

KAWARTHA KANALELE

PETERBOROUGH, ONT.

LIFT
OFF
KAWARTHA
99'ERS

The monthly newsletter of
The KAWARTHA 99'ers

* THANKS LIMA, OH *

P.O. Box 373
K9J 6Z3

Vol. 8 No. 03
CANADA

JUNE, 1990

SUMMER
in the
KAWARTHAS



KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP

FOR USERS OF THE TEXAS INSTRUMENT 99/4A HOME COMPUTER
P.O. BOX 373
PETERBOROUGH, ONT.
CANADA
K9J 6Z3

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Meetings are held on the SECOND Wednesday of each month (Sept. to June) at the PETERBOROUGH POLICE DEPT. meeting room, located at the intersection of Water St. & McDonnel St. 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 second Wednesday in March at which time elections for the group's executive is held. Memberships can only be held in an adult's name. Out of town members are most welcome.

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, mailed to the group's P.O. box or uploaded to the S.S.F.C. bulletin board (TI section) at 705 749 5538, 24 hours a day (8N1).

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 is a non-profit group who welcomes any individuals who have an interest in the TEXAS INSTRUMENT HOME COMPUTER.

BITS & PIECES

PUTTING THE HOME BACK INTO HOME COMPUTING

by Jan Knapp

Why have a computer? Why did YOU buy your computer? I have heard of several members comment on trying to get their spouse interested in using the computer. Their most common mistake is that one of the first pieces of software they acquaint them with is a checkbook balancer or a budget program. BIG MISTAKE!!! No offense to the software writers but these tasks are easier done with a calculator and/or ledger. They are NOT efficient. The HOME computer can be a time saver and friend especially if you have a printer. Here are but a few ideas to help with your many tasks.

WORD PROCESSING - This can save many hours of letter writing. No longer do you need to copy and recopy to get a neat letter. Using MAIL MERGE you can send FORM letters when needed. Have a form that you are constantly using? Make a TEMPLATE and just fill in the blanks when you need it. Once you become familiar with word processing you will never want to go back to your typewriter.

DATA BASE - Can range from a simple sort program to keeping Genealogical files. You can sort your files in a fraction of the time. The most common home use is a MAIL PROGRAM. Mail programs will enable you to make your own phone directory and print out labels if wanted. Use another one to keep track of your Christmas card exchange. A data base can help you keep track of who's turn it is on the car pool and make copies of that list for everyone in the pool. How would you like to index your video cassette library, albums, family records, etc.? All this is possible with a data base. Talk to your club librarian for the one that most suits your needs.

FINANCIAL - Although I said that budget programs and checkbook balancer were poor choices, some financial programs are great time savers. Programs that calculate over a long term period (such as amortization schedules) or figure loan payment and balances can save you time and stress. Why wait to hear from the bank when you can figure it out at home in an instant. Borrowing and lending is a very personal matter. In the comfort and privacy of your own home some decisions become much easier.

TEACHING - Today when many women are returning to the work force the home computer can give you an edge. You can learn in the comfort of your home typing skills, word processing, computer literacy, programming, etc. Software is available to help you understand GED, SAT, and other well known tests. Programs are available to help your children with their school work and education.

GRAPHICS - How would you like to make your own GREETING CARDS, CERTIFICATES, GIFT LABELS, WRAPPING PAPER, FLYERS? This is possible with the use of several good graphic programs on the market. For the more adventurous, try a family newsletter at Christmas time.

GAMES - Sounds like a strange category for the HOME? Some games are great stress reducers and channelizers. It is socially acceptable to yell frustration to a computer, but not so acceptable to ones boss or family members. The computer does not have an ego to be bruised. Games that require complete concentration work the best. My favorites are TETRIS and BURGER TIME.

"CONSOLE-ING THE ORPHAN"

FROM OTTAWA to LIMA!
and lots of other stuff

Where does one start when there has been so much happening in the TI world? I'm not even sure where the beginning is? Oh well, here goes...

