



K-TOWN ^AK 99'ER

NEWSLETTER OF THE K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP
AND THE ATHENS COMPUTER CLUB
JUNE 1993



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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

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 99er.

K-TOWN JUNE MEETING

THE JUNE MEETING OF THE K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP WILL BE AT THE HOME OF E.M. SMITH. This meeting should be of special interest to all the members who have modems. If Joe Simmons comes on line with his modem we will have 100% of the active membership now using modems with varying degrees of usage as well as success.

John Bull and EM will collaborate in presenting the program for this meeting. The featured item on the agenda will be a demonstration which includes accessing INTERNET via the University of Tennessee Computer system.

INTERNET, in case you don't know is a collective group of Electronic Bulletin Boards and scattered around the world.

It is noteworthy that full volume books are published to keep the users apprised of all the available sources of information and subjects covered. Through the E-MAIL message base it is possible to correspond with friends or strangers located most anywhere including the WHITE HOUSE.

Also on the agenda we can expect a little business, and commentary on the Lisa excursion by one or more of the five of our members who attended.

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.



PRESIDENTS FORUM

Five of us, Art and Bill and Joe and Paul and John, went to Lima on May 14. We had a good time, learned some things, and found some bargains. We will report briefly at this month's meeting. Also, a set of three videotapes of the proceedings are on their way to Bob and I am sure that he will share them.

On the way there and back we put together our brains and knowledge to solve all sorts of problems. How many sets of animals did Moses take with him on the ark? Is the capitol of Kentucky pronounced louie-vil or louis-ville? - Or did we figure that one out last year? How many people were at the chinese banquet with 65 bowls of food - one of shrimp for every two people, one of vegetables for every three people, and one of rice for every four people?

We also put our heads together to give Joe a good lesson in the proper balance of economics and ecology in the management of pine and hardwood forests. You're welcome, Joe.

Part of the fun was two free meals. Friday night we five had a great seafood feast, kindness of Bob Buehler. Thanks, Bob, it was great! Then on Saturday night about fifty of the Conference attendees had a pizza feast at

Mama Rosa's, compliments of the Lima Users Group. We really had a good time!

Memory chips for RAMdisks were selling like hotcakes and Art finagled some great bargains for various K'towners. My chief purchase was a pair of half-height DSSD drives to replace the full-height in my PE box. It only took two tries to get them properly installed and now I have the luxury of two drives plus my RAMdisk. No more disk swapping!

You may have seen the articles in the local newspaper about Internet, the worldwide computer network. They gave the phone number to access it through the University of Tennessee. E.M. and I have been trying with some success to get into the UT Library catalog with our modems and TELCO. We will share what we have learned at the June meeting. For one thing, they have books written by three Bulls, relatives of mine.

I will see you, all of you, I hope, at E.M. Smith's place, 3506 Garden Drive, at 7 P.M. on Thursday the 10th of June.

John H. Bull



POTPOURRI

BY BILL SHERIDAN



My trip to Lima was worthwhile (see the next two paragraphs). The group, 5 of us, was congenial and had some lively discussions both going and returning home that helped to pass the time away (about 8 hours one way). I also had a stack of the latest newsletters and a MICROpendum in the car to read. I believe Joe Simmons was the only one that got any sleep. But then he can sleep through anything - even the conferences he attended at Lima.

I mentioned my problems concerning downloading a Dis/Fix 128 file and not being able to read it. I was directed to the

S&T SOFTWARE table. They gave me a copy of a Public Domain program, (archived) by Bud Wright, that converts Dis/Fix 128 files to Dis/Var files or vice versa. It is Version 1.0 Copyright 1988. Tried it and it works perfectly. My thanks to S&T and BUD WRIGHT.

Bud Mills had a special discount price on the 128k X 8 Memory chips. Couldn't turn that down. Bought 6 for my Horizon 3000 Ramdisk, which fills the card to 1.5 Meg. Don't know what I'll do with all that memory but I've been told not to worry. It probably won't be long before I'll wish I had more.





