

**Southwest
Ninety-Niners
Newsletter**
contributed by
- Tom Wills -
SW99ers User Group President of Record
compliments of



**TI99ers
On-Line
User Group**

www.ti99ers.org

FEBRUARY 1988

P.O. Box 17831 Tucson, AZ 85730

Officers

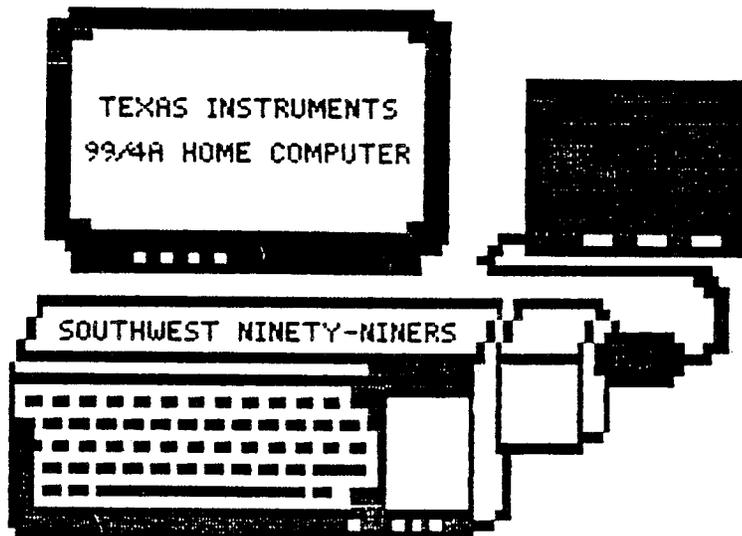
BJ Mathis - President
Ed Hallett - Vice President
Ed McCullough - Secretary
Al Armstrong - Treasurer

Newsletter

BJ & Jack Mathis - Editors

Library

BJ & Jack Mathis - Co-Chairmen
Joe Lenox - Fairware Librarian
Ida McCargar - Lending Librarian



ATTENTION MEMBERS

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PLEASE HELP !!

We will need a new meeting place starting the month of April. I have checked out several savings & loans and banks, so far nothing great. Please call with suggestions. - BJ

Next Meeting: February 2, 1988 at 7:30pm. Location-Tucson Fire Department Training Center on Ajo Way just west of Park.

Geneve Users Workshop: Second Tuesday of each month (February 9th) at 7:00pm. Ed Hallett's home 5600 S Country Club #64 - 889-5525.

Fest West 88 Committee: Monday, February 15th at 7:30pm. Please be there so we can finalize our plans for our booth at the Fest West in Las Vegas. Mathis Home - 5941 E 26th - 747-5046

TI Users Workshop: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (February 16th). Bring all your TI-99/4A questions and problems to the Mathis Home - 5941 E 26th - 747-5046

Advanced Languages Workshop: 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (February 23rd). Includes: FORTH, A/L, etc. Rod Stallard's Home - 7575 E Logan - 745-6071

TI-EXPO '88

TI Fest West
Las Vegas, NV
February 27th and 28th, 1988

We are looking forward to a wonderful weekend. There are eight of us planning to attend, with the possibility of two or three others. If you are interested please let BJ know.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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At the next general meeting of the SouthWest Ninety-Niners we will be trying out a new format. Approximately the first ten minutes will be a "Dumb Questions" period. We will have a box you can put your questions in anonymously, take questions from the floor, and accept questions ahead of time. If you can call one of the officers ahead of time with a question it will give us a chance to research the answer. After all what you think is a "Dumb Question" may stump the "experts"(?).

The business of the Users Group will be taken care of next. Please note there will be a discussion at the February meeting regarding the future of the AntFarm BBS. If you are interested in the continuing availability of the AntFarm please be there.

When the business is finished, we will have two formal presentations. Jack Mathis will introduce us to Multiplan, and Dave Wolfson will explain briefly about Assembly Language. Since Assembly Language is an extensive language that cannot be explained in one session, Dave will continue to present information about it for several months. If you want to understand what he is talking about don't miss a meeting!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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Thank you all for showing confidence in me as your President, I hope the coming year will be even better than the last. I want to thank Dave Wolfson for the excellent job he did as our Secretary last year, and welcome Ed McCullough as our new Secretary. Both Ed Hallett and Al Armstrong kept their positions as Vice President and Treasurer, respectively, so you must think they are doing good jobs, too. I thank you on their behalf.

