

**K-TOWN <sup>K</sup> 99'ER**  
 NEWSLETTER OF THE K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP  
 AND THE ATHENS COMPUTER CLUB  
**FEBRUARY 1993**



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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.

**K-TOWN FEBRUARY MEETING**

**PLEASE NOTE**

**THE FEBRUARY 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 February 11th. The hour is 7:00 PM. The program will feature a demonstration of **A BIG BLUE AND CD ROM** with Bill Sheridan in charge. Bill's Son In Law will do actual demonstration. Time permitting Art Gibson may demonstrate some more of his programming skills. A brief business meeting will precede or follow the demonstrations.

**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 classified 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

## THE PRESIDENT'S FORUM

Many thanks to Bill Sheridan for arranging an hour's tour of Delphi and setting up free trials for us. It was fun and informative.

This month we will meet again at Bill Sheridan's place for a demo of CD-ROM.

We hear that Dennis Mackey has been in drydock for an overhaul. Dennis, we hope that they fixed the problem and that you are under way again.

I will see you all on Thursday, February 11, at 7:00 at 1466 Hillvale Road. South again this time, not North!  
John H. Bull



## POTPOURRI

BY BILL SHERIDAN



Below is reprinted an article by Ron Warfield of the BCUG in the November issue of the GREAT LAKES COMPUTER GROUP newsletter. It contains information that you may need to know in the future.

### MODULATOR REPAIR

Over the years, I have been asked for help on repairing the TI Modulator, so I decided that it is time to write an article on the little beast.

non-existent in any cross-reference book. Well, here is help for you. the chip is MC1374P and is very cheap to acquire. I just bought ten for \$1.95 each.

The most common problem with these units is broken wires at the computer end plug. This is easy to check and all you need to do is pull the rubber cover back from the plug and look inside to see if a wire has broken off. This is a simple fix for all it requires is to solder the wire back onto the pin.

All you need to do is pop off the two covers of the Modulator and unsolder the chip. If you don't have a desoldering tool, you can take a small pair of wire cutters and cut each connector close to the chip until it falls out and then a small soldering iron will easily remove each wire singly. When all the holes are cleaned out, insert the new chip with the index mark properly aligned and solder it into place. Replace the switch slide and the two covers and you should be back in business.

The next problem is more difficult. When you turn on the trusty old TI nothing comes onto the screen. This is usually the integrated circuit gone bad. These are not too difficult to change except the numbers on the chip are

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### QUIZ

While visiting my daughter in Columbia, SC, over New Year's day, a neighbor of hers brought over the mind boggling quiz you see below. Believe it or not, but three of us spent several hours New Year's eve working on it. Must admit we had to have some hints to get answers for 6 of them. If there is room at the end of this newsletter, I'll include some hints to the answers. In any case, I'll give all the answers in the next newsletter.

1. 24 = L. of the A.
2. 7 = W. of the A.W.
3. 1001 = A.N.
4. 12 = S. of the Z.
5. 54 = C. in the D. including the J.
6. 9 = F. in our S.S.
7. 88 = P.K.

Letters of the Alphabet

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is helping me to learn NL/Printers: even First Draft-Final Copy, but the latter is giving me trouble with it's D/F 30 files.

#### GOTCHA

Far be it for me to fault the spoken words of our outgoing and incoming presidents, BOTH! I sure was bored with their campaign rhetoric, but found amusing solice when I heard them both say, "We've got to balance the budget," or some reasonable equivalent. Maybe even, "We gotta balance.....this or some other thing or other."

I think they were saying, "We have got to do this or that." Why the GOT? What's wrong with, "We have to do this or that." Then we have, "We have to balance the budget." Really, best yet would be, "We must balance the budget!" Add the exclamation mark. That might tell a voter how to vote!

Isn't it great that our K-Town budget stays in such nice balance?

#### I'LL FLY AWAY

I've been fond of theatricals transmitted via 'air-waves' since home-made with "Dime Store" parts headphone radio days, and on through the 'loud speaker' era too. They were much popular in my youth and early manhood. Example: CBS WAS THERE with radio and sound affects, made history come alive! Like the assassination of Abe Lincoln at Ford Theatre, and duels of HONOR between political apponents in high office! And it made real people from fiction in The Lone Ranger and Green Hornet! Those stories with proper sound effects produced a great minds eye video. So why am I feeding you this background. Simply to make you think that I know good drama, and to solicit your hell SOON.

