



K-TOWN ^K **99'ER**
 NEWSLETTER OF THE K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP
 AND THE ATHENS COMPUTER CLUB
DECEMBER 1992



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COMMENT

The K-Town 99er 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

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K-TOWN DECEMBER MEETING

PLEASE NOTE

THE DECEMBER MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE HOME OF BILL SHERIDAN

We will meet at our usual time, the second Thursday of the month. The date is December 10th. The hour is 7:00 PM. The program will be the viewing of a video tape demonstration showing how to access the console for internal cleaning. The tape includes some other featres which may be shown as time dictates. There will also be a brief business meeting.

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 TEN DOLLARS per year and subject to our fiscal year which begins April 1 and ends March 31 of each year. Dues are clasified as family memberships. New memberships are prorated at

the rate of ONE dollar per month if less than a full year, except for the last five 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

From my point of view the November meeting was one of the better ones. Attendance was good, Bill's plotter did indeed draw pretty, colorful pictures with no bugs whatever, and the conversations on the side were at the usual brilliant level. I sometimes think that the most valuable thing we do is the entirely unscheduled and sometimes unexpected sharing of information and ideas at the meetings and under the golden arches afterward.

Attendance was so good that it made us think of some of those who weren't there: Garrison (co-owner of the plotter), Hataker, Edge, McNeillie, for instance. Fellows, we would like to see your handsome faces! Your

presence would add spice to our proceedings.

E.M. has asked that we meet elsewhere than his basement for the next month or two and Bill Sheridan has invited us for December to his place. I trust that the Editors will include elsewhere in this Newsletter full directions for getting there. Thanks, Bill, for your hospitality.

I will see you all on Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 at 1466 Hillvale Road. South this time, not North!

John H. Bull

* Merry Christmas *



POTPOURRI

BY BILL SHERIDAN



PRINTING CIRCLES

In the October issue of Tidbits, the newsletter of the MID SOUTH 99 USERS GROUP, I saw a program that aroused my interest. The XB program is by Morton Dworshak. The program will drive a printer to print a circle after asking you to input a radius. The program listing below is changed slightly from what is in the newsletter. The main change is the elimination of X and Y coordinate lines that divided the circle into quarters.

What really had me puzzled was why multiply .86 by the calculated value of X. After much head scratching, I finally realized that to print a circle correctly (not squashed), the X increment spacing (1 column across the page) must be equal to the Y increment spacing (1 formfeed down the page). For X, 1 column = 7.75" divided by 80 = .096875" line spacing. Therefore, to get the X distance to equal the Y distance, multiply X by .083333 divided by .096875 = .86.

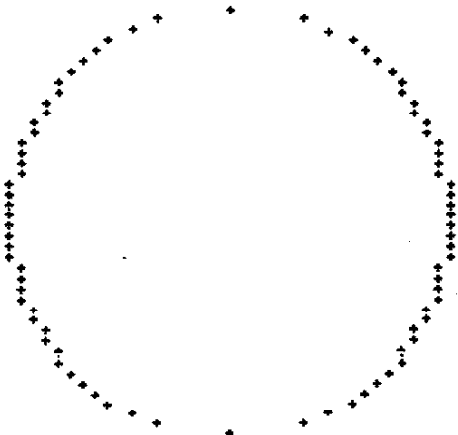
The circle on the left below the program listing is an example of what the printer will print using a radius of 20. The actual printout circle will have a diameter of about 3.5" instead of about 2.5" as shown. For comparison, the circle on the right is from the Circle Function of the TI-ARTIST program.

```
10 REM DRAW A CIRCLE WITH PRINTER
20 REM EQUATION FOR POINTS ON CIRCUMFERENCE OF A CIRCLE: XSQUARE +
YSQUARE = RSQUARE WHERE R IS THE RADIUS.
30 REM SOLVE EQUATION FOR X WHERE X = NUMBER OF COLUMNS TO THE LEFT OR
RIGHT OF THE CENTER(COLUMN 40) OF THE CIRCLE
90 CALL CLEAR
100 OPEN #1:"PIU"
110 PRINT "THIS PROGRAM WILL DRAW A"
120 PRINT "CIRCLE OF ANY DESIRED RADIUS"
130 PRINT "FROM ABOUT 5 TO 40 COLUMNS."
```

