

net99er news

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHEAST
TARRANT COUNTY TI 99/4A USERS GROUP

VOL. 6 NO. 9

DECEMBER 1988

**NEXT MEETING:
SATURDAY
JANUARY 7th**

At the North Richland Hills
Community Center on Loop 820
and Rufe Snow Drive.
at 9:30 A.M.

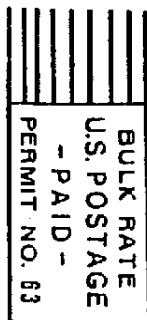
**NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS
WILL BE HELD AT THIS MEETING!!**



PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND!!

The reviews, evaluations and opinions
contained in articles in this news-
letter are the author's own and do not
reflect the views of the NET99ER HCU6.

NET 99er HCU6
PO. BOX 534
HURST, TEXAS 76053



----- Presidents Chit-Chat -----

I hope that everyone had a nice Christmas and all of you received some of that hardware and software you have been dreaming about these last few months. I verified and have paid for the extra hour we voted for at the last meeting, so we can have questions answered and instructions explained during this extra hour. Bring your computer problems and the experts will try to put you on the right track. It has been a pleasure being your president for the past year. I am looking forward to assuming the Membership Chairman position for the next year and attending as many meetings as possible. Bill Duncan, President

----- Editors Input -----

In the coming year our club must do some new things to make the meetings meaningful to all. I will outline the job of Program Director for everybody in the club and HOPE that someone will volunteer for the position. A PD does nothing more than select a program that members have expressed an interest in and select another member who is well versed in that program and plan a demonstration for the rest of the club. This can be any program or hardware project that will help get more members and prospective members to come to the meetings. It can generally be handled at the meeting. A few phone calls to follow up and check the person who is doing the demo to see if he/she is ready for the meeting or you may wish to assist. Our club needs more member participation. Now is the time for you to volunteer for this easy position.

I'll drag the IBM clone keyboard to the meeting again and maybe some will get the chance to play with it. Tom Collins - Editor

--- Membership Report ---

We have one new member this month:

Joe Torres
4516 Newman
Fort Worth, Tx 76117

RENEWALS

Brent Cooper
Calvert Koether

Joe Torres has volunteered to be our new lending librarian. This is the kind of member our club needs and the officers like to see. One who joins and steps right in to help the club and all the members! Hats off to Joe Torres and a hearty thanks to the members who have renewed. - Ken Dominiec

Have you ever been to a computer users' group meeting where you felt that there was a distinct division - those that have the knowledge and those who don't? All too often, it seems that those that have it seem to think they were born with it and don't have the time nor the motivation to share it with those low-life "have-nots". Please rest assured of one thing...there is no such division in the NET 99ER group. Those that have the knowledge are absolutely bent on sharing that knowledge. Just pay us a visit...we'll do our very best to share as much information as we can on the wondrous things you can do with the magical machine we know as the "TI 99/4A". I am convinced that, given enough time, you could make this little "baby" do everything but walk the dog (and I'm working on that one!) You really have to see it to believe it - our little orphaned computer can still run circles around a great number of the machines on the market today. Come and see us. We're anxious to share and to help you and your 4A become close friends. -- Phillip Chappell --

----- Treasury Report -----

The club started with \$325.37 in the coffers and with a \$551.00 deposit it looks like we are doing great, however we had expenses of \$140.19 and we have ordered seven modems (which came in) and we owe \$455.00 for them, also we will have to pay for the Horizon Ram Disk parts in Jan., but until we do we have a balance of \$738.05 which does look real good... Lee DeForest

----- Net99er Group Raffle -----

A new (old) idea to help boost the treasury has been suggested by our own Phillip Chappell. We will have at each meeting a raffle of some of the items left over from the BBS sale. These items include: game cartridges, home/business cartridges, blank diskettes (used but good), a diskette storage box with a lock, a couple of different type power supplies, an external disk drive case/power supply, a TI console, two external keyboards built by Leroy Thompson, a couple of drives (SSSD). Well you get the idea. If there is anything that anyone would like to donate for the club ACTIVE member raffle please contact the guy who hauls the stuff around for the group. Namely ME the newsletter editor. The scenario goes like this: each raffle will of course require different ticket prices (obviously we can't offer fifty cent tickets for things like the console can we?) for the items. These ticket prices will not exceed \$5 but will require a minimum amount of tickets to be sold, so we can at least pay for them and show a profit for the club. Some tickets will be as little as 4 for a dollar. Come on folks, lets give this program a try! The current HRD purchase is not included in the raffle. - Tom Collins -

-->-->--> Wanted!!! Someone to demo FLUS! <-<-<-<-

I really want to learn more about this program diskette and be able to setup my own custom template. Can any body give us a Demo?