Thank you, Ed Hallett for thinking of and conducting the Future's Workshop at the January meeting. I'm excited about the plans you have inspired us all to make for the SouthWest Ninety-Niners. I know we are all looking forward to the presentations that are to come. I hope many of the members will be willing to help as various people organize their presentations.

BJ Mathis - 747-5046

Summary of January's Meeting

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1) Election of officers:

Nominations:

President: BJ Mathis
Ed McCullough

Vice President: Ed Hallett
Ed McCullough

Secretary: Dave Wolfson
Ed McCullough

Treasurer: Al Armstrong

Newly Elected Officers:

President: BJ Mathis
Vice President: Ed Hallett
Secretary: Ed McCullough
Treasurer: Al Armstrong

2) Ed Hallett, assisted by David Wolfson, conducted a Future's Workshop, to decide what topics the SW 99ers wish to explore this year. Report on Future's Workshop follows the minutes.

- Ed McCullough, Sec'ty

FUTURE'S WORKSHOP '88

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At the January meeting of the Southwest Ninety-Niners, Ed Hallett and Dave Wolfson, conducted a Futures Workshop to find out which topics the group wishes to explore during the coming year.

After the ideas were recorded and voted on, Ed called for volunteers to give presentations on the most popular topics.

A possible itinerary for presenting the programs at the meetings for the next seven months.

The result of all this is listed below. The schedule, made by the officers, is tentative, and will be adjusted as necessary.

If you would be interested in helping with any of the presentations listed please call an officer or the person listed next to the program. These people are **co-ordinator** for the presentations. They won't be expected to make the presentations alone!

Votes

17 Languages Explained

- Basic - Leonard Taffs March
- ExBasic - Leonard Taffs .. March
- Assembly - Dave Wolfson .. February
- "c" - Dave Ormand April
- Pascal - Alex Paschal May
- Forth - Rod Stallard June
- LOGO - Eric Stallard July
- Pilot
- Fortran
- 16 Beginning Assembly Language - Dave Wolfson March +
- 16 Multiplan - Jack Mathis February
- 13 Disk/Disk Drives Exposed - Al Armstrong April
- 13 Regular "Dumb" Question Period - Ed Hallett .. Beginning of each meeting
- 12 Writer - John McCleary May
- 11 Program on programming philosophy - Dave Wolfson .. June
- 10 New Owner Familiarization - Dave Ormand
- 9 PRBase - Ida McCargar
- 9 Printer "Magic" - Jack Mathis
- 9 Guest Speakers - John McCleary
- 7 Console Breakdown Reassemble - Al Armstrong
- 6 Fix-It Program/meeting - Al Armstrong
- 6 More SW99er member articles in newsletter
- 5 Expansion of BBS "AntFarm"
- 5 Encourage young members
- 4 Program portability from other systems
- 4 "Pack'em In" Incentives
- 3 Newsletter on Disk
- 3 Alternate time/place for meetings in addition to current meeting
- 3 Repeat last year's Futures list
- 2 Group Products/Program
- 2 Phone Survey - Jim Chapman
- 1 Notification of Workshop Contents

There were several complaints, also. We didn't vote on them, but they allow us all to have something to think about:

- 1) Decide: Beginners or Advanced
- 2) Workshops should be structured for LEARNING not social
- 3) Intimidating Atmosphere at meeting
- 4) Lack of Member Participation
- 5) "Same old faces" at meetings

If you can think of ways to alleviate some of these problems you can leave your comments on the AntFarm, talk to an officer, write a letter to the newsletter editor, or write an article about it for the newsletter.

MULTIPLAN

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by BJ Mathis

Following is a combination of a group of articles I wrote for the SouthWest Ninety-Niners newsletter over the last several years. They are being republished as a introduction to the presentation Jack will make at the February meeting.

Multiplan is a spreadsheet that is far superior to the old handwritten entry methods for bookkeeping. It has the capability to do all adding machine functions for you. It can cross reference itself and take care of double entry information through linking of files. However, Multiplan is versatile enough for the average home computer user to have a use for it.

Multiplan can be used to keep track of your checking account. It can be used to figure your loans, allowing you to know what your payoff is at any time and what you are paying in interest. You can find out how much you will save in interest over the life of the loan by making a larger payment. Multiplan could be used for an address file. Since it will sort in alphabetical order we keep track of our son's spelling lists and give him a dictionary of words he should know how to use and spell. We use it to keep track of what different companies want for computer items. Our Treasurer uses it to keep track of the club's finances. When Jack and I were burglarized we set up a file that included columns for serial numbers, and descriptions of the items, with information on original costs and replacement costs. That same file was modified to keep track of amount reimbursed, actual cost of replacement, and the balance the insurance company still owed us (that is not always the difference between the two, as the insurance company will not pay more than you estimated it would cost to replace the items).