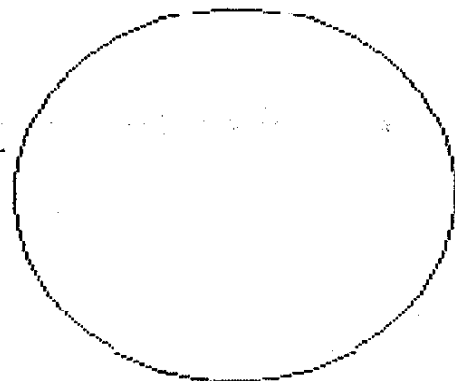
```

140 PRINT
150 PRINT
160 INPUT "RADIUS, -NOT OVER 40? ":R
165 REM LINE 170 SETS THE LINE SPACING OF THE PRINTER
170 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);CHR$(65);CHR$(6)
180 REM LINE 210, 211 AND 212 CALCULATES X AND PRINTS THE UPPER HALF OF
THE CIRCLE
190 REM LINE 250, 251 AND 252 CALCULATES X AND PRINTS THE LOWER HALF OF
THE CIRCLE
200 FOR Y=R TO 0 STEP -1
210 X=INT(40-.86*SQR(R^2-Y^2))
211 XX=INT(40+.86*SQR(R^2-Y^2))
212 PRINT #1:TAB(X);CHR$(46);TAB(XX);CHR$(46)
220 NEXT Y
240 FOR Y=0 TO -R STEP -1
250 XXX=INT(40-.86*SQR(R^2-Y^2))
251 XXXX=INT(40+.86*SQR(R^2-Y^2))
252 PRINT #1:TAB(XXX);CHR$(46);TAB(XXXX);CHR$(46)
260 NEXT Y
265 REM LINE 270 RESETS THE PRINTER TO NORMAL LINEFEED
270 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);CHR$(64)
290 PRINT #1:
300 PRINT #1:TAB(33);"THE RADIUS IS";R
310 STOP

```



THE RADIUS IS 20



TI-ARTIST



CHATTERBOX - XXII

BY BOB BUEHLER



It will be brief this time, my early Christmas present to all who read my efforts. Brief mostly because only a 12 day trip to, in, and from our home State, Wisconsin, put me several months behind in TI 99/4A activity.

HAPPIES

I have happy news to share. The day before leaving I ordered the M.U.N.C.H video, *Protecting Your TI Investment (P.Y.I.)*. It details how to clean a TI console and make other improvements. Availability had been noted in MICROpendium, August, '92. Jack Sughrue was named as a participant,

Now be reminded that Jack is the author of PLUS, a collection of handy utilities including novel composition

aids for creating a manuscript; like letterheads. I bought an early version but didn't have big luck with it. My fault, not Jack's. Then I learned from MICROpendium that Jack had been seriously injured, in a pedestrian-auto accident, as I remember. This impressed me strangely because ill fortune had struck several of TI's capable authors. It stuck in my memory. Then, by mere chance, in an exchange Newsletter, I noticed PLUS+, a final version,

available from Jack Sughrue. I bought it and this time tried harder, including writing and telephoning to Jack. That's how I learned of his considerable surgery and year of healing. In our last phone conversation Jack said, "I'm having the time of my life!"

So in my order for P.Y.I. I asked about Jack's welfare. Jim Cox, Secy of M.U.N.C.H., replied, "Bob, Jack is fine, as you will see." And I did see. Jack, showing no marks of surgery and looking handsome, presided over the taping in fine fashion. Console cleaning is one item, somewhat different from the way we did it under Mike Epperson's good guidance. Substituting a resister to improve screen images 40% is a second item. Increasing ventilation is the third. It's a darn good demonstration, clear and interesting. I'll be happy to show the tape at a K-Town meeting and have told Prexy, John Bull. I'll also loan the tape to any of our group.