POLITICAL LIFE

Our elections were held at the May meeting and when all was said and done the following people were chosen as this year's executive; John Baal is the newsletter editor, Karen Wilson was returned as treasurer, Glen Daniels is vice-president and Phil Townsend is president. The librarians have all agreed to carry on with their current responsibilities. Thanks to all of those dedicated individuals who have served on the preceding executive and best of luck to the incoming group.

OTTAWA TI FEST 1990

Mention must be made of the Ottawa TI Fest for the benefit of the members not at the last meeting. The five of us who attended the Fest on April 25/26 enjoyed the trip and the company. The trip in the Kawartha-Kincardine Coach was as enjoyable as ever, perhaps even more so because we had the company of Tom Jakabof of the OshTI user group this year. Tom discovered first hand the advantages of travelling with good companions and a cold fridge!

The Ottawa Fest itself was a bit of a bust, as far as the size of the crowd went. There could be many reasons for this; the lack of advertising, the Ottawa decision to cease their newsletter exchange with other groups two months before the Fest date, and the Boston Faire following a week later may all have been contributing factors.

During the fest I had a chance to put a few more names to a few more faces. I finally got to meet Terri Masters from the L.A. 99'ers who had flown in from California just for the Fest. I had noticed Terri earlier in a nearby restaurant but had not known who she was at that time, sorry Terri! Finally, the introductions were made late in the day at the Fest.

Other groups in attendance at the Fest were; North Bay 99'ers (Pat Graham, Bob Boone et al), Sudbury 99'ers (Jim McLaren), Toronto 979 (Gary Bowser). I met one TI'er from Nova Scotia (TINS) and there were several from the Montreal Club. Apart from the Ottawa group I think our group may have had one of the largest turnouts. Generally the numbers of attendees was much lower than in previous years

This year there were fewer vendors at the Fest, all of

whom had products dedicated to the TI. There weren't any local vendors of generic products though, such as printers, paper etc. With a cost of \$70.00 per table per vendor, many local vendors may have felt they could not justify the expense (just a guess).

The TI world was represented by O.P.A. (Gary Bowser of Toronto), Bud Mills (Horizon products), Harrison Software, Computer Download (Bob Boone), Comprodine Software (Kawartha 99'ers), Asgard Software (Chris Bobbitt), Swan Graphic Writer, Myarc Inc. (Lou Phillips), Rave 99 products (John McDevitt), and the Ottawa U.G. library. I hope I haven't missed anyone.

On the Friday evening after our arrival, we met up with our hosts in the hospitality suite and then the entire group made its way to the Lucky Key Chinese Food restaurant where good food was shared by good friends. Later, visiting and renewing of acquaintances was carried on until the wee hours back at the hospitality suite. Many thanks to the Ottawa group for providing such a friendly forum in which TI'ers can get together to swap news, gossip and information. The Kawartha 99'ers enjoyed themselves immensely.

The products in greatest demand at the Fest seemed to be (not in any particular order) the Asgard Mouse, the Myarc Hard/Floppy Disk Controller, The Horizon Ramdisk, and the Rave 99 Keyboard. Other notable products at the show were Asgard's Spell-Check, Comprodine's Artist Print Shop and the new Rave Expansion Box.

You are going to hear much more about the Rave Expansion Box as time goes on. What a treat to get rid of all the cables and connectors. Even the console goes into this system! Just a PC style keyboard, a power cable, a video cable and a mouse comes from the box. You don't lose any TI features, they are just better organized and situated. All of this for \$275 (U.S.). I understand that there is a Geneva version as well at a lesser price. Well done Rave!

JULY BARBECUE

Glen and Jean Daniels have offered their home (and pool) for the Barbecue on Friday, July 13th. We plan to arrive at the scene at 6:30 p.m., ready to fire up the barbecues. The planners are suggesting that each of the members pay \$4.00 to cover the costs of hamburgers, weiners and buns. Glen and Jean have volunteered to supply tea and coffee. Each member is to bring either a salad or desert to share in the pot luck. If you wish other beverages please bring your favourite. Spouses and children are invited and welcome of

"CONSOLE-ING THE ORPHAN"

FROM OTTAWA to LIMA!

(continued from page 4)

course. If your youngsters are going to use the pool then you are responsible for their supervision. We will be making the final arrangements at the June 6th meeting so be sure to attend!

