



**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE K-TOWN 99/4A USERS' GROUP**

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AND

**THE ATHENS COMPUTER CLUB**

**AUGUST, 1990**

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**COMMENT**

The K-Town 99'ER is published monthly for the benefit of the K-Town 99/4A Users Group membership specifically and the TI Community in general. The Articles in this newsletter to the best of our knowledge are factual but nevertheless the views expressed are the views of the author and are not necessarily the views of the K-Town Users Group. Any article, unless stated otherwise, may be copied by other users groups and published in their newsletter providing credit is given to the author and the K-Town 99'ER.

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**K-TOWN AUGUST MEETING**

The K-TOWN 99/4A Users Group will meet at the MLB (Mechanicsville, Lonsdale, Beaumont) Building on the second Thursday of the month. The date is AUGUST 9. Doors open at 6:30 P.M. The FEATURE EVENT will be an on hands cleaning of our consoles. Read the President's Forum for information and instructions on what you need to do to be prepared for cleaning your console. Be there to participate. Be there for an early start of this meeting. Please remember that we must vacate the building by 9:30.

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**DUES / MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the K-Town 99/4A Users Group is open to any owner or user of the TI-99/4A Home Computer. Dues are twenty dollars per year and subject to our fiscal year which begins April 1 and ends March 31 of each year. Dues are classified as family memberships. New memberships are prorated at the rate of two dollars per month if less than a full year, except for the last three months of our fiscal year. There is a minimum fee of five dollars. Memberships are not prorated for current or former members. We welcome visitors.

## PRESIDENT'S FORUM

As the month of July draws to an end I once again will abandon my kitchen remodeling project to give some thought to writing an article for the newsletter. It seems that each time I think the kitchen project is finished I find myself involved in an extended project. With the new floor covering in place the original base and shoe moldings no longer were appropriate. Therefore the refinishing of the old wood trim has been added to the original project. Those baseboards are murder on these old knees. My mood at the present is that come September I shall retire the kitchen project finished or unfinished.

Guest newsletters continue to pay tribute to the Lima Users Group for the superb presentations at the Multi Users Group Conference which they sponsored this past May. It appears that the conference will be recorded in the memories of many of those who were present as a time of quality fellowship. In many ways it projected the atmosphere of a family reunion and to many the TI Community is family.

## K-TOWN AUGUST MEETING

As indicated in the notice on the front page of this newsletter the featured event will be a hands on experience in the cleaning of our consoles. If you have never seen the inside of your console this meeting will provide you with such an opportunity.

### YOU WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING:

Along with one or more consoles you should bring the following items to assist you in the cleaning process:

- 1- A small phillips screw driver.
- 2- A small quantity of contact cleaner. (Denatured alcohol will be fine.)
- 3- Gue Lips, or pipe cleaners, or lint free rag.

On hand to guide us through the cleaning procedure will be a former member and president the very talented Mike Epperson. It is also anticipated that the cleaning process will be video taped in order that individuals might have this information recorded for future cleanings. We might also share it with other groups who care to do so.

My efforts to write this article were interrupted at this point by a thunderstorm rambling around the neighborhood. Shortly after I had saved the above data to disk the power went off and didn't come back on for nearly two hours. I won't complain. Over the years I have come to appreciate the quality electrical service which we experience here in the Tennessee Valley.

When considering the absence of any subject to write about I should have terminated this article with the advent of the storm. My mind and body are just too tired to function so I will close for the present and sign out. See you at the August meeting.

## ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITER

Here is a two-line program that will allow your printer to function as an electronic typewriter with a 56 character display. You can use all of the normal screen editing capacities of the keyboard to get each line right before you press `enter` to send it to the printer.

```
100 OPEN #1:"PID" :: PRINT #1:CHR$(27):"!":CHR$(12):
110 INPUT "A$" :: PRINT #1:A$ :: PRINT :: GOTO 110
```

Line 100 sets the left margin at 12 spaces. Line 110 accepts screen input and sends it to the printer when you press `enter`. The trick is that TWO lines on the screen make ONE line of 56 characters for the printer. You just type away and press `enter` at the end of each two lines on the screen.

The extra `PRINT` command in 110 scrolls up each double line so that you only have to count to two. No harm is done if you on a few characters past two screen lines before entering, just a ragged right margin.