CHATTERBOX - 28

BY BOB BUEHLER



Seems to me there should be a spot here for updates on earlier items in this or other parts of the Newsletter or in meetings or at McDonalds: Basically related to K-Towner 99er's of course. So here comes this month: "UPDATES OF PAST ITEMS." Why not also some other typical headings, like appear subsequently?

UPDATES OF PAST ITEMS

Ditch Fill

A few years ago bulldozers began pushing dirt at a frequently passed site on Cedar Lane. GREAT! I fantasized myself as Site Preparation Engineer. A crooked ditch needed filling to make the land suitable for a modest size shopping center. I'd write an X-Basic program to compute needed fill as part of over-all project benefit-cost analysis. And I did. Alas, wet weather constantly delayed the happy bulldozer racket. Having this fancied attachment for the nearby project I worried on and on! Finally, no doubt about it, INGLES would be the anchor business. It's a gorgeous store with wide aisles and tasteful displays. But worry continued. Too few customers appreciated these merits. I told yu'll in my then KINDER KORNER column, but you didn't flock into the empty parking spaces. Then REVCO DRUGS built adjacently. More cars could be counted in the ample parking area, and worry lessened.

BUT my big reason for this happy UPDATE: The Olive Garden Italian Restaurant is recently built and open for dining. Now parking spaces are getting fuller and fuller! I've stopped chewing my finger nails. My fancied Ditch Fill engineering program has paid off!

Would you believe that on this very day, 4/16/93, I received from Joe Simmons a letter with this address label:

DITCH FILLER
BOB BUEHLER
1800 WICHESTER DR
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
37918

The letter arrived even though I'm on NESTCHESTER not WICHESTER. By golly! I kind of like that! I might just change TO WICHESTER to gain some respect. By the way, Joe had a cute bulldozer graphic where you see my crude smile.

4/16/93 at this point.

DSK Jackets

Remember the lost Newsletter Dsk jacket? After a week I cut and pasted a new one. Now, though, there are two empty DSK jackets but no naked DSKs that I can find. This may be some sort of cruel joke on me, but it's not nearly so cruel as two lost DSKs. That would really be cruel!

PET PEEVES

Snooty, Soug, Sales Utterings.

"We have this special today on barbaqued Ribs: The price is ONLY \$5.44 per package." My peeve is that word

"ONLY!" I see it and hear it often daily concerning various products that I judge aren't worth much more than one-half of the ONLY \$figure!

TV Commercials

Years ago irritating commercials left me two choices: Give TV the boot, or buy a remote outfit so as to mute the auck. I chose remote and then even managed with the quick change review button to see good parts of two shows. (Simply fill the commercial time of one station with the prime show time of another.) BUT advertisers ganged up on the likes of me! They synchronized their darnd commercials! Not only that, commercials are growing longer and longer and longer. I wish my skimpy grass and other scrawny plantings would grow that well.

I'm mildly appeased by the humor of just one commercial. It advertises a pre-built window assembly being inserted into a building being framed. The funny was that two TV stations were running the same add at ALMOST identical times. BUT just enough different, like one single second, so that it resembled the Double-Mint gum ad (by quick flips of that review button, of course): But slips a stick of gum-out slips the same stick of gum but a split second later! Girl's hat blows off-the same girl's hat blow off again! Boy catches girl's same hat-same boy catches same girl's same hat again! ETC-ETC

Golly, do you suppose this was on purpose? Both stations-both stations got paid double-got paid double double-double. This is becoming ridiculous-ridiculous bye-bye-bye and a finql bye-bye!

