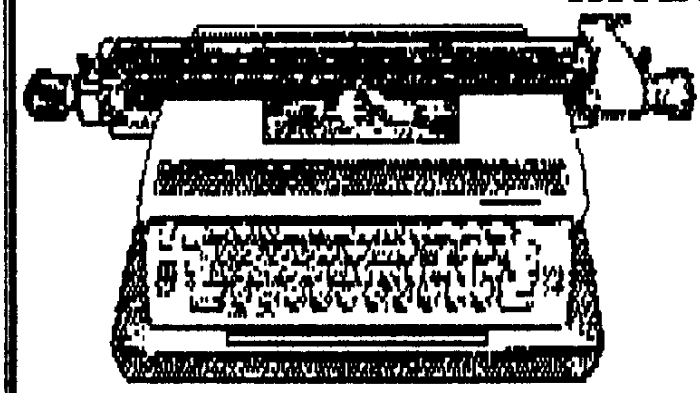
KAWARTHA KRONICLE



The monthly Newsletter of
The KAWARTHA 99'ers

P.O. Box 373
Peterborough, Ontario
Canada K9J 6Z3

Vol. 6 No. 5

WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME

MIKE DUNN

Well, here we are into another year of our clubs life. We have already had our first meeting and are making plans for what is promising to be one of our most exciting years yet. Our Demonstration day, which is open to the public will be held at Lansdowne Place on Oct. 22 at 9 AM. This is a very exciting opportunity for the participants from the club to demonstrate the programs which are available to the TI users. Generally the public has been very impressed with what they see. WE know this to be true from consistent increases in our membership attributed to this show.

This year year we are having a reallyyy biiiig shoooow! Through the kindness and enthusiasm of our membership we will be using two full systems, two consoles, and four monitors. Oh yeah, I forgot the two printers! At the last meeting volunteers were volunteered. A schedule will be worked out at the next meeting. I feel it is only proper to thank you all in advance!

Our first fall meeting was well attended and the enthusiasm was overwhelming. Visitors and prospective members were introduced by the Pres. (see the "Pres Says" column-oh, sorry maybe next month!). The date of our next meeting was set, the treasurers report was given by Karen and new ways to publicize our club were discussed.

Several announcements were made by various members. These included the following: Bob Boone will be present at our Nov. meeting, the Chicago TI Faire is to be held on Oct.12th, the editor is seeking suggestions and articles for this Newsletter, plus ideas for demonstrations and presentations at future meetings. Talking about demonstrations, Glen will show off the Futura Inventory program and Phil will attempt to print a letterhead using the CSGD software program. Both demonstrations will be appreciated by those in attendence. Thanks again to Phil and Glen for their great efforts, eh!

At our June meeting a motion was made by yours truly that a one time donation of $25. be made by each member for the purpose of purchasing a complete TI system for use by members of the club. It was seconded by Doris Weatherall and unanimously passed. The purpose of this motion was to give all members a chance to use a full system for a month at a time in their homes. The system is to be returned at the next

(cont. last page)

KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP

FOR USERS OF THE TEXAS INSTRUMENT 99/4A HOME COMPUTER

P.O. BOX 373
PETERBOROUGH, ONT.
CANADA
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GROUP MARKETING	PHIL TOWNSEND	705 745 3757

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Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at the Queen Alexandra Community Centre. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

Membership fees are collected on an annual basis of $18.00 per annum (individual) or a portion thereof at the rate of $1.50 per month for the balance of the year. Family memberships are available for $24.00 per annum or pro-rated at a rate of $2.00 per month for the balance of the year. The group's annual meeting is held on the first Wednesday in March at which elections for the group's executive is held. Memberships can only be held in an adult's name.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily of the KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP.

Advertisements and contributing articles for this newsletter may be given to the newsletter editor or mailed to the group's P.O. box.

The KAWARTHA 99ers would like to thank those groups who exchange information and newsletters regarding the TEXAS INSTRUMENT HOME COMPUTER with us. We endeavour to recognize and credit original authors and sources of articles of information which we reprint or make available to our membership.

The KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP are a non-profit group who welcome any individuals who have an interest in the TEXAS INSTRUMENT HOME COMPUTER.