With the tape came M.U.N.C.H. membership info. Initiation fee is \$10, annual dues, \$15, new members get about 40 back Newsletters, a disk of M.U.N.C.H. programs, and access to it's library. Just the Newsletter membership alone is \$13 a year. Sounds like a good deal for an ambitious newcomer to TI-99/4Aing! I already have far more to study and learn than I have time and brains left to accomplish. **BUT ISN'T IT ALL FUN?**

It was fun also to visit my one-year-older but more spry sister in Wisconsin again, yet it's real great fun to be back in East Tennessee. Up there, fall colors were disappointing the last two years. Back here color is the best we can remember in the last 43 years that we've lived in Fountain City, two blocks from Cedar Lane, where color is best!! Actually, Wisconsin is really GREAT except for four reasons. It's too darned far! Ditto! Ditto! Ditto! Oh, another powerful reason. Visiting there made me miss the October K-Town 99er's meeting, and Art's demo of his improved NL/PRINTER.

About Joe 9's Stumblings.

S is for Simmons, cause I'm trying to save space. Finally, while contriving this CHTRBX I gleaned time to read October Stumblings. Joe, how can you justify too many past failures to submit this desired Athen's Club contribution to our joint Newsletter. Better shape up before next Athens election time!

About printing German characters with Gemini. From it's User Manual I had figured out how to print the UMLAUT over the U in BUHLER, because my friend from ZURICH, named Hannes Buhler had visited here last spring and I wanted to make a label for his address in Switzerland. The only practical way I could do it was in Basic, which I gather is the way you did. And if I wanted to really go first class in that language I'd need to change dip switches in Gemini to match the page dimensions of that country. I never figured out how to write the German character with TI Writer. Can you do this, Joe? With TI Writer, I Mean.

Next, no one can accuse me of being UNILINGUAL or UNILINGUAL either. I don't even have one langual or lingual, let alone two. And Joe, have you offered Tanja a task of sauerkraut salad? Why not? Lastly, Joe, at one point you said, "Who reads the docs?" After all, you are the principle "hacker" in our group. How can you hack if

you don't read Doc?

SMART WISDOM

Solving problems is easy. Living with the solutions is tough.

Sow seeds of kindness. Enjoy a perpetual harvest.

Stay home all the time and you'll miss the fun of getting back.

Egotists are nice. They don't talk about other people.

Sign in toy shop. See what you want? Tell Grandma.

I'm planning this trip as a surprise for my wife. I'll cable her from Paris.

The best contributions to literature are by people who planned to write a book, but didn't.

What used to be failure, now is just an alternate life style.

Down hearted? Listen to a baby laugh.

RECIPES

Another reminder now that Christmas is close. It's time again to make TV mix. So see CHATTER BDX X, and don't forget to make two batches, 'cause even then you'll run out in February. And pralines too (Southern Microwave), also in Chtrbx X.

CORNISH PASTYS

The now small town of Mineral Point was the birthplace of Wisconsin. In the 1830's it was a boom town based on lead mining. Many of the miners were immigrants from Cornwall. They were also skilled stone cutters, and quarried the stone to build their homes, with walls nearly two feet thick. (When news of GOLD discovery reached Mineral Point, sixty wagons left there for California in one day, and that popped the lead balloon.) A common and favorite nourishing noon lunch that could be carried to the mine job was a PASTY. We spend a day in Mineral point each time we visit Wisconsin, and never fail to have a pasty at the Red Rooster Cafe, a wee establishment of regional renown.

Over half a century this friendly little city has attracted artists and craft folks. A favorite of ours was Max Ferneke, a water color artist who began earning bread and milk money sketching saleable stuff in the early 1930 depression years as an early hippy type, but in a proper useful sense, on Florida beaches. His ten years later studio, originally a miner's home, was a must in all of our annual visits, and I never could leave without at least one purchase. About 'art' I'm a bummer, but his product was great. But no more. Max is dead!