I am sure that many others have done things like this. This one works well for me in writing notes and informal letters. It helps to add one more line:

```
90 CALL CLEAR :: PRINT : "Enter TWO lines to type
ONE."
```

It reminds you what of what you are doing.

All kind of bells and whistles can be tacked on. Adding `&CHR$(7)` to the second `A$` in line 110 will cause the printer (at least my NX1000) to beep for each line. You can provide for the creation of a D/VBO file for each note or letter. A signal, "22" for instance, can be used to terminate the program so that you don't have to press `Fctn 4` and so that files can be closed. Still, I prefer the simpler version.

JMBull

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POTPOURRI

by Bill Sheridan

Continuing with the article concerning printers and international characters that I wrote last month, there is another command line that will select any one of 11 international character sets. If you look in your printer's manual you may find the command `CHR$(27)&"R"&CHR$(n)`, where `n=0` to 10 depending on the language you wish to use. In the program listed below, the numbers in the data statement in line 340 determine which character will be printed. Try the following program to see if your printer will print the character sets for each country as shown below the program.

```
100 CALL CLEAR
```

```

110 OPTION BASE 1
120 DIM CHR(12),C$(11)
130 FOR I=1 TO 11
140 READ C$(I)
150 DATA USA,FRANCE,GERMANY,ENGLAND,DENMARK
I,SWEDEN,ITALY,SPAIN,JAPAN,NORWAY,DENMARK II
160 NEXT I
170 B=1
180 FOR M=0 TO 10
190 RESTORE $40
200 FOR I=1 TO 12
210 READ CHR(I)
220 NEXT I
230 OPEN #1:"PID"
240 PRINT #1:C$(B);' where n="";N
250 PRINT #1:CHR$(27)&"R"&CHR$(N);
260 FOR A=1 TO 12
270 PRINT #1:CHR$(CHR(A));" ";
280 NEXT A
290 PRINT #1:CHR$(10);
300 CLOSE #1
310 B=B+1
320 NEXT N
330 END
340 DATA 35,36,64,91,92,93,94,96,123,124,125,126

```

```

USA where n= 0
# $ @ [ \ ] ^ * ( ! ) ~

```

```

FRANCE where n= 1
# $ à ° ç é ê ë ù

```

```

GERMANY where n= 2
# $ s A B U ^ * ä ö ü

```

```

ENGLAND where n= 3
£ $ @ [ \ ] ^ * ( ! ) ~

```

```

DENMARK I where n= 4
# $ @ € Ø Å ^ * æ ø å ~

```

```

SWEDEN where n= 5
# $ é Å Ö Å Ü é ä ö å ü

```

```

ITALY where n= 6
# $ @ * \ é ê ë ù ò ì

```

```

SPAIN where n= 7
R $ @ i ñ ¿ ^ * ñ ð ~

```

```

JAPAN where n= 8
# $ @ [ ¥ ] ^ * ( ! ) ~

```

```

NORWAY where n= 9
# $ é € Ø Å Ü é æ ø å ü

```

```

DENMARK II where n= 10
# $ é € Ø Å Ü é æ ø å ü

```

If you don't feel like typing in the above program but are interested enough to want to know if your printer will print international characters you may try the short program below that will print a German word. The "2" in line 110 will give you the German characters and the "93" in line 120 will print a "U" with two dots (see the sixth character under GERMANY above).

```

100 OPEN #1:"PID"
110 PRINT #1:CHR$(27)&"R"&CHR$(2);
120 PRINT #1:"DE";CHR$(93);"TSCH"
130 CLOSE #1

```

### DEUTSCH

I wanted to print the Spanish expression "How are you?" that I used last month, but the "e" with the accent above is not available under SPAIN (n=7). Also noticed there are several other letters with accents in Spanish not available with this command. In roughly checking all the characters available with this command and the one used last month, the command used last month has every character shown in the list above without having to designate a country (n=x).

My printer's manual (Panasonic) noted that instead of using the command line CHR\$(27)&"R"&CHR\$(n), the character sets 0-7 can be set with DIP switches 5, 6, and 7. Character sets 8, 9, and 10 may be accessed through software (command line) only. See your printer's manual for setting the DIP switches if the above programs don't work.

