



HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP
 USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP
 GROUP HOOSIER USERS HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP
 HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP
 USERS GROUP HOOSIER HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP
 GROUP HOOSIER USERS HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP
 HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP
 USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP
 GROUP HOOSIER USERS HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP

THE HUGGERS
 HOOSIER USERS GROUP

JANUARY, 1984

THE HUGGERS NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS IN

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope that yours were the happiest holidays ever! Now as we begin the new year I imagine it is time to make some New Year's resolutions. President Reagan has said that he will announce some time this month whether or not he plans to run again for office. I resolve that I shall do the same. Our elections will be held on April 8th. Between now and then we will be looking for individuals who can serve on the Nominating Committee. This Committee is responsible for presenting to the entire membership a slate of candidates to hold office during 1984-1985.

Between now and the election in April, we hope to have our own TI BBS up and running. Arrangements have been kindly made with MicroComputers, Inc. to co-sponsor the HUGGERS' Bulletin Board System. The Group will provide the hardware and the Software for bringing the BBS on line. This should help relieve some of the strain on the Apple Pickers system (787-5486, the number I listed in my last column). Other systems are up and running at the Software Exchange (251-7794 during NON-BUSINESS HOURS ONLY) and for the Radio Shack Color Computer owners (291-7827 between 6PM 10 AM). As a help to our members, I am passing along a few of the more useful commands in a separate article. These BBS commands are unique to the PMS (Peoples' Message System) which is run by the Apple Pickers and Software Exchange. The Hoosier Users Group is currently looking into other BBS software and hope to make a selection soon.

Also, in this new year, look for developments of new products (both hardware and software) that aims for the TI market. The International Users Group is negotiating with TI for the rights to several software packages, GE and the TOYS-R-US chain are trying to work a deal with TI to continue production and distribution of the 99/44 while another company is leaking rumors of a 99/64 that will be aimed at the business computer user. So you see, the TI saga will continue, it is just a matter of introducing the new players into this soap opera! And pretty soon you may need a 'list of credits' to keep track of all who are getting involved! We will do our best to keep you posted.

I am also searching to find people who can give us a demo of UCSD Pascal IV as it is offered on the TI. I know that there are Pascal users out there in our membership and would love to have them demonstrate and comment about the system.

Don Donlan, President

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING: 2:00 P.M., JANUARY 8, 1984 AT MICRO'S (HUG CENTER WEST)

DEMO SCHEDULED: MBX VOICE RECOGNITION SYSTEM

REGIONAL MEETINGS

SOUTH-SIDE MEETING: 1:00 P.M. JANUARY 21, 1984

See inside for more details

COMPUTER AWARENESS CLASS -- The third of a series of TI Computer Awareness Classes, sponsored by the Hoosier Users Group, will be held January 7, 1984 at MicroComputers, West from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

BASIC CLASS to start 7:00 p.m., January 17, 1984 at MicroComputers, West. Please bring your BASIC Reference Card and Users Reference Guide to this class. Jim Richason will be teaching this class from the book: Programming BASIC with the TI Home Computer by Herbert Peckham, and recommends that you purchase it if you plan to attend. This book is available at MicroComputers for \$19.95.

Nominating Committee -- If you wish to volunteer for this committee for the 1984 HUGGER Elections, please contact the Officers before the February Monthly Meeting.

Due to the Holiday's, this Newsletter will be shorter than normal. Look for the last of the series of Personal Record Keeping articles to appear in the February, 1984 issue of the HUGGER Newsletter.

REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHSIDE REGIONAL MEETING

by Dennis Sherfy
Southside Regional Director

The first meeting of the southside regional group is scheduled for Saturday, January 21, 1984. The initial meeting will be at my home from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. My address is 4582 Moccasin Pl., Greenwood. I am located south of County Line Road and east of Highway 37. I would appreciate a call from you if you plan to attend. My phone number is 881-5918.

We will use the first meeting to determine what the members interests are. Are you interested in programming, problem solving, learning how to use your equipment, demonstrations???? Perhaps we will have an opportunity to demonstrate an interesting graphics program.

The success and continuation of the Regional Group concept will be determined by your interest. We hope that you will join us.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Holiday's and a Happy Holiday Birthday to these January, 1983 members: Chris Kemp, Dan Niccum, Randy Morgan, Bob Schaffer, Gerald Scott, Dewey Spence, Pam & Dea Purdie, Rick Slaven, Greg Cunningham, Jay Eiler, Merle & Jeane Cox, Ted Allen, Tom Kahn, Dennis Graves, Brad Beiswanger, Chris Allen, Eldon & Jean Batz, Bill Buckner, and Rich Coolman.

