue McLaughlin 297-9804.

FROM SOUTHWEST NINETY-NINERS: Printer Ribbons for Star Micronics NX-10 \$4.50ea. & NX-1000 \$3ea., Cassette Cables \$3, Personal Record Keeping \$4, Tax Investment/Record Keeping \$3, Home Budget Management \$3, Books: The Writers by Harry Brashear \$3ea., Home Publishing by Harry Brashear w/disk \$15ea., "Best" Newsletter \$5ea., Using & Programming the TI-99/4A \$6. Call Jack or BJ 747-5046.

GROUP INFORMATION

The SouthWest Ninety-Niners is a Computer Users Group formed to promote the use of the TI-99/4A and compatibles. We are not affiliated or sponsored by Texas Instruments. Membership is \$20 per year for non-U.S. members. For U.S. members the first year is \$20 and \$15 per year for renewal.

The membership fee pays for the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter which is published 12 times per year. Your membership entitles you to buy disks, cassettes, and other items from the group at significant savings, compared to the local market. Members also have the privilege of borrowing books, magazines and modules from the Lending Library, obtaining copies of Fairware and

Public Domain programs (subject to copying fees) from the group disk library, and a disk of the month is prepared for members who attend the main group meeting on the first Thursday of each month. Non-attending members may obtain a DOM for \$1 per month to cover postage and mailer.

Family memberships are available at the same cost. They allow all family members the same privileges, however, only one newsletter is sent out and only one vote is allowed for the membership.

To join the SouthWest Ninety-Niners please send a check or write for more information to SouthWest Ninety-Niners, PO Box 17831, Tucson, AZ 85731 or call BJ Mathis at 747-5046.