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### K-Town Minutes for July 12, 1990

After too long Joe Simmons was back with valid explanations for some of his absences. This included a vacation. Many of us can't use that one. We get no vacations, or holidays, or weekends! That's the way it is in retirement.

Mike Epperson showed up with a 50 capacity Memorex disk file box for \$4. And 10 color DSFS for \$5. I bought both. It wasn't till I got home that I realized the box's good features. Hope I can get another or two. Then I'll donate a couple of my old ones to anyone. And Paul Blevins was back too after a miss. He had me worried when his Doc said he couldn't go to Lima. I'd supposed he wasn't to be that active. Instead, he was to be that INACTIVE riding so far. Maybe I'll change Docs!

Attendance was 50% greater than in June, but I'll not attempt to construct a new growth curve. My last effort was a flop! July attendance would have been even higher but for a thunder bolt. That's why Jack Garrison didn't make it. A bulletin board had been arranged to remind Jack. It worked. He was just about to leave. Then the bolt blew a fuse and Jack was prowl around in the dark too long getting it fixed. That's Jack's best excuse yet! I even believe it!

Ron Hatmaker showed the nearly completed ZENO BOARD

he is building for Paul Blevins. It's beautiful. It can hold lots of handy ROM INSIDE the console. I'm anxious to see it work. Vital chips are awaited.

July's program was invited demos by my member. Lacking anything better BB ran his FOG INDEX, but in Jackadasical manner. Again, EM Smith to the rescue. He had installed his two HORIZON RAMDISKS in the P-Box and showed us just enough to make everybody want one. I've since written to Bub Mills for a "Group" price.

You will just have to guess whether or not the meeting adjourned on time.

Bob Buehler, Secy-Treas.

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KINDER KORNER 32  
By Bob Buehler

VIDEO CASSETTE LABELS

Having used five Kinder Korners finally putting Fog Index to bed, a new subject was desperately needed. It's not easy to keep a monthly column going for more than two and one-half years despite it's momentous value! TO ME!

So, as keeper of our Amnion Library, it seemed worth looking therein for inspiration. That's where Fog Index had been found even though it didn't work right. The fun was fixing it to be better and faster. It was all nappy going even though no one yet has asked for a copy, or shown any tendency to follow the principles of Clear Writing that were expounded so effectively in Kinder Korners under inspiration from the Fog Index connection.

Flipping again through the Amnion Index, the big, A-Series is essentially all games. But there are no donated diskettes in our Amnion library! That means few of our members were interested in games. Happily we have higher aims. Yet it's a sure thing that game authors are mighty skilled programmers. The same goes for Amnion's Graphics, the B-Series. Here, though there was enough member interest to buy and donate some diskettes to our Library. A few were copied to show at some meeting if we can't demo anything better.

All this, to inform that finally in the Amnion H-Series there is TINY PRINT. That rang a bell. Labels were needed for fast accumulating VCR Tapes of Antique Journal, Collectibles, and The Collectors. It's my wife who wants these tapes. The VCR is a darn good way for her to be a collector of collections, so to speak. Cost is low. The VCR cost was zero. It was a Christmas gift. One \$2.95 Tape will hold B one-half hour programs. But all this sort of thing needs labeling!

Maybe TINY-PRINT would give one line for a Tape Title and 4 more lines for eight sub-titles at two per line; five lines in all.

But TINY LABEL didn't run. The printer code had to be changed to "PIU." Then it ran and out came the word TEST in compressed font. Listing the program, TEST was all it was supposed to print. How about substituting "NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD MEN TO COME THE AID OF THEIR PARTY" and running that sucker again. Golly Gee.

It all printed. More than 60 characters! A 3" label will only hold about 51 compressed characters. But that's enough. Sub-titles just have to be whittled to about 51 characters for two programs to a line, preceded by tape title on the first line.

Now a bunch of recorded tapes are labeled for future reviewing. But don't think this ends the VCR tape labeling thing. It'll take at least one more KK to tell how it got done.

Yes, a former Kinder Korner did tell about FLEXILABEL which was designed specifically to label VCR Tapes and their boxes. The next KK will tell why this was not acceptable for the collections tapes.

BB 7/4/90, 11:30 pm.