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"CONSOLE-ING THE ORPHAN"

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THE SOFTWARE MARATHON

by Phil Townsend

Software, what would we do without it? Well, I for one would have a lot of free time on my hands! I don't want to sound like I am complaining, but...! I cannot keep up with the onslaught. I'll give you a recent example. Near the end of August, I found a rainy day or two during my holidays which forced me to take a break from painting, lawn-saving and cutting, deck repairing etc.

Quickly I seized the opportunity to power up the trusty TI which had up to then remained dormant during the summer. Now finally a chance to play with some of the new software which had been collecting dust.

First came Funnelweb, I realized that version 4.0 had been sitting on my desk for some time, I had read about its new configuration interface in several of the monthly newsletters that our group receives. I was curious and excited to see what improvements the "Aussies" had packed into their classic and now I would get a chance to try it out first hand.

Next came the docs which took took me some time to print since I had to "un-archive" them first. Once printed out, a careful reading of the new features took place. This took much longer than you would expect because of my adversion to manuals/instructions and my almost overwhelming desire to get on with the "tinkering"! I believe it is called "a kid at Christmas time" syndrome.

Finally, I felt that I had picked up enough bits and pieces of knowledge to get the new version of Funnelweb to work.

The program booted up without a hitch, that is after another twenty minutes of "un-archiving" fornatting and re-saving. There it was on the menu, the invitation to "configure the disk. As I tried to piece my way through the maze of menus and windows, without the help of the docs I grew more and more confused. This I accept as my own limitations, not those of the program. Another quick perusal of the printed matter and I was on my way again.

Luckily I had written down the choices of loader types and program types that I had used from the earlier version of Funnelweb. This did help as I made my way through the myriad choices given me by the McGoverns (the program's authors for the uninitiated).

Next came the transfer of program files from my earlier version of Funnelweb to the new version, DM 1000 performed flawlessly in this regard. At the same time I had to get rid of any files on the Funnelweb v4.0 that I wouldn't personally use. I did this because I try to get as many of my favourite utility programs on the one DS/SD disk as possible. Again I was forced in to reading the documentation.

Now for the final test, or at least that's what I thought. Everything ran smoothly until it came time to choose one of the programs from the main menu. As the intro screen cleared and the menu shot up to replace it, I couldn't believe my eyes! All of the choices which I had inputted had gone into hiding! Not a one was kind enough to remain where I thought I had placed them. Back to the "Configure" process.

I followed the process once more, this time with the docs balanced on my knee the entire time. I even <u>followed</u> the instructions this time. As I got to the crucial point of mounting my choices I found a hint that I should "install" the file as well as "save" it. As it turned out this made all the difference in the world.

After re-booting the program, my choices finally arranged themselves on the main menu, spelling errors and all.
This tale goes on for several more pages, however I finally did get everything to work, more or less. It had only taken me six hours!

Just as I was finishing up and testing the little sucker for the umpteenth time Glen Daniels called. After my explanation of what I had been up to, Glen thought that I might "enjoy" figuring out how to mount the program on two SS/SD disks for him. Luckily, Glen has a sense of humour and didn't take my suggestions too seriously!

The "kicker" came though about three days later. I was looking around on the Ottawa User Group bulletin board when I spotted a file entitled "FUNLWBV4*12". My curiousity got the better of me and after downloading and "un-archiving" it I found that the McGoverns were about to do it to me again! A new and inmproved version of FunnelWeb!

FUNNELWEB VERSION 4.1

Lots of changes here, in spite of the fact that the version number only went from 4.0 to 4.1. A fair number of those changes are cosmetic, in that the menus and user lists are arranged somewhat differently but they are also improved. The load and other configurable items are no longer changed by using the CONFIG file. It's gone, and in its place you have two files, CF and CG, which are themselves loaded by the Funl program. You are led through the process step by easy step using windowed menus. It's considerably simpler than using CONFIG, which was itself much simpler than trying to manually make the changes to an XB loader, as in version 3.5. Those McGoverns are beginning to do everything except configure it for you.