Before leaving for Wisconsin this year we took inventory. We had more than we could hang, or our son, or our daughter. So we packed six Fernekes in a 37"x48" box to take to an antique dealer of years acquaintance. He stole them for half again our cost, and can still double his money to some grand! Money aside, some treasures of Max's artistry have been returned to the region of their creation.

NOW what a tale! Well, hear this. It is only to whet your appetite for my Cornish Pasty recipe, given to me by a mighty good old friend, Bill Paynter, now dead. We worked closely together in the Knoxville TVA Credit Union

for years. But I've taken some liberties, largely to produce eight individual pasties instead of one large one. I sent Bill this version, but it reached him too late.

1 lb sirloin in 1/2" cubes	3/4 tsp salt
3 medium potatoes, chopped	1/2 tsp pepper
1 1/2 cups chopped onion	1/2 tsp thyme
2 medium carrots, diced	1/2 tsp rosemary
1 egg beaten in 1 tsp water	8 pats of margarine,
or better yet the equivalent of chopped beef suet.	

Combine meat, vegetables, and spices, mixing well.

Divide pastry into 8 parts & roll each into a 7" circle. Brush outer edge with egg-water mixture. Spoon meat-vegetable-spice mixture and a pat of margarine (or suet) onto each pastry so that it can be folded and edge sealed. Pierce vent holes in top. Bake on ungreased baking sheet for 1 hour at 350 Deg. May be frozen.

Pastry:

3 cups flour, 1 1/2 tsp salt, 1 cup shortening, 1/2 cup plus 2 Tbs cold water, or as needed.

BB 10/28&30, and 11/1/92, and 11/4/92

* Merry Christmas *

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 12, 1992

Everyone was present! Well, that is the entire "ELITE REGULARS" were all present. And it was a long blustery way from and back to Rugby for Paul Blevins in his well repaired Subaru. Dennis Mackey had shrugged the Hives, and BB was back from Wisconsin. There were glazed donuts and two kinds of cookies, but donors were not announced,

Business was quick. (1.) The treasury is OK for now, even the while we still send our Newsletter to that Mid Ohio group which shucked us off it's exchange list! (2.) EM Smith requested a two month reprieve from hosting our group in his fine rec-room. I surely don't blame him, but his gracious hospitality has been the glue which held K-Town 99'ers together, and that's for dern sure! (3) We had a quick, gracious hosting offer, provided his wife concurs, and acceptance was instant and unanimous. So we ain't dead yet. Bill Sheridan offers his home, 1466 Hillvale Rd, Louisville, TN. Wholehearted thanks to both.

Though not scheduled, Art Gibson demoed parts of Asgard FIRST DRAFT - FINAL COPY, written by ARTHUR GIBSON, that Dennis and I hadn't seen last time due to our absence. If I were capable of writing such a thing, I'd show it off at the drop of a hat, or less! And I can see that I've a lot of learning to do just to operate it. Trouble is my learnin' and movin' and performancin' are all gittin' to be sort of halfast! I can't even figure why?

The scheduled program was by Bill Sheridan. He demoed a plotter, a Radio Shack product that he and Jack Barrison bought jointly some years back. It was funner than heck to watch this smart little "robot" work! Of course much of the smarts are in the programming, by Bill.

The plotter is an innocent looking box-like contrivance a scant-foot wide on it's 'X' axis, a full+

foot long on it's 'Y' axis, and roughly 5 inches high. A central, depressed platen holds an 8 1/2" x 11" paper in clamps. The higher, bounding "walls" support a pen-holder that moves in the 'X' axis on a bar which, in turn moves in the 'Y' axis, both under programmed control. Now you can plainly see how this cutie can draw a horizontal 'X' axis line or a vertical, 'Y' axis line.

Oh, I forgot to tell that the wall at top 'Y' value contains six ink-pen parking spots, one for each of that many ink colors. On command the pen-holder on the bar moves 'X' wise and 'Y' wise for a trip to the top wall to pick up the programmed color choice ink pen. So now you can see how "cutie" draws those 'X' and 'Y' direction lines, and in color.