WELCOME

Happy Holiday's and a Holiday Welcome to these new December, 1983 members: Michael Upd , Elizabeth Manning, Ralph Cooper, John Schneider, Waldron Elementary School, Gordon Edwards, Gordon Goins, James Hawkins, David Artman, Clifford Krick, Karen Taber, Kurt Schoch, Lew Bartley, Dennis Joyce, Robert Brattain and family, Jerry Yarnell, Georgia Wyatt, Anthony Carlino, Terry Sullivan, and Rene' Torella.

BEST OF THE NEWSLETTER

THINGS TI NEVER TOLD US

SUBROUTINE SECRETS

Good programmers write their programs in small function blocks known as subroutines. By breaking their programs into small parts, it is easier to understand and fix them. But a program full of GOSUBs and GOTOs can be hard to follow on a TV screen. It would be handy to say where the GOSUBs and GOTOs are going so you wouldn't have to jump around in the program just to understand what its doing.

TI doesn't tell you, but you can do just that in console BASIC. After a GOSUB or GOTO you may type a REM statement followed by the name of that routine. The name must be no longer than the rest of the screen line, and the line MUST! end with a blank. (The REM statement will automatically add one more space after REM and will fill the line when you list it.) The line might look like: 100 GOSUB 200 REM DRAW LINE.

Editor's Note: Subroutine Secrets first appeared in the October, 1983 issue of the HUGger Newsletter. Look for more Best of the Newsletter in future issues of the HUGger Newsletter.

VENDORS PLAN TO SUPPLY

99/4A PRODUCTS

By Scott Mace

Editors Note: The following article appeared in Volume 5, Number 4B of *InfoWorld*, page 23.

Owners of TI 99/4A computers do not despair — your computer isn't dead yet.

A number of independent hardware and software manufacturers plan to keep producing equipment for the more than two million owners of Texas Instruments' 9/4A Home Computers left high and dry by the company's decision last month to discontinue production of the machine.

Despite the help of third-party suppliers, a cloud hangs over the 99/4A user community, which realizes that there will probably never be as many places to buy need peripherals and software as there were when TI still sold the machine.

Nevertheless, "thousands of people have been picking up the computers in the last week or so at fire-sale prices," said Gary Kaplan, publisher of 99'er Home Computer Magazine of Eugene, Oregon.

Kaplan believes that "the opportunities are phenomenal" for independent hardware and software vendors to make money selling their wares to the more than two million 99/4A users. There are hardly any stores left that have TI peripherals (such as the expansion box/disk drive unit and the various which add memory and RS-232 serial ports to the expanded 99/4A), according to Kaplan.

One company, CorComp of Laguna Hills, California, is developing a microcomputer that, it says, will be compatible with all TI software. Dana Webb, president of CorComp, says the as yet unnamed computer, which will be released in the first quarter of 1984, will have 64K RAM, built-in speech and BASIC. He says it will sell for less than \$500, and a disk drive will also be available. (CorComp is not listed with Laguna Hills directory information, but their phone number is (714)835-8033.)

CorComp currently makes 32K RAM boards and RS-232 boards for the TI Expansion Box. Webb says the company diverted parts from other projects to meet increased demand after Texas Instruments announced its pullout recently. Webb says CorComp will also produce a scaled-down version of the TI expansion box (sans disk drive) that will accept the many boards made for the expansion unit.

Currently, the only independent producer of floppy-disk drives for the 99/4A is Percom Data Corporation of Dallas, Texas. Percom makes floppy-disk drives for most home computers. The company's TX 99-S1 drive for the 99/4A has a suggested list price of \$449, including controller. A company spokesperson says Percom has dealers worldwide and currently has about 600 drives on hand for the TI. Percom also sells a \$399 add-on second drive for the 99/4A called the TX 99-A1. The Percom spokesperson said she didn't know if Percom plans to continue making either of the drives for the 99/4A.

Another firm, Myarc, located in Basking Ridge, New Jersey will continue to produce 5-, 10- and 15-megabyte hard-disk systems for 99/4A. Vice-President of Administration Norm Freedman says Myarc has been selling its hard disks since early 1983 and has sold a significant number in South American countries where many 99/4A owners use the machine for business applications.

A number of companies, including A/D Electronics of Sacramento, California, and Doryt Systems of Glen Cove, New York, produce

cards which fit into the 99/4A expansion box. Other manufacturers produce components such as joysticks. One such company, Newport Controls of Bishop, California, plans to continue selling its \$38 deluxe joystick for the 99/4A. 99'er Home Computer Magazine published a directory of third-party hardware products in its September issue.