Most of the filenames will be familiar even if they work a little differently. The old MD and DB (dummy files for modem and data base) are gone; you don't need them. You can still insert your own files as before. There are places already on the menu for them. And they are so sure you'll want to use John Birdwell's DSKU that the name for that is on the menu, too, although it can be easily changed if you prefer something else. DM1000 is still there, and the files for it are included. LGENS/S, the source code for a load generator, and LDSR/S, source code for DSR RAM disk loader, distributed with version 3.5 and 4.0; are gone. Nobody appeared to be using them, so they were deep-sixed. The unfamiliar filenames will be DS, for disk utilities; CP for C compiler rather than the old CO; LH, or Linehunter, an assembly programmer's utility; and SYSCON, which is a data file into which your own configuration choices are saved. So here is a list of the files and more or less what they do:

```
CF.........
CG.........  /these configure the system and loader
CHARA1.....
CHARA2.....  /the old character sets, #1 for TI-W, #2 for E-A
DP.........   Disko, refurbished again
DS.........   Use for disk utilities
EA.........   A loader utility
ED.........
EE.........  /Edita1 and Edita2, editor from TI-Writer
FD.........
FP.........  /Forma1 and Forma2, formatter from ditto
LH.........   Linehunter, an assembler utility
LOAD.......   See if you can figure this one out
MG.........
MH.........  /DM1000 version 3.5, updated by McGoverns
QD.........   The familiar quick directory
SYSCON.....   System configuration data
UL.........   User list file
UTIL1......   Put this on every disk, or side if flippy (Essential)
AS.........
AT.........  /Assembler files from E/A cartridge
C99PFI;O...   c99 file loader
CP.........   To load C compiler Rel4
CT8RAM.....   For SuperCart (load)
FMSAVE.....   E/A object file saver
FWSAVE.....   Accepts CS1 and will then enter FMSAVE
LDFW.......   An auxiliary loader for E/A
LL.........   Low memory loader
SAVIT......   Example of ScriptLoader data
SL.........   ScriptLoader, a batch file loader (see docs)
XB4THLD....   X/B Forth loader
```

And of course all the text file docs, 6 of them, which if read will explain everything you need to know. When I did the demo on version 4, I said that if there is something in those docs you don't understand, then it's more than likely you wouldn't be using it anyway, so don't sweat it. That still applies, with one exception. Many people, myself included, have had a little trouble in the past figuring out just exactly what the Loaders, listed under the Editor Assembler menu, will and will not load. A little experimentation and a lot of time have provided me with the following information, which, if not totally correct, is still the best I can do. So sue me.

TEXT MODE (TWr)...stuff that you might normally load through the 3rd option of TI-Writer, Utilities, such as the SpellChecker, can be loaded here. The default is UTIL1, so if TI-W loaded it with that name, you can do the same thing.

GPL ENVIRONMENT...program type files that generally load with E/A #5 slip in here.

PROGRAM (E/A).....this will load program files that are *images* of E/A object code, which is to say, E/A #5 again.

LOAD/RUN (E/A).....DF 80 object files, same as E/A #3, will load in this slot.

SCRIPTLOADER.....this will require that the file SL be on the disk and will load a sequence of DF 80 (E/A #3) files. Read the docs on this one.

LOW-MEM LOADER....another DF 80 object file loader, put into low memory.

L&R AUTO-START....loads auto-starting DF 80 files *anywhere* in memory.

L&R AUTO OFF.....same as above, except different.

There are a few other things you may want to keep in mind. You will need to have the file EA on disk for *all* of these choices. Without it you're dead in the water, so don't forget. Some of the commands for DISKO have been changed to match the key presses used in DSKU. The quick directory (QD) is brought up by AID, FCTN 7, from almost any place. From within QD you can mark any file, text or otherwise, and have it come up as the default appropriate from wherever you happen to be. Mark a DV 80 file and it'll be in the mailbox for TIWriter, or mark a runnable program or DF 80 file and run it through the Loader section of the Editor Assembler menu. Very nice. You can now delete from QD and the sector count of used and unused is immediately updated. Screen foreground and background colors are easily changed from most menus. As in version 4.0, Fctn Back (or sometimes just Back) will get you out of most tight places and return you to something more to your liking.