Soooooo, now you ask, how about circles, ellipses, and comet orbits? Good you asked. 'X'-'Y' moves are in tiny steps, like .02" each. These steps are so small that they can be programmed in sequench to produce excellent curves. And letters and numbers of different size for labeling and explanations.

So your last question; how could it possibly know how to draw a comet's orbit around the Sun. John Bull told it how in a calculation he made and programmed. Bill also demoed drawing his own graph paper to plot in his utility costs since 1964, separate services in diffent colors and their total in aother color. And a bar chart of monthly gas, electric, and water casts for a year with green, red, and blue inks respectively.

I got a pleasant eyeful!

Adjournment again was to McDonalds, except Paul Blevens who had a long drive back to Rugby.

BB 11/16/92

NEW WORD PROCESSOR

In the mail today, Nov. 23, arrived my copy of FIRST DRAFT/FINAL COPY that I ordered from Asgard Software for \$39.75 plus some postage and handling. Two disks plus a nice manual in a neat package. I plan to give it a good workout and that is going to take some considerable doing after about five years of regular use of TlWriter.

Thanks to Art Gibson, the author, we K'Town 99'ers have something of a head start. Most of the material in the manual has already been shared with us by Art and so we are not starting from scratch.

Already a couple of things stand out: Art uses disk space to conserve computer memory. When you work on a long document there appears from time to time a box on the screen that says "working" and halts things while some more of the text file is loaded from disk. This is no great problem and if the text file is on a RAMdisk it is no problem at all. The big advantage is that you never get the old "memory full - save or purge" message. All you have to worry about is disk space.

Another thing is that the program uses fixed length records rather than variable length records. In some cases this takes a lot more disk space. For example, the dictionary files for the spelling checker are furnished in variable record format and it is easy to understand why. In D/F 80 format each word would occupy 80 bytes! Even in D/V 80 format the dictionaries will not fit on one DSSD disk.

A quick and easy facility for converting D/V files to



STUMBLINGS

BY
JOE SAMMONS

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.

An Explanation

As a preacher told me once, the path way to hell is paved with good intentions. Although I hope that my actions will help me to avoid hell, I have been lax in writing articles for our beloved newsletter about our beloved computer, AGAIN. This was pointed out to be by even Emmanuel!

TI-Base

Perusing through the LA 99er's Topics newsletter I ran across the following program which will allow one to browse a data base.

```
* BROWSE/C 11/03/89
! USE (ENTER DBF HERE)
LOCAL OK C 1
CLEAR
WHILE .NOT. (EOF)
  DISPLAY 10 LN, FN, CT, PH
  WRITE 23,2 "<Q>=QUIT <B>=P6BCK;
<ENTER> CONTINUES"
  READSTRING 23,22 OK
DOCASE
```

D/V files and vice-versa is available in the editor but, as the manual points out, watch out for disk space.

I tried the spell checker on the HELP file (Art is a MUCH better programmer than speller). It is easy to use and it works but even from a RAM disk it takes some time. You would use it for final proof-reading an important document but there is too much waiting for everyday stuff.

The all-purpose menu is great, especially since I don't have the Horizon RAMdisk. It will load the Archiver and DM1000 from my FUNLWEB files. Now I just have to tinker until I can make them return to the FD/FC environment.

It has great potential and I suspect that it will be worth it for an old dog to learn new tricks. I haven't had to call Art on the phone yet but I make no promises.

John H. Bull

```
CASE OK = PBP
CLEAR
RETURN
BREAK
CASE OK = "B"
MOVE - 20 REPLACE OK WITH " "
WRITE 23,22 "E"
BREAK
ENCASE
ENWHILE
RETURN
```

On the above DISPLAY command you can insert the field names you have to browse and their length should fit on to the 40 column screen. I plan to insert this into the menu screen of Martin Smoley's TIBSYS/C program.

TO THE READER

Another fortune cookie for Bob:

"I haven't lost my mind! I've got it archived on a disk here somewhere?" -- from R. Art Green.

Other fortune cookies from Chick De Marti:

"If it ain't broke ... Don't fix it!"