I found I'LL FLY AWAY while visiting my sister in Wisconsin. It was on NBC TV, a Friday night, more than a year ago, and I've been chasing it ever since. My family and many friends think it's an outstanding show. We are all chasing it because it is a fleety flighty thing! Best I can learn, drama professionals give it high plaudit, but not the stupid public. Hence it carries low Neilson ratings. Thus it wont command high dollars from advertising sponsors. I've written my pleading letter to NBC in behalf of this specially good show. Since then I hear by the grapevine that about 600,000 others have done the same.

Poop is that four more 'trial' Friday night airings are scheduled, but not until early 1993. Please look for this show on an early Friday in January, confirm my opinion of it's worth, and send your letter of hope for continuance to:

NBC

30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY 10112

Thanks a big bunch. You wont be sorry!

#### THOSE THREE MONKEYS!

We've all seen sculptures and pictures of those notorious SEE NO EVIL-HEAR NO EVIL-SPEAK NO EVIL monkeys. Dutely, side by side, the first monkey clamps it's forepaws over it's eyes. The second one, over it's ears. The last monkey clasps forepaws together over it's mouth. A nice sermon, indeed!

I saw THE ORIGINAL sculptures! In Nikko, Japan, lots

of years ago. At least that's what we were told on our Japan Tourist Bureau tour to Toshogu Shrine in an overnight stop in Nikko. It was a pre-conference tour prior to an international meeting of hydrologists in Kyoto. WOW, that and other tours connected with the conference made this first the best of many foreign journeys stemming from membership in a couple Professional Societies. Expenses paid a couple of times when presenting papers and tax-exempt costs other times later when consulting.

Now it's sadly ironic that I need not the priestly advice of these monkeys. My weak, teary eyes can't distinguish good from evil. Same is true of my weak ears, even with an aid in each. Even if I could see and hear evil, my shrunken lungs couldn't spill the bad tidings.

So I can view these monkeys with a smug grin and say, "Go Tell It On The Mountain!"

It's kind'a tough livin', but it's still livin'! And the TI-99/4A makes even old tough livin' great fun!

#### GREAT CHRISTMAS!

With three days and nights in Chattanooga there were food and gifts aplenty! Without berating a single one of them, I'm reporting some special fun. This was in fixing a small \$13.95 AC or DC radio of handy convenience at overnight stops in motels; AND SPENDING MORE THAN THREE HOURS IN THE FIX PROCESS! I'd been saving this fix for help from my son, Kim. His basement work shop is far bigger than my own, but mostly for automotive work.

I've always enjoyed fixing things that couldn't be fixed commercially. This was one of those. The cord of the tuning condenser mechanism of this radio had a design fault. It ran over tiny pulleys that slipped off there bearing shafts which were extrusions of the basic elastic frame. New shafts were needed. Here's our fix:

A cup-full of saved miscellaneous small screws was searched for two that were size #5-40, fitting the wee pulleys just fine. Next the worn extruded shafts were sawed off, holes were bored at these spots in the base frame, and were threaded with a #5-40 tap. Now the found screws hold the pulleys so they wont slip off and the convenient radio is better than new!!

I'm likely 'touched in the head' to enjoy this sort of thing. The fix idea was mine. The fix itself was by Kim. He'd watched me do like things over time. How great to see him do this job even better!

#### PROFOUND PERCEPTIONS

Government subsidy is getting back part of your own money.

Any law with more than fifty words has at least one loop-hole.

Inflation is a stab in the back.

Every clarification breeds new questions.

Calvin Coolidge comment: We can't do everything at once, but we can do something at once.

The path of least resistance makes rivers and people crooked.

Anger always has a reason, but seldom a good one!