Now 4/21/93

MODEMS

My thanks to Joe White for my having a modem! My first had been Joe's prior to his untimely death several years ago. He was as helpfull a K-Town 99er as could be, and tallented. I needed lots of help as a new floundering member of the group, and he was always willing with that help. His was a valiant fight for life during the sad, unsuccessful chemo-therapy days. Yet he was cheerful as he brought to group meetings TI-99-4A items to give away of sell at modest charge. That's why I have a modem combined with a telephone base, the connecting cable, and the power supply. Maybe \$25 or less. It rested in a shopping bag under an office table, really just a mystery to me until only a few months ago. Mention of transmitting Newsletter material over telephone lines triggered my interest. EM Smith, always willing and helpful, installed it here and explained its use. It was

another of those electronic thrills to send Chatter Box and the meeting minutes in about 10 minutes, not counting thrice that time when I sometimes made stupid mistakes. My modem was only 300 baud and EM's is 4 times faster. Meantime:

Saved gift money was burning a hole in my pocket!

Then John Bull brought his new 2400 baud modem for EM to check with the cable EM had made. It looked mighty pretty to me, and John loaned me the MIDWEST MOCRO catalog from which he had ordered. Just then the gift money got hotter and hotter until it burned clear through my pant pocket but I caught it just in time to order mine like John's! Today I sent Chatter Box-27 and the April 8 minutes in 1/4 the former time, but only after 15 or 20 minutes of tutor, trial, tutor again and then came another of those happy electronic thrills!

Now it's 4/22/93

SELECTIVE BYTES AND BITS

Computers were invented by Murphy.

A computer's attention span is as long as the electric cord.

Adding manpower makes software programming take lots longer.

To err is human; To really foul things takes a computer.

A DOGgone computer is man's best friend.

I/O, I/O, it's off to work we go.

If it's not in a computer it doesn't exist.

Investigating the unknown is foolish! You wont know when it's found.

RECIPES

I'm getting some discouraged about RECIPES. Comments are near NIL! The only one in all these two years is from Joe Simmons and seems to be favorable but maybe only because he was hungry and wanted me to bring a pot of Senate Bean Soup to a K-Town meeting, and a hot plate, and bowls, and spoons, and probably napkins too! Well I'll think about that, but don't skip supper any time soon!

To relieve the gastric monotony, this month's recipe is not for eating. It is, though, appropriate, now, in early Spring-Summer house cleaning to make your windows sparkle and shine inside and out.

GLASS CLEANER

In a gallon container combine 1/2 cup of sudsy ammonia, 1 pint of 70% isopropyl alcohol, 1 tsp liquid detergent, and enough water to fill the gallon container.

Recommended by Consumers Union Chemists, as told to me by my daughter, Barbara B. Standefer.

LATE FLASH

The Minutes for April 8, in this issue, note that Joe (Hungry) Simmons' dues check was expected. It arrived postmarked April 12 and the \$1.50 from diskettes profit too earned by Paul Blevins for our Treasury.

Further, EM said by phone that James McNeillie sent in his dues, and Carl Eage came by with his dues also. Of note, the last two mentioned didn't attend a single 1992 meeting! Is there a chance that these friends find our Newsletter worth the cost of dues? Gosh, I hope so. It should make us all try harder!

BB 4/23/93

MINUTES OF MAY 13, 1993

It was a wild one this time! Not the weather, it was fine, despite forecast showers. Not the K-Towners present; they were jolly, sometimes too so! Not the equipment; EM graciously had set up two fully operative systems for demo purposes and has two phone lines. No lack of modems, there was one 300 baud rate, two 1200's, and two 2400's. Nope: None of these.

Wild because no newsletter had been received; no one had heard from Paul Blevins, our printer and mailer way over in Rugby; his phone had answered busy too many times, and we were plum worried about him. Wild too because we couldn't get the two 2400 modems to shake hands and transmit despite lots of suggestions from experts like Art, Dennis, and EM. That was frustrating because the demo had been intended to show the big difference in transmission speed of the 300, 1200, 2400. Of course even that is trivial compared to commercial transmission in the 14,400 or higher rates. For us, I guess it's back to the

operating manual we go.

It was not comforting to receive a phone call about at this point in the meeting. Paul was reporting from Oak Ridge that he had an accident but would be arriving soon. Finally he did. The accident was minor; the delay being due the Sherriff taking two hours to arrive. Paul then could report that the copier in Rugby had broken down and didn't get repaired 'till too late for the last mail for copies to be recieved by Thursday. Yes, they came the day after the meeting.