Art, Dennis, and Emmanuel will like this one:
"There is always one more Bug!"

"to err is human, to blame on the computer is devine."

If all else fails, lower your standards."

"If a program is useful, it will have to be changed!"
and finally,

"Only those who attempt the absurd achieve the impossible."
-- Anon.

Rambling thru the newsletters

Did you know that if one presses "F F F" within three seconds when the Munch Man title screen appears. After this is done, RND(0-2) [what round] will appear. When you've chosen what round you want, SCN(0-19) [what screen] will appear. Then MM(1-9) [how many munch men]. Happy munching from Cin-Day 8/89.

If anyone has ever loaded up a DF80 file and didn't know the name to make it run, the following is a way to find it:

Using either E/A or MiniMemory, you can do the following 4 steps to find the name.

```
1) CALL INIT
2) CALL LOAD("DSKx.filename")
3) CALL PEEK(16176,A,B,C,D,E,F)
4) PRINT CHR$(A)&CHR$(B)&CHR$(C)
&CHR$(D)&CHR$(E)&CHR$(F)
```

The name will be printed & if you want CALL LINK("NAME")

If FCTN-QUIT is accidentally hit before you can save a typed program (and you are using XBasic & 32K Expanded Memory) try typing:

```
CALL PEEK(-31952,A,B,C,D)::
```

PRINT A,B,C,D

The first two values shown point to the start of the line number table. The second pair of values points to the end of this table. Write down these numbers. Press Fctn-Quit and re-enter XBasic, and type:

```
CALL INIT
CALL LOAD(-31952,W,X,Y,Z)
```

Replacing W,X,Y,Z with the values you have for A,B,C, and D. Then type:

```
LIST
```

The program should list according to Chick De Mart. Does anyone have a mailing address for Chick?

Mail Bag

Bud Miller: Since sending you my check in June and my letters and follow up phone calls since I am beginning to loose my patience awaiting my ramdisk kit. Like the "Alley Opp" above, I am about ready to break a limb off of a tree in Ohio!

Lloyd: Enjoyed your call bringing me up to date on the newly weds. If they will give me their mailing address, Ellen has a small gift for them.

This past weekend, Ellen and I have been cleaning the house getting ready for the folks visit on Thanksgiving. Among other tasks, I have been cleaning up my computer files by placing newsletters, correspondence, program listings, diskettes in better order. Much of my files was just a method by me to hide out of view that which I did not wish to clean up when I was really through with them. Most of these items went into the mixed paper recycle box. I now have the newsletters in notebooks in chronological order. As one might surmise from the above, the LA 99ers Topics had quite an ourstanding newsletter through the end of 1989 when they quit sending it to the Athens Club. I would like to see if they kept it up afterwards. If the reader is looking for good advice, he should look up the old newsletters and glean the rick treasuries in between their covers!

Enough stumblings for this month. The time is 11:55 P.M. on November 23, 1992. ... You- all be good. ///Joe.



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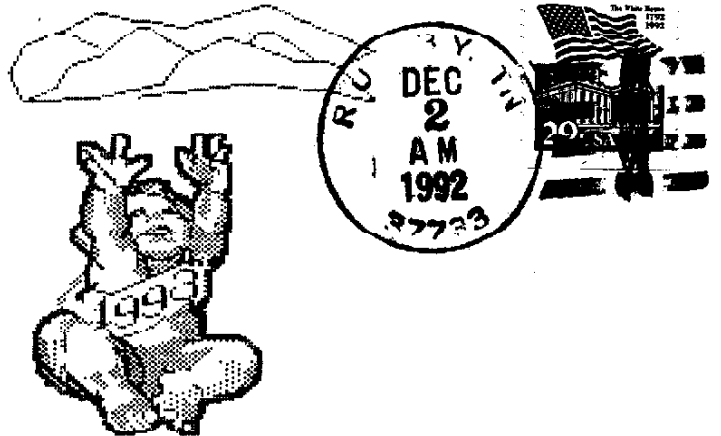
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* Merry Christmas *

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!