Don't think that day-light July 4 hours were used writing KK-32. Nope! We visited most of the several boat docks on Norris Lake where we had launched a trailable cruiser for sleeping-out on lots of earlier July 4ths and lots more weekends too. Pleasant July 4 memories were being awakened in a favorite sleeping cove by blackberry pickers on the nearby shore. It was that time of year. But this year we found every place so overly crowded that we were plumb glad to have done our good boating in the better times of some years back. The big pay-off of yesterday's visit: It made us appreciate all the more that never-to-be forgotten earlier boating fun! On Norris, Melton Hill, Fort Loudon, Watts Bar, and Chicamauga Lakes; and once on down through Nickajack to Gunter'sville. BB 7/6/90

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Athens August MeEtInG

The Athens Club's August MeEtInG will be held on Thursday, the 23rd at 7:00 P.M. at either Joe's home in \_\_\_\_\_ the Seven Cedars subdivision in \_\_\_\_\_ Hello \_\_\_\_\_ Etowah, Tennessee or at the \_\_\_\_\_ art \_\_\_\_\_ Etowah Church of Christ Joel & Jimmie building. As is becoming the \_\_\_\_\_ custom, we may very well be meeti\_\_\_\_\_ing during the month at one another's homes BUT WE WILL have an organized meeting. Those who wish directions may call Joe at home or at 3367475. Also, be sure to bring those programs with which you are having troubles and we will try to debug them.

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STUNNING

by  
Joe W. Simmons

Have you ever stumbled on to a new technique either at the computer or in another club's newsletter? If so, this column is for you. The geniuses will be so deep in thought that they will never know that they missed these

stumbles! Enough gibberish.

For the past two months I have been allowing this article to "fasp". One good excuse would be that my disk drives are being repaired; however, that is a poor excuse since I have the use of Joel Braddock's back up computer... (the one he purchased from Tony Neves). The other excuse (reason) is that I have been spending my free time enjoying outings with my family.

While these reasons may sound to some of you as if I am not using the computer that would be an untrue statement. I continue to use it to balance my church and home budgets and to print out budget sheets. In addition, I continue to study assembly and Martin Smoley's TI-BASE.

At work, I am applying my home experiences to Dbase III+. No, I have not been inattentive to the computer... only to writing these articles.

Larry Nelson has just deposited our club's library on my door step. Looking over our nostalgia brings back some old memories of our past greatness. Looking through all the work which Larry and others have done which was of great benefit to many during their tenure is now just a stack of memories. From the consensus of our group, we plan to donate the majority of the modules and cassette software as well as the related paraphernalia to the Athens North City School since they have several consoles and cassette players.

While perusing through the last five months of the LA-Topics, I can appreciate their leaders dismay. Also, in the Cleveland Area's U.S. Newsletter, Deanna Sheridan has announced that by years end they will need a new newsletter editor as she is stepping down after five years.

Change is ever with us and yet we are never prepared for it! I, for one, get use to an editor's style and I miss it when others take over. However, why should we expect one or a small group to always do all the work? For those of us who are in many civic groups, this minority situation is the rule rather than the exception. Ideally (a college expression since college is full of idealists) we each should submit articles on a regular basis and rotate the newsletter preparation amongst us. This way none of us would get burnt out. We each would gain the wisdom of everyone's thoughts, and we would become more knowledgeable on putting out a newsletter as well as making "verbage".

Dennis Faherty has just sent me version 3.01 of his TI-BASE. The upgrade cost including shipping to me was \$17.45. I am anxious to see just what it will do. Also the Athens Club has just purchased all of Martin Smoley's TI Base tutorials up to the present. As I have the opportunity I will experiment with them to learn more.

Conversing with Dennis via the telephone I have found him to be quite helpful and courteous.

#### MAIL BAG:

Lloyd Wilson: Lloyd's oldest daughter Dawn has announced a wedding date for August 20th at Lloyd's Cabin on Watts Bar Lake near Ten Mile, Tennessee.

Joel Braddock: I have found Joel's new abode down in

Chicomauga just west of the Civil War Battlefield. I bet he is enjoying the swimming pool with all of this 95+ heat!!

John Bull: John Bull has grouped TI's BRIDGE ACES' bidding tutorials on one diskette. He has added a menu screen from which one can select the desired tutorial. Although, I prefer John's BRIDGE program, this menu makes the BRIDGE ACES' program more palatable. For a copy, send John atleast \$3.00 for the duplicating and postage fees. His address is 407 Blue Valley Road, Knoxville, Tennessee, 37922.