## RECIPES

As a married graduate student at University of Wisconsin, I made darn good fudge. (Two cups sugar, one cup milk, two or three big tablespoons of cocoa, a Tpis butter, all cooked to the soft ball stage, cooled awhile, add vanilla, and then stirred hopefully 'till it was creamy, lost it's gloss, and firmed up nicely when dumped on to a cool plate.) We had a plate in the frig most all the time! NO, NO, NO! That's not today's recipe. You'd never do it right! Even I can't any more. So here's a quick and easy substitute:

### QUICK, MICROWAVE FUDGE

1 lb Confectioner's sugar      1/2 Cup Cocoa  
1/4 Cup milk                    1/2 lb Margarine

1/2 Cup chopped nuts            1 Tbis Vanilla  
Blend sugar and cocoa, dry, in microwave bowl. Add milk and margarine without stirring. Microwave on high for two minutes. Remove from oven, stir to mix these ingredients, add vanilla and nuts, and stir until well blended. Pour onto greased plate and place in freezer for 20 minutes or refrigerator for 1 hour. (Some prefer to reduce cocoa to 1/3 cup and margarine to 1 1/2 sticks.)

This is best kept in the refrigerator between samplings.

### LATE STUFF

None as of 12/31/92  
Say, how about those VOLB? 1/2/93

## MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 1993

DIDJUEVER hit the Jackpot twice in a row? K-Town 99er's sure as shootin' did! 'Cause both times we met at Bill Sheridan's comfortable home, where Bill's wife, Kitty, "loves to cook." I heard her say it! This time there were blueberry muffins, coffee, and a tasty confection that even surprised Kitty, and her kitchen food mixer as well! Seems it contained peanut butter, chocolate, corn syrup, and maybe some flour. Likely cooked to the soft ball stage (but I'm only guessing) and then stirred 'till it reaches a firm consistency. This stirring was known to be a strong-arm, tactic, so they cleverly surrendered the job to the food mixer, a Kitchen Aid. The job was just too much even for this top-of-the-line machine. It may not have burned out, but it sure strained it's inards! Of course all this transpired before our arrival. Good thing to. Otherwise there would have been multiple opinions on how to stir. WELL it was a tasty morsel and I had a second helping. Chocolate and peanut butter are great in combination, but this time the end result was sort of hard to bite. Which leads me to offer a name for the recipe. How about "Delicious Peanut Butter-Chocolate-Hardtack?"

Could you believe that ham sandwiches were offered also; both before the program and also after? I saw no takers, but WOW, what hospitality.

PLEASE NOTE: Even Bill's and Kitty's super treatment in no way possible can dim our appreciation for EM and his ideal Rec-Room. These have been the glue which has kept K-Town 99er's together these several happy years!

As a self-styled cook of sorts, I can cope with reporting this early phase of the January 14 meeting far better than the program which followed. Via TELCO, Bill accessed DELPHI, and then DELPHI'S contained TI NETWORK to see what is happening and offered. My weak eyes missed most of the showing but it was logged at intervals to DSK and I got a copy. LOG 1 is 66 sectors, LOG 2 is 67, LOG 3 is 67, and LOG 4 is 24. It was stopped short of further potential.

I read all of LOG 1 from the monitor and printed short segments like:

WELCOME TO TI NET  
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS  
INTERNATIONAL USERS GROUP  
99/A - 99/AA / 99/8  
PROFESSIONAL (TI PC)  
MYARC 9640 GENEVE  
COMPUTERS

Now, just a darn minute! Can you imagine seeing 99/8? It never went into production, the way I heard it. And the PROFESSIONAL (TI PC) - No one but I knows about this lemon. I bought one for my son almost 10 years ago. It was one grand flop. Now, maybe it may have some support through DELPHI, but I'm not about to find out!

Conference (CD'S) are popular TI NET announcements. Example as of 1/11: Eric LaFortune on Sunday, January 17 @ 6:30 PM EST; and Gary Bowser - Sunday, Jan 24 @ (:)PM EST. And future ones too by Alexander Hulke - Barry Boone - Jim Reise - John Johnson. Familiar names even to me.

Further, available programs are announced, like number 290)FUNNELWEB V4.21, JANUARY, 1990; but I don't know how a DELPHI member obtains such things.

Obviously I'm writing this stuff for my personal benefit. All present saw it better and understand it better than I. And that means all active K-Towners except Paul Blevins and Dennis Mackey who were absent.

Like last time, I could attend safely because EM kindly gave me pick-up and delivery service.