As I mentioned earlier, configuring is much easier than before. There's even a HELP screen brought up by "?". The configuration data you choose that is saved in the file SYSCON theoretically can be re-used by any later versions of Funnelweb that may appear. The disk utilities option under TI-W is another whole user list for things like ARCHIVER, DSKU, DM1000, super-fast copiers, track copiers, DISKO, etc., etc. The configuration file is also reached via this menu.

As with the earlier Funl, this program completely eliminates the need for either an E-A or a TI-Writer cartridge. Almost any program ever written for the 4A can be loaded and run with this program and your XB. It is well worth your time: I think you will enjoy it.

NOTE: This article is a reprint from the Suncoast Beeper User Group newsletter July, 1988 (with thanks) - Ed.

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VIEWS AND REVIEWS

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CERTIFICATE '99 MAKES THE GRADE!

by Steve Menr, UG Member

Author's note: (This review is being sent simultaneously to the editors of TopIcs, the editors of MICROpendium, and uploaded to GEnie.)

A review of
Certificate '99 version 2
and
Certificate Companion

Report Card for
Certificate '99 version 2

Ease of Use ..... A
Performance ..... A-
Documentation ..... A-
Value ..... A
Final Grade ..... A

Cost: $19.95 plus $1.00 shipping
Manufacturer: Great Lakes Software, 804 E. Grand River Avenue, Howell, MI 48843

Requirements: 32K memory, disk system, Epson/Star or compatible printer, and one of the following modules: Extended BASIC, Editor Assembler, Mini Memory, or TI-Writer.

Report card for
Certificate Companion

Ease of Use ..... A
Performance ..... A
Value ..... A
Final Grade ..... A

Cost: $9.95 plus $1.00 shipping
Manufacturer: Same as above
Requirements: Certificate '99 version 2

Well, Great Lakes Software has done it again! Certificate '99 certainly deserves another review due to its latest revision, version 2, and the release of Certificate '99 Companion. But first a little background.

During TI-XPO-88 held in Las Vegas last February, I had the pleasure of meeting the two authors of Certificate '99, Gene Chandler, and Richard Parquette. I was very impressed with the way they represented their company. They were very courteous and has a very professional appearance. Both Gene and Richard are full time students, Gene at the University of Michigan, and Richard at General Motors Institute studing engineering. Where they find time to develop, program, package, distribute, and otherwise run Great Lakes Software, is a mystery to me.

The program was developed by Gene and Richard working together on different parts of the program. Gene wrote all the programming code, and Richard employed his expertise in graphics into the program. The program was written entirely in Bitmap mode, Gene's programming environment of choice. This does address a few of my previous complaints (like cursor movement) as every routine had to be developed from scratch by Gene. Using Bitmap mode though, allows the ability to use the WYSIWYG concept (what you see is what you get) which more than makes up for its minor weaknesses. So as not to be a redundant review, only changes in each respective area will be discussed. Please refer to the original review published in the December '87 (Vol. 4 No. 11 Pg. 31) issue of MICROpendium. This review deals with Certificate '99 and Certificate Companion since its versatility is greatly enhanced when used as a package.

Ease of Use: The program functions the same as version 1 except instead of inserting the data disk after loading the program, you are instructed to insert the Companion disk, if you own it. If not, the program reads information from the program disk allowing all original selections as in version 1. The program asks you next if you want to load a saved certificate. Yes, you've guessed it! Now you have the ability to save any number of creations to disk and be able to load them back in for your own customized defaults!

Font Selection: With the Companion disk read by the program, you are presented with twelve different fonts for you to choose from, six more than the original program.

Border Selection: Once you have selected your font, you are asked for a border filename. A default filename is suggested, but any filname may be entered. Once loaded, each file contains six borders to choose from along with the option to load another border file or choose no border at all.

Graphic Selection: Selecting a graphic is accomplished using the same technique used in border selection. You may cycle through six, choose none, or load another graphic file. Options involving magnifying and placing your graphic have not been altered in this version.

No changes were made in the Signature Selection, Text Entry, or the Printer Output portions of the program. When printing has completed though, you have the option of saving your certificate to disk. The file saved will contain all of your selections for the certificate just printed so if you elect to load this file at the beginning of a future session, they will become the defaults for that session. Although a filename is suggested at this prompt, you may select any filename of

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VIEWS AND REVIEWS

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your choosing.