THE MAY MEETING

At the May meeting the members were given a chance to get a close at hand view of my Rave keyboard which I purchased while at the Ottawa TI Fest in April. The extra features that are provided on this replacement keyboard are numerous. The single keypress function keys are worth having. Many members had a chance to try out the keyboard first hand and were generally impressed. Once I get used to the placement of the extra keys I am sure that my typing speed, slow as it is to start with, will improve. I am very pleased with the new keyboard and would recommend it to any serious TI user.

Also at the same meeting a Great Lakes software program was demonstrated. This program is called Extended Business Graphs, although it isn't limited to business uses by any means. Any numeric data that you wish to display can be inputted into the program and then printed out in a bar graph, line graph or pie chart. Totals and percentages are also given, depending upon which style of graph you choose. The print-out is impressive with a choice of two densities and two sizes. The larger size is printed sideways on the paper and this would be an excellent size to make overhead transparencies from. (are all you teachers taking note of this?) The program is distributed now by Comprodine software and is available in Canada through the Kawartha 99'ers (free plug) in Peterborough.

THE JUNE MEETING

The next meeting will have a demonstration of the Myarc mouse by Glen Daniels with TI Artist (right Glen? (grin)). We will also get a look at some of the more recent Comprodine software and a report about the Lima, Ohio TI Fair which is at the end of May. Bob Tisdale will hopefully demonstrate, if he has it working, an extension cable for the firehose going to the expansion box. We will also be making the final preparations for the July barbeque, so plan to be on time (7:00 p.m.) so we can get all of the activities in. Hopefully the orders for the half height drives and the Horizon ram cards will be filled soon and we can start off in the fall with some hardware demonstrations.

FINAL THOUGHTS...

As the president of the Kawartha 99'ers I hope that we can continue to give our club a high profile both in the local community and in the TI community. I can't do this without your support and help though. If our TI's are to continue to have a future and stay useful it is going to take a combined effort. Please be willing to take the time and effort to make suggestions to Glen and I as to what topics you would like to see covered during the next year. What would you like to learn more about and what can YOU share with the rest of us! A) Bob Tisdale just phoned to let me know that he has the extension cable for the peripheral expansion box working finally. You may wish to contact Bob to see if he is taking orders!

A) John Morton, our own Snowbird, is recovering from a stroke which he suffered in early spring while at his winter home in Texas. John is at home now in Peterborough. We all wish you a speedy recovery.

B) Dick Bulmer's wife, Daphne, was recently hospitalized for a few days. Dick says she is to be home soon. We wish her well, also.

C) Glen and I picked up the ordered disk drives for those that ordered them. Perhaps the installation demonstration will be given shortly.

At the next meeting we hope YOU can bring...
KAREN W. ...a printer
STEVE W. ...a television

D) We have some new members to welcome this month; Garry, Mitchel and Kathie Steinman from Deep River and Warton respectively. Also Mike Dunn has located a prospective member in Kincardine, that will increase our Kincardine chapter membership 100%! Welcome to all of our long distance members, we hope you will reach out and get help when you need it. That's why our group exists.

LIMA, HERE WE COME! The May 25th weekend will be the time for a number of the Kawartha 99'ers to visit with their American cousins in Ohio. We are looking forward to the TI Faire there and our spouses are looking forward to the bargains! A full report will be given on the June 6th meeting.

See you on the 6th!

Keep on Console-ing the Orphan!

BITS & PIECES

BUILDING THE TI



Recently, I was writing to a cousin of mine explaining the great features that TI has. I got carried away! But I think I'll share my thoughts with you. I think that everything that I said is the truth. What do you think???

I have been thinking of expanding my system for some time. I don't know why, because I already have this Mac and the IBM Displaywriter. However, there IS something about playing around with a 16 K orphan. This week I bought an expansion system (a Peripheral Expansion Box or PE box). It has a memory expansion card in it of...are you ready for this...32 K. (I'm thinking of upgrading the Mac from one meg to two and a half megs.) This gives me 48 K to play around with. It also has a disk drive---single sided single density---90 K storage. And a disk controller card. It has an RS232 card in it. That allows me to run a printer off the TI. Of course, neither of the printers I have is compatible!!!