One other thing: The treasury is in good shape; therefore, with new dues due soon, K-Town can go for another happy year. And I'm in favor of sending our newsletter even to that cheapskate Ohio Group that shucked us from its list!

One more other thing: A program showing some of the wonders of CD ROM was offered and happily accepted, I believe for Feb again at Bill Sheridan's. Prexy John Bull will be sure to let you know the true facts!

Bob Buehler, Secy-Treas.

## THE LOST IS FOUND

Last month's tale of woe had a happy ending and the lost file has been recovered. Taking Lesson No. 2 to heart was the secret - learning how the File Data Record (FDR) works. All the necessary information is in Art Gibson's Assembly Language UTILITIES, also in the Advanced Diagnostics docs that E.M. Smith lent me, but I had to work it out for myself.

Here's how. First you load up DSKU, John Birdwell's disk manager and editor. Choose Sector Utilities and then Disk Report from that menu. This will print out a catalog of the disk that shows for each file the location of the FDR and the location of the records. It helps to have this information in printed form. The FDR for my lost file was at sector >0003 and the first record was at >003D (all of these numbers are hexadecimal).

Now return to the first menu and choose Sector Utilities and then Edit Sector. At the bottom of the screen enter sector >0003 and you get a full screen of all that is on that sector, the FDR for the file. It is in hex format. Control A and Control H allow you to switch to ASCII format and back to hex. In ASCII the top row reads:

```
F A M R O S F L . . . . .  
or in hex:  
4541 4D52 4F53 464C 2020 0000 8201 0002
```

This is the right sector since this is the filename for the lost file. Two spaces (>20) are added to fill out the ten characters allotted for a filename. But what do the rest of those numbers mean? First let us look at how the sector screen is organized.

Each sector has space for 256 bytes of data, numbered from 0 to 255 or >00 to >FF in hex. On the screen of the editor they are arranged this way:

```
0001 0203 0405 0607 0809 0A0B 0C0D 0E0F  
1011 1213 1415 1617 1819 1A1B 1C1D 1E1F  
2021 2223 2425 etc. etc.  
3031 etc.  
4041 etc.  
etc. LU, on the last row.  
F0F1 F2F3 F4F5 F6F7 F8F9 FAFB FCFD FEFF
```

Each numerical byte shows the location of that byte on the sector.

The cursor starts at >00, top left corner, and can be moved anywhere with the arrow keys. The location of the cursor is shown at the bottom of the screen in both hex and decimal. Whatever is typed will print on the screen at the position of the cursor in either hex or ASCII form. However, no change is made on the disk unless you press Control W and so it's safe to fool around a bit. Control W reverses the screen color to show that you mean business and the contents of the screen, as edited, will be

printed to the disk and the sector that you enter at the bottom of the screen. That is how you edit a sector.

Now, about the rest of those numbers on the FDR: Bytes >0A and >0B are always 0000 and are not used.

Byte >0C shows the file type; in this case >82 means that this file is Internal/Variable. Internal/Fixed would be >02 and Display/Variable would be >80.

Byte >0D is the number of records per sector; in this case >01 since this file is I/V 160 and only one 160-byte record will fit on a sector.

Bytes >0E, >0F are a word showing the number of sectors occupied by the file, including the FDR. Here some editing is necessary to recover the file. This entry now reads >0002, 1 for the FDR plus 1 for the null record in sector >003D that caused the trouble in the first place. How many sectors were used for the lost data? Well, the data is still there so just count. Call up sector >003D and then flip through the sectors by pressing Control N. String records are easy to recognize in ASCII mode. The last record is on sector >0065. Subtracting >3C from >65 gives >2B, plus 1 for the record at >3C, plus 1 for the FDR give >2A (dec. 42) sectors. Back to sector >0003, the FDR, cursor over to byte >0F and type 2A. Now press Control W, enter the disk and sector at the bottom of the screen and that much has been restored.

On the second row of the FDR screen byte >10 is the position of the EOF marker on the last sector of data. Look for the first occurrence of >FF. It is at position >BD so type that number in byte >10 of the FDR and write it to disk.