Performance: The program has come along way in this area and that says quite a bit for Great Lakes Software. With the release of Certificate Companion, Great Lakes has opened up the program with the creative user in mind. Through the use of Joy Paint's Pal version 2.Ø, you now have the ability to access the data files included with Certificate '99 and its Companion. All data files on the earlier version were heavly scrambled making modifications impossible. Also, a new compression technique is utilized on the new data files which allows the ability to store more files on a data disk. This is good news for the single sided disk user. All files included on Certificate '99 version 2 and its Companion are 'saved compressed'. This means that to examine or modify these files, one must purchase Joy Paint's Pal version 2.Ø. Saving data files with Joy Paint's Pal using its 'Save Any' function will create a 25 sector file. This was tested with three files as found on the Certificate '99 version 2 disk. Saving the filename 'CDATAØ4' using the 'Save Compressed' feature reduced its size to just 18 sectors, 'BORDERSØ1' shrunk to 16 sectors, and 'GRAPHICSØ2' was reduces by 60% down to just 1Ø sectors! Certificate '99 will recognize if files were saved compressed and process them as required. When creating your own data files, Joy Paint's Pal must be used to take advantage of its 'Save Compressed' feature. TI-Artist may also be used to save files in the 25 sector format that Certificate '99 recognizes by using the 'Store' icon to 'Save Picture', so those who don't own Joy Paint or its Pal may still create new files for Certificate '99.

You can now modify all the font, border, graphic, and even signature files making the program a virtual playground for anyone wishing to create truly custom certificates. I have seen a few interesting borders created by Rodger Merritt, author of the popular Print-It and Picture-It graphics programs. Maybe Great Lakes can corral a few creative minds like Rodger's for the release of Certificate '99 Borders Companion. In fact, Mehr-Ware decided to use Certificate '99 to create the documentation for its first hardware release, Simple-Disk which was initially presented to Ray Kazmer for his untiring efforts in the TI community!

The ability to alter the screen and text colors was removed from this version. I would have liked to have the option of selecting my own color choices when running the program. The default colors were tested on a black and white T.V. and no clarity problems were observed. More thorough error checking has also been established in this version. I could not convince the program to crash no matter how hard I exercised my digital implements.

Documentation: The documentation for version 2 has been updated as far as differences from version 1 are concerned including graphic print outs of the new additions available on the Companion disk. The conflict involving the placement of the graphic and the signatures in the example has also been eliminated. There was no documentation included for the Companion disk since you must have Certificate '99 version 2 to utilize it, which does include examples as mentioned above.

Final Grade: Well now, not only is Certificate '99 and its Companion one of the most productive graphic packages available for the 4/A, it also performs as well as it should given such a claim. Thanks, Great Lakes, Gene and Richard, for your continued support. Now let's show our support for this graphic dynamic duo!

NOTE: This article is a reprint from the L.A. TopIcs User Group newsletter July, 1988 (with thanks) - Ed.

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FOR SALE:

TI Manuals, RF modulator, cassette cable & power supply...call Phil Townsend at 705-745-3757

Console (black & silver), voice synthesizer, numerous game modules...Call Marilyn Harris at 705-876-9296

meeting and passed on to the next member on the list. At the meetings the club's system will be available for demonstrations and other uses that attending members may wish to put it to. This will eliminate the necessity of members having to bring their own sets to the meetings. In order that we can proceed with this plan in an expedient manner, Karen will be accepting donations beginning with our Oct. meeting. New members since June 1988 are given the opportunity to participate so that they too can enjoy the benefits of this programme.

HARDWARE FOR THIS MONTHS MEETING

CONSOLES.....D. WEATHERALL, K. POST

PE BOX.....BOB TISDALE

PRINTER.....M. DUNN

CASSETTE.....P. TOWNSEND

POWER BARS, CABLES, ETC..... L. BROWN

Thanks ahead of time to those above. If you cannot make the meeting please give Glenn Daniels a call so that he can make alternate arrangements to supply the equipment.

KAWARTHA 99'ERS

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