I'll buy two half height disk drives. They'll be double sided. I'll be able to store 180 K on a disk. The Mac will store 1 megabyte on one disk.

Why do I play with this silly little toy???. There are several reasons. There are lots of very clever people out there writing very clever programs for the TI. To simplify things...they write using more conservative methods. I know what kind of memory graphics burn on the Mac...lots. These guys create graphics for the TI that require much less memory. I understand the principle, but I don't know how they do it. I have talked with them at these conferences. I'm sorry, it's way over my head. They do it. These programs sell for \$20 to \$50 each...not \$300 to \$400 each. There is an excellent word pro...TI Writer. There is the TI version of dBase. It really works the same as dBase. The Australians came up with FunnelWeb. This is a program that our members use a lot. It allows you to integrate several programs...a word pro, two copy programs, etc., etc. It is menu driven. It has two stacked menus...you flip back and forth

with the space bar. Now that's incredible for a silly little machine with an augmented memory of 48 K!!! Our newsletter is done on my Mac and Phil's TI. You can tell which does what. The TI has smoother definition on the letters. That is the only difference! The TI will import graphics from one of the graphics programs...like TI Artist. It will wrap text around a graphic. It will print in columns. It will take straight text and convert it to columns (this is handy when Phil pulls stuff off the bulletin board using...you guessed it...the TI).

There's a catch...right. There has to be a catch!!! There is. The \$4000 Mac system is faster. So...Phil put a RAM chip into his TI. Wow! I guess the whole thing is that these people are telling the Establishment that there is another way. Interesting, eh!

You had no idea what you were joining when you paid your \$18 and joined our little group.
oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

The Kawartha Koach travelled once more to the capital of our fair country. Regretably, the Ottawa TI Faire was much smaller than last year, and infinitesimal compared with two years ago. It was still nice to meet with Bob Boone and his family again. It was good to see Chris Bobbett and some of the other TI folks from south of the border.

I think that ours was the largest contingent from a club. We did allow Tom Jakabfy from the Oshawa group to travel with us this year. Enjoyed your company, Tom. Of course, Gary Bowser from the Toronto group was there.

Despitethe poor attendance, a good time was had by all. There were certainly some

BITS & PIECES

interesting ideas flying around...but that is for another newsletter.

From our Archives... Vol. 1 No. 1 March 1983

If you have the Munch Man module, here is a neat trick. A test mode was built into this module. To access it, you have three seconds, from the time the Munch Man screen appears, to type in ***. Three questions will ask you which round you want to play in (0-2), which screen you want (0-19), and how many Munch Men you want (1-9). Try it. You'll like it.

In Vol. 2 No. 1 (Mar. '84) there is mention that this also works with Alpinar.

Since I am usually up north when the barbeque is held in July, I am going to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe summer. I'm taking my TI up north with me this summer to play around on those rainy days. Summer doesn't have to end the TI fun.

JUN 1990

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			6	7	8	9
3	4	5	13	14	15	16
10	11	12	20	21	22	23
17	18	19	27	28	29	30
24	25	26				

JUL 1990

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					6	7
1	2	3	4	5	13	14
8	9	10	11	12	20	21
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29	30	31				

SEP 1990

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			5	6	7	8
2	3	4	12	13	14	15
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16	17	18	26	27	28	29
23	24	25				
30						

At our May meeting, Phil demonstrated two things. One was hardware, and the other was software.

At the Ottawa TI Faire, Phil bought a Ravekeyboard. It looks like an IBM or a Mac extended keyboard. He explained how he set it up. It didn't sound that difficult...even for me!! BUT he did it with a blowtorch. I think that if I were doing it, I would use a soldering iron. Preferably a tiny, tiny soldering iron.

Then he showed us what the new keyboard would do. INCREDIBLE! You know how the rest of the world fools around with FUNCTION ARROW? It ain't necessary. There is an arrow keypad. How about quotation marks? [Are you listening hackers?] Just press "SHIFT " like the rest of the world. Across the top of the keyboard is a set of function keys...F1, F2, etc. Each one has a function that we get by pressing FUNCTION 1, FUNCTION 2. etc. Yes, that's right. It's a single key press. How do you get so lucky and still live??? It's easy...you buy a Rave extended keyboard.