While eating at McDonalds' after the K-town meeting, I mentioned a wish and John said he would insert it as an option which would save a rubber bridge game as a duplicate board. I often write down a just completed rubber board to see how it might be played if I had been east or west (I just shift the board around to north and south). After writing it down, I re arrange it on the Duplicate program and call it the next Duplicate board number. John... it would be nice on the duplicate board for the program to prompt the user as to the next available duplicate board number.

Mike Epperson: Mike here is Tony Neves mailing address: 4457 East Circle Drive; Cleveland, Tn. 37311 He needs assistance on freeware programs for his IBM Heinz 57 variety.

Art Gibson: We have received those RA Green GPL diskettes you requested.

Carl Hinton: We sent you funds for the Atlanta's TI User Group's new diskazine. Perhaps the Atlanta group will see this and pick you up by your ears!

Write about some one and guess who should call me on the phone? It was dear old Carl who was on his way back to Atlanta from Knoxville and wanted to give me a call to see among other items how I was enjoying the Atlanta club's diskazine. When I related the above he said he would get a hold of their club's treasurer who had promised to forward the diskazine to us.

Carl also related that his company's business had improved and they were doing a booming business. It was good to hear from Carl.

#### RECEIVED FROM TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

We just received a User Group's listing from Texas Instruments for the United States and the World. What prompted them to send this out to 234 user groups without any cover letter arouses conversation for thought.

From past gleanings from the Forest Lane User Group it would appear that within TI they are right proud of the success and longevity of the User Groups which they seeded in the late 70's and early 80's. Having lost such a bundle, it is unlikely that they will re-enter the home computer market.

However, there is a market out here for some company willing to support it without trying to make an unrealistic profit. Currently the home market, is being fed by the offerings from the major brands as the older models are being discarded for the upgrades.

#####Zzzzzz

lost in the computer adventure land, come to our meeting  
next month.

BEST WISHES,

JOE

Enough stumblings for this month. Joe/118:22 hrs.  
7/21/90 at Etowah, Tennessee.

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#### Athens May and June Meetings

Our May and June meetings were hosted by Joe Simons at Etowah. At the May meeting Art and Jimmie diagnosed that Joe's Teac drive #1 was sick and was in need of repair. So Joe took the drives out of the box and proceeded to hunt the address of the drive repair man. Finally, John Bull came through with the address and I sent my Teac drive #2 off to Infinite Service and Repair, 8104 Parkdale Drive, Austin, Texas 75758; for repair. It came back with a proper cleaning and I found that being a half century old can be expensive! So, I sent drive # 1 to Infinite and now that it is back, my TI set up is almost complete again. Now that I have them reinstalled, I find that I still experience the scrambled screen when I use the beige computers; however, when I use a black and silver console it works just fine.

Even with the above glowing comments, I am still having a problem getting disk drive #1 to load. I have a spare set of cables which I will try to see if the cable is the cause!

Life is not dull with a TI!

Oh yes, I highly recommend Infinite Service and Repair. You must call them to arrange for an identification number. Their phone number is 1-800-458-6778 CSI. They advertise \$5 to \$25 plus shipping for each drive. I got both of my drives cleaned, realigned, and speed adjustments for about \$32.00. Turn around time was about one week for each drive via UPS. I am well pleased.

#### MAY MEETING

At our May meeting, Art demonstrated his modifications to Birdwell's Disk Utilities to reload Funnelweb and to Rediskit to reload Funnelweb. Prior to these modifications, I had to press the RESET lever on my GramCracker to reload Funnelweb. Thank-you, ART. Also, Art demonstrated his assembly helper.

#### JUNE MEETING

At our June meeting, Jimmie and I utilized Wes Richardson's program which takes a TI Artist Instance and converts it into Hex code so that it can be used as a graphic within TI BASE. We ran the Liberty Bell instance from TI Artist and after conversion we printed it again from within TI BASE. These programs came to us via the Cleveland Area User's Group newsletter contributors Wes Richardson and Martin Sauley.

Wes and Marty, you did a good job! Thank-you.

As with most adventures involving the toy the evening is soon gone and we suddenly realize that it was TIME to go home. When you are having a fine time, relativity seems to set in and time means nothing!

If you are one of those who have not enjoyed being