While independent hardware manufacturers try to fill the gap in supplies of 99/4A peripherals (many plan to forgo stores and concentrate on mail-order distributions), some software suppliers are uneasy about continuing production of 99/4A software. This is despite Kaplan's contention that after TI sells out its remaining software this Christmas, "the third-party software market (for the machine) is going to explode.

Sierra On-Line of Coarsegold, California, is one software company trying to figure out what to do next. After months of negotiation with Texas Instruments, Sierra On-Line recently agreed to allow TI to manufacture cartridges based on Sierra On-Line games on a royalty basis. Sierra On-Line president Ken Williams says TI has already begun production of two games for the 99/4A — *Jambreaker* and *Crossfire* — which are thus likely to be released. Williams says TI hasn't said whether it will release four other games adapted to the 99/4A by his firm. If TI should send the remaining software back and allow Sierra On-Line to publish it, Williams says his company probably won't bother.

According to Williams and other software manufacturers interviewed, stores are already cutting back on shelf space for 99/4A software.

"It sure looks like there's no way to continue in the business in the traditional sense," says Michael Brothers of Funware, a Richardson, Texas, software company. Funware is one of the few companies which TI expressly permits to manufacture cartridge software for the 99/4A. Brothers is equally despondent of the lack of retail interest in TI software. "It doesn't make sense, but that's the way it is," he says.

One possible solution to the impending shortage of 99/4A software in retail outlets could be electronic distribution via telephone, such as the system being tested by Romox, of Cambell, California (*InfoWorld*, Vol. 5, No. 27). This would allow retailers to download software for the 99/4A into individual blank Romox cartridges without having to maintain a big inventory.

The alternatives for software producers are few. They can try to unload current inventories of TI software on the market at fire-sale prices, or they can try to develop mail-order distribution. "Companies like Sierra On-Line and Creative Software (which owns Funware) are not geared up to sell directly to consumers," Brothers says. "They would have to set up whole new companies."

Mail-order software companies also have to find a good mailing list of TI customers. The best one of all is held by Texas Instruments, but so far the company has made no deals to provide the potentially valuable list to any independent companies, or to the International 99 Users Group of Bethany, Oklahoma.

At least one TI competitor is probably unhappy about the firm's sudden decision to exit the home computer market. Atari is rumored to have already produced 250,000 game cartridges, under its new Atarisoft line, to run on the Texas Instruments machine.



CALL YOUR ORDER IN TODAY TO:

Data-Mac Company

55 S. Franklin Road
Indianapolis, IN 46219
(317) 897-8574

OFFICE - COMPUTER SUPPLIES

*We will deliver to one central
users home on each side of
Indianapolis for the convenience
of your group.*

GREAT PRICES ON FLOPPY
DISKS - H U R R Y
ONE STOP COMPUTER SUPPLY STORE

NEXT DAY DELIVERY!

- ELEPHANT FLOPPY DISKS
- 5 1/4" Single Sided Single Density
\$20.00 per box
- 5 1/4" Single Sided Double Density
\$24.00 per box
- 5 1/4" Double Sided Double Density
\$28.00 per box
- 8" Good Savings Also

10 per box

BASF FLOPPY DISKS, 5 1/4" and 8", MAGNETIC TAPE, CARTRIDGES AND DISK PACKS
VERBATIM FLOPPY DISKS

*ALL SIZES, PLYS,
WEIGHT AVAILABLE*

LOOK!!! COMPUTER STOCK PAPER

- 8 1/2" x 11" 15# 1/2" G/B \$25.68/Ctn (3500 Sheets)
- 9 1/2" X 11" 15# Blank or 1/2" G/B \$27.58/Ctn (3500 Sheets)
- 9 1/2" X 11" 20# Blank or 1/2" G/B \$28.58/Ctn (2700 Sheets)
- 9 1/2" x 11 20# Blank, Clean Perf \$28.58/Crtn (2700 sheets)

CRT TABLES - -25% Discount (Virco)
PRINTER STATIONS - - 25% Discount Units on Display
WORK TABLES - - 25% Discount

RIBBONS - within 24 hours for all types of computer and word processing mach.
Diskette storage cases for 5 1/4" and 8" Floppy

Discounts for all Walk-Ins on Office Supplies, or Free Delivery to Commerical
Accounts

WE COME TO YOU; SERVICE IS OUR #1 PRODUCT

RETAIL STORE HOURS: Monday through Friday 8 - 6
Saturday 9 - 5