Now for the software...it is sold by our club. Already you know you're going to get quality. This is a graph package that is second to none. It does line graphs, bar graphs, circle graphs and even block graphs. The printout is beautiful. Simple but effective. What more could you ask? By the way, it prints out in your regular "hurry up and print me" style -OR- you can go for double density. Maybe you what double size...of course, we have to print sideways now...no problem. No you don't have to have 4 megs on board to do this. Remember...this is TI.

John Baal.....Editor



KIDS *****

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FAIRY TALES
by Chick De Marti _____

One of the many fun things we can do with our TI-99 is write little programs for our grandchildren (or for you younger people, your children). I have a seven year old who can read(?) and enjoys nursery rhymes. This little program puts him into the nursery rhymes, if he wants it that way. No directions are needed...even a seven year old can handle it...so have fun!

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1 ! SAVE DSK1.FAIRYTALES
10 CALL CLEAR
20 FOR I=24 TO 12 STEP -1
30 DISPLAY AT(I,8):"Fairy Tales" :: NEXT I
40 FOR I=24 TO 13 STEP -1
50 DISPLAY AT(I,8):"" :: NEXT I
60 DATA GUESS WHAT,TOE,NOSE,
HEAD,NECK,ARM
70 FOR N=1 TO 6 :: READ R$(N)
):: NEXT N
80 INPUT "What is your name
":N$ :: PRINT
90 INPUT "Are you a male (Y/N)
":YN$ :: PRINT
100 IF YN$="Y" OR YN$="y" TH
EN G$="his " ELSE G$="hers "
110 ! ---repeat from here---
120 PRINT "Give me a friend's
name" :: INPUT " ":F$ :: P
RINT
130 PRINT "Enter a favorite
drink" :: INPUT " ":D$
140 ! ---main part of prog.---
150 CALL CLEAR
160 R=INT(RND*4)+1
170 IF C(R)=1 THEN 260
180 R2=INT(RND*6)+1
190 B$=R$(R2)
200 CALL CLEAR :: PRINT TAB(
8):"Story Time": : : :
210 ON R GOSUB 400,500,600,700
220 PRINT : :

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230 INPUT "Another story (Y/N)
":YN$
240 IF YN$="N" OR YN$="n" TH
EN CALL CLEAR :: END
250 C(R)=1 :: GOTO 150
260 GAME=GAME+1 :: IF GAME=4
THEN GAME=0 ELSE GOTO 160
270 FOR I=1 TO 4 :: C(I)=0 :
: NEXT I
280 CALL CLEAR
290 PRINT : : "O.K. But let's
put in some"
300 PRINT "new stuff ...": :
: :: GOTO 120
310 ---stories---
400 PRINT N$," and ";F$
410 PRINT "Went up the hill,"
420 PRINT "To fetch a pail o
f ";D$
430 PRINT N$," fell down and"
440 PRINT "Broke ";G$;B$
450 PRINT "And ";F$:"came tu
mbling after." :: RETURN
500 PRINT N$," had a little ";D$
510 PRINT "And said ""I am no
fool, ""
520 PRINT "And gave ";G$;D$;
" to ";F$
530 PRINT "Who sneaked it in
to school." :: RETURN
600 PRINT "Little ";N$
610 PRINT "could drink no ;D$
620 PRINT "And ";F$;" knew it
too,"
630 PRINT "Stuck in ";G$;B$
640 PRINT "And pulled out a
plumb,"
650 PRINT "And then said"
660 PRINT """"Don't you wish
it was true?"" :: RETURN
700 PRINT "Rub a dub dub"
710 PRINT N$;" got in a tub,"
720 PRINT "And ";F$;"jumped
over the moon;"
730 PRINT "They laughed so h
ard,"
740 PRINT "They spilled thie
r ";D$
750 PRINT "And ";G$;B$
760 PRINT "Ran away with the
spoon."
770 RETURN

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