Byte >11 is the maximum length of each record in the file. Since this file is I/V 160 the number at >11 is >A0 as it should be. Bytes >12 and >13 show the number of sectors used but the bytes are in reverse order. Enter >2A00 at byte >12, >13 and write to disk. Bytes >14 to >1B are all 0 and are not used.

Now for the tricky part! Beginning at byte >1C are a series of 3-byte pointers to locate the sectors holding the data. Fortunately in this case only one block of three bytes is needed since the file is not fractured.

Two 3-byte numbers are used to form this 3-byte block. The first number is the sector where the data begins, in this case >03D. The second number is the offset from the first to the last sector of data, in this case >02B.

The two numbers are combined to form the 3-byte block in this way: ABC and DEF make BC, FA, and DE. In this case the resulting three bytes are >3D, >80, and >02.

Enter these beginning at byte 210 of the FDR, write them to disk, and now the data is available again. Whoopee!

For fractured files one 3-byte block is used for each cluster of sectors and the offset is cumulative from one cluster to the next. It can be done if you can count the sectors in each cluster.

This procedure works for a file that has been overwritten by a null file. This particular one was overwritten by the X/B program that created it. Another, much more common way of overwriting happens with TIWriter. Call up SD, mark the file, enter, press SF instead of LF, press enter and the file is gone. The above procedure should recover it.

John H. Bull



# STUMBLINGS

BY

JOE

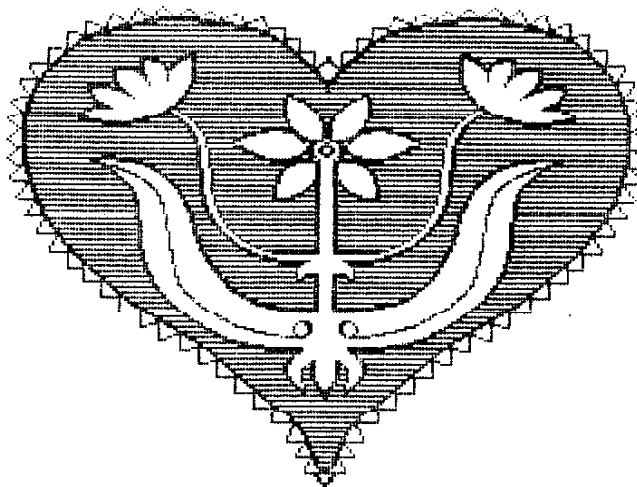
SEMMONS

JOE DID NOT GET HIS ARTICLE TO THE EDITOR BEFORE PRESS TIME.!



## QUIZ HINTS

2) Colossus of Rhodes; 3) Ancient tales; 4) Aquarius; 5) Wild; 6) Earth; 7) Ray Charles; 8) Colonies, salute; 9) Ice; 10) "Fore"; 11) Square; 12) Money, game; 13) Road intersection; 14) Rodents; 15) Milk; 16) Time; 17) Monocycle; 18) Mail; 19) Soup; 20) Football; 21) Description; 22) 30 days has Sept., etc., etc.; 23) Bobby Fischer; 24) Noah



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Athens Computer Club

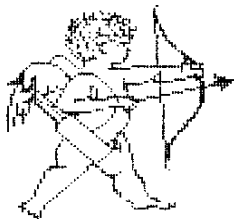
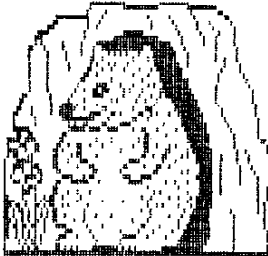
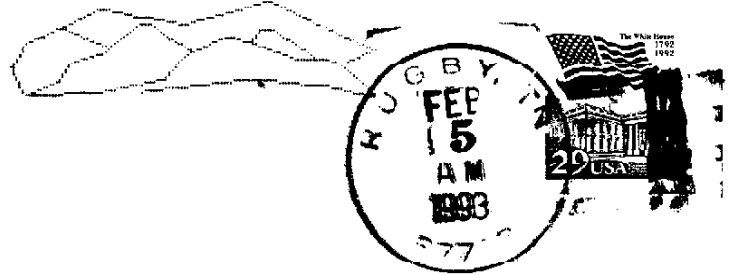
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SMOKEY  
MOUNTAINS



"Have a Happy Valentine's Day."



DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER CLUB

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