There was excitement also about the LIMA computer fair. Art, Joe, John, and Paul were going in Bill's car leaving next morning at 9:00 AM. That't one great representation from a club as small as ours. I hope to hear interesting reports.

Wild or no, adjournment was normal; to the Arches, of course.

BB 5/18/93



STUMBLINGS

BY

JOE

SAMMONS



JOE MISSES ANOTHER DEADLINE!!



Several weeks back I developed the "ON-LINE" logo you see above. Twice before I have written articles which would afford me an opportunity to use the logo but each time the newsletter material was adequate without my articles so I set them aside for future publication. I still have the articles on disk but today they don't "read" too well and I also discovered some technical errors in the information being presented. The same type errors may be present in this article too but that which I report here is working for me and if you like, try it. It may work for you too.

Not many of us are using data switch/phones any more but for those who do and are having troubles getting on-line with other modems (HAYES Compatible) you might try the following:

Call the party you wish to communicate with and make certain you have compatibility in your communications package (i.e. TELCO). When both parties are using TELCO (my choice) I recommend that each of you load up TELCO while on the phone and run through the setup options making certain both packages are set to the same options.

Once compatibility is established you may do the equivalent of an online connect by having the party with the smart modem key in the ATA command and press enter. This will break voice connection and initiate a "modem tone". Now the party with the data switch/phone will manually switch from phone (voice) to data. If successful the smart modem will receive a CONNECT display on screen. The same display may or may not show on the screen of the data switch phone. In either case both parties should toggle to HALF DUPLEX and the user of the smart modem should key in an acknowledgement and press enter. A "DO YOU READ ME" message will do fine and an OK response from the other user indicates you are ready for file transfers as predetermined while in voice mode.

Another procedure would be for the party with the smart modem to set his computer to AUTO ANSWER with the ATSO=1 COMMAND. When connection is made the same screen displays as mentioned above will be displayed and you will

then proceed as stated above for the ATA COMMAND.

If both parties have smart modems you may make voice connection, determine software compatibility, and transfer protocol and then make computer connection by use of the ATD/ATA commands. While in voice mode one keys in ATA and press enter. The other party keys in ATD and presses enter. My experience has been that it is best for the ATA command be entered first and the ATD command be entered when the ATA command breaks the voice connection. Same as hanging up the phone.

When using the ATA/ATD procedure one can return to voice connection if both phones are left OFF the hook by entering a function "N" two or three times with a slight pause between each entry. Three +++'s will be displayed at which time you should have voice connection. If not enter an ATH command and continue with voice connection.

Of course smart modems will permit connection by AUTO DIALING a computer set for AUTO ANSWER. To auto dial enter the ATDP command followed by phone number (without spaces or dashes) if dialing from a pulse phone or the ATDT command if calling from a tone phone. When connected proceed as with the ATA/ATD procedure.

When using the AUTO DIALER and you wish to log the communications in an 80 column screen be sure to select the 80 column screen option when modifying the AUTO DIAL directory.

Let me close this article with an unrelated question which I regard as valid and pertinent to the national debate on HEALTH CARE REFORM. Why spend scarce revenues on public debate when we know our Federal employees (Elected or otherwise) have adequate coverage at reasonable costs to the subscriber? Cut short the debate and make it possible for everyone to have the same coverage at the same cost. It sure would be an improvement over the coverage which costs me more for less even though I am eligible for medicare.

May we all enjoy good health care as we continue to enjoy TI Computers.

K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP

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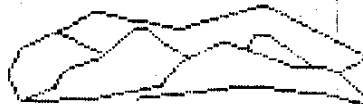
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KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

SMOKEY
MOUNTAINS



1st Day of Summer
June 21



Father's
Day
June 20



DAD

Father's Day
June 20

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER CLUB

P.O. BOX 29863
DALLAS, TX 75229

CELEBRATE A HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!