TI-WRITER HELP: EDITOR
by Tom Kennedy CIS ID# 74176,774

Now I want to cover the Text Formatter, which prints out the document. Most importantly, the special symbols, called Format Commands, that the formatter uses to alter the print-out of the document, which are installed in the Text Editor. In other words, you put these commands into the text when you write it and as the formatter comes across them it changes the text accordingly but doesn't actually print the symbols. There are six groups of formatter commands that are all applied in a similar manner. All commands must be in caps and must be on a line that starts with a period. Text Dimension commands, as the name implies, move or shape the words in the document (margins, linespacing, right justify, etc.)

.FI : FILL : PUTS AS MANY WORDS ON A LINE AS WILL FIT.

.NF : NO FILL : CANCELS FILL.

.AD : ADJUST : ALIGNS THE TEXT TO THE LEFT AND RIGHT MARGINS.

.NA : NO ADJUST : CANCELS ADJUST.

.LM n : LF MARGIN : SETS LEFT MARGIN TO "n".

.RM n : RT MARGIN : SETS RIGHT MARGIN TO "n".

.IN n : INDENT : CREATES AN AUTO-INDENT FROM LEFT MARGIN.

.LS n : LINE SP : SETS LINE SPACING TO "n" LINES.

.PL n : PG LENGTH : DEFINES NUMBER OF LINES TO A PAGE.

.BP : BEGIN PG : DEFINES FIRST LINE OF NEW PAGE.

Internal Format commands control the spacing of characters on a line.

.SP n : SPACE : SIMILAR TO THE TAB FUNCTION.

.CE n : CENTER : CENTERS NEXT "n" LINES BETWEEN MARGINS.

Highlighting commands control functions such as underline or bold and allow you to redefine characters to use them to send CTRL codes to the printer.

^ : REQUIRED : JOINS WORDS TOGETHER WHEN REQUIRED TO PREVENT SPLITTING IN

: SPACE : REFORMATING, UNDERLINE, ETC.

: UNDERLINE : (UNDERSCORE) UNDERLINES ALL TEXT FOLLOWING UNTIL NEXT PAGE.

: BOLD : (OVERSTRIKE) RETYPES FOLLOWING TEXT FOUR TIMES.

.TL xx : TRANSLITERATE : ALLOWS REASSIGNMENT OF ONE CHARACTER TO REPRESENT A NUMBER OF CHARACTER VALUES TO SEND CODES TO THE PRINTER.

.CO t : COMMENT : SIMILAR TO REM IN BASIC--ALLOWS NOTES THAT DONT PRINT.

Page identification commands print notes in the upper or lower corner of each page, either headers or footers.

.HE t : HEADER : PRINTS TEXT (t) AND PAGE NUMBER AT TOP OF EACH PAGE.

.FO t : FOOTER : PRINTS TEXT (t) AND PAGE NUMBER AT BOTTOM OF EACH PAGE.

.PA # : PAGE # : RESETS PAGE NUMBER IN .HE AND .FO

File management commands

.IF f : INCLUDE FILE : MERGES A FILE TO PRINT A DOCUMENT TOO LARGE FOR ONE FILE.

Mail Merge option commands are used to supply values to the variables in a letter that has been set up for the mail merge option

.ML f : MAIL LIST : IDENTIFIES VALUE FILE (f) FOR MAIL LIST.

#n# : VARIABLE : INSERTED IN TEXT AS VARIABLE FOR ASSIGNMENT FROM VALUE FILE. .DP r:t:DISPLAY : PROMPTS USING TEXT "t" TO ASSIGN TO VARIABLE #n#

The use of these commands in your text is what separates the word processor from a typewriter. They allow you to get the most out of your printer. So, now you've written your document, and inserted all the format commands, how do you print it out? First, save the document and exit the Text Editor. At the title menu, select Text formatter, (make sure the program disk is in the drive) and the screen will blank with the prompt "ENTER INPUT FILENAME". Enter the name of the file you just saved, (ex. DSK1.MYFILE) and hit enter. Next, the prompt "ENTER PRINT DEVICENAME" appears after the file is loaded. If you use a serial printer, the device name would be RS232.BA=xxx with xxx being the baud rate. If you're using a parallel printer, the device name is PIO. Also, you must add either .CR or .LF to the end of the device name. This tells TI-Writer whether your printer will handle the carriage return or the line feed. Check your printer manual and the TI-Writer manual in detail to find out which you use. The next prompt is "USE MAILING LIST". If you aren't printing "form letters" just hit enter to accept the default of N (NO). Next is "WHAT PAGE(S)? <ALL>". If you want to print the whole document, accept the default for all pages. Otherwise, you can print any of the pages or groups of pages. The prompt "NUMBER OF COPIES: 1" tells how many copies of each page are to be printed. The last prompt is "PAUSE AT END OF PAGE? N". The main purpose of this function is if you are using separate sheets of paper it will stop and wait for you to align the next sheet. Now, about the Mailing List Option. Let's say you've written a form letter to send out to various individuals, maybe a resume'. You write the letter like normal, but when you come to a name or address or something that will change with each letter, you put in its place a variable in the form of #n#, where n is a number to identify the order. So instead of starting off with "Dear Mr. Smith" you could have "Dear Mr. 1#" and so on. when you're all through with your letter, save it and purge the memory. Now you must create what is called a Value File, which is your mailing list where TI-Writer will draw the variables from. A value file consists of a list values to be inserted into the letter, listed one to a line, preceded by the number of the variable and ending with a carriage return symbol. Groups of values must be separated by a line with just an asterisk and a carriage return. For example:

1 John Smith

2 123 STREET

3 Seattle, WA

*

1 Jane Doe

2 456 STREET

3 Seattle, WA

At the top of your letter you insert the .ML f command where f equals the filename of your value file. After selecting the mailing list option the computer will use this command to fill in the variables. If there is no .ML command in the letter then when you are prompted for "MAILING LIST NAME:" you supply the filename. This allows you to call on a number of files for different groups. Another way to insert values is to use the Define Prompt command. With this command you do not insert a .ML command calling a value file and instead you insert lines containing the format: .DP n:t - where n is the number of the variable and t is the prompt text. Now, when you come to

the prompt "USE MAILING LIST?" you select "N" for NO and as the document is printed when a variable is encountered the printing stops and the text you chose appears on the screen asking you for the appropriate value. If you don't include a ".DP n:t" command in your text, the computer responds with "ENTER DATA FOR VARIABLE #n#" and it can get confusing trying to remember which item you're or. This method is handy for letters which you only want to print one copy at different times to different people. Let me tell you, this is why I bought a computer. I'm sure we all went through that period of time before buying a computer when we would ask: "what am I going to use a computer for, anyway?". Well I decided there were two things I wanted to do: 1) Store files of data (recipes, albums, etc.) and 2) Use my computer as a typewriter. I didn't know about TI-WRITER when I bought the 99/4A, but now I know that I made the best choice possible. I hope you will all find TI-WRITER as easy to use and as powerful as I have. If you have any questions, I'll do my best to help. Tom Kennedy

----- Horizon Randisk Card Purchase Planned -----

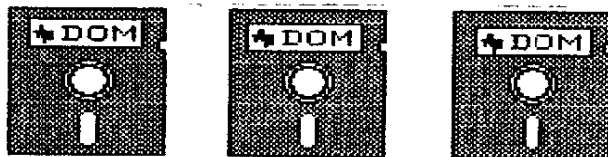
Well folks our very own James Crosson has planned a group purchase of the newest Horizon Randisk Card through Bud Mills Services. These cards can be had for the ridiculous low price of \$30 each. We must have a minimum of 5 cards to make this purchase from Bud Mills. Two have been sold already, so if you wanted to get started on the road to better computing now is the time. NOTE these cards are bare and require the purchase of ALL parts needed to build a Randisk of your choice in size. Take it from me this expansion of your computer will really make you never want to go back! Contact James at the meeting or at home (when you can catch him) at 418 8746.

----- Keyboard Strips -----

We all need those little strips for some programs and everybody has a custom set, right? Well if you don't then turn the page and check these out. Perhaps there is something you can use. These are reproduced from the Ninety Niners of Vancouver Area (N.O.V.A.) Group newsletter.

----- Local BBS Numbers -----

TI-NET ----- 581 1421
 Orphan Board ----- 261 7466
 Flug Texlink ----- 214 263 7648
 99er Connection ----- 214 233 1750



SUPPORT YOUR USER GROUP!

- Proposed Amendment to Article 4 -
 - to the Net99er User Group Constitution -

The purpose of this amendment is to clarify the words 'active member'.

An active member shall be someone who attends half plus one of the meetings they are eligible for by their membership for that year.

Example: If a person joins the club in January and attends 3 out of 4 or 6 out of 11 meetings, etc.

Grandfather Clause: Be that any member at the time of enactment shall be considered to have attended all of the meetings up to that meeting from time of membership.

----- Ballot for Club Officer Elections -----

During the club meeting held this January 7th, nominations will be taken from the floor for club officers. Please record your choice below and return to the person who will be tallying votes at the meeting.

President _____

Vice President _____

Secretary _____

Treasurer _____

Amendment defining Active Members - Yes ____ No ____