PROTECTION

Protecting programs against overwriting is very important. However, do not protect the file called OVERLAY on your Multiplan disk. You will be able to load Multiplan but you will not be able to do anything else, if OVERLAY has been protected. The other files for Multiplan can be write protected, but if you protect a worksheet file you will not be able to load the file back into Multiplan for corrections, updating, or printing. You can copy the TIMP files onto other disks, but the disk must be called TIMP or it won't load.

RECALC

Before you do anything else with Multiplan please be sure you have selected Options("O") and changed the Recalc to "NO", this will save you a lot of time and

frustration., as Multiplan will even "Recalc" for text entered. When you have all your figures and text entered then re-select Options("O"), to turn on recalc, press "Y" for "YES" and press enter. Having Recalc off when entering material will speed up operations significantly.

TITLES

Putting a title on your Multiplan worksheet can be frustrating. Most people type and enter one word at a time in each of the upper cells. If they, later, insert a new column or delete a column, or simply widen or narrow a column they have to retype part, if not all of their title. Here is something to put an end to that!

Choose the formatting command. Then type R1 (or whichever row you want your title in), then TAB[CTRL][2] to the alignment section. Select G (for general), TAB again to the code section, type C for continuous, and press ENTER. Your title will now adjust itself to any amount of deletions, insertions, narrowing or widening of column.

If after, you have done this you discover a mistake in your title, place your cursor in the first cell of your title, press E for edit. Multiplan will display the entire title for you to edit.

You probably are already aware that in order to back your cursor up you have to use [FCTN][9], however this also takes out whatever it passes over. You don't have to use this to edit. You can use [FCTN][4] to back space by single position or [FCTN][5] to back space by word and [CTRL][4] or [CTRL][5] to go forward. Multiplan will automatically allow you to insert your corrections once you have reached the proper point in your text. However, it will not get rid of letters unless you use the Delete Forward [CTRL][10] keys. Delete Forward deletes anything that is highlighted at the time it is chosen, so make sure that you are highlighting the correct part. All these keys can be used to edit formulas and values, also.

FORMULAS

There are many ways to build a formula to add a column or row of figures on a Multiplan worksheet. Some are easier to understand than others, but they aren't always the most efficient in speed and use of memory. Others are very difficult to set up and can easily be messed up when inserting or deleting rows or columns.

One way to build a formula is to position your cursor on the desired position for the total, press "=", move the cursor to the desired beginning point, press "+", move the cursor to the next desired position, press "+", etc. until the entire area to be covered is included cell by cell. Your formula would look something like R1-11C+R1-21C+... This is long and tedious to set up and will often cause a REF! to show up if lines are deleted or inserted. The recalculation time is slow and the memory is quickly used up.

One function of Multiplan allows an area to be SUMmed, in other words all the numbers in a specified area are added together. This function can be used in within formulas.

A column or row with the desired information can be NAMED. (See page 60 of Multiplan Reference Guide.) In order to use the NAMED column or row, position the cursor at the point where you want the total to appear. Press "=", then type SUM(NAME), the total according to the parameters you set up with NAMED will appear. In this case I have found the recalculation time to be very slow, the memory is used up very quickly, and the formula can be affected by inserting or deleting lines within the defined NAME parameters.

When I build a formula, I find the beginning position of the row or column I want to total. Let's say I want to add column four and have the total appear at the bottom of the column. The first number is in row six of column four. I position my cursor at the point I want the total to appear, press "=", type SUM(R6C4: . Then I move the cursor up one row. Now press). This causes the cursor to return to the position where the total will appear. My formula now looks like SUM(R6C4:RC-1JC) . Press Enter, the total appears in the desired position. This formula can be copied across the page to add several different columns. However after copying I would have to Edit each of the formulas to reflect the correct column number. You can add or delete lines as long as you are not doing so in the row minus one (R-1) position. The speed of the recalculation seems to be much faster than in any of the above formulas and memory usage is kept at a minimum.

If you get an error message or after building your formula recheck the areas you are trying to add together.

Make sure you are not trying to add the total to the total to the total.... This will give you a circular reference error. If the display show #### instead of a number then your column is too narrow to display the total.

If some of your formulas give you an answer of "#REF!", recheck your formulas to see if you are trying to add a cell that has text in it. Multiplan does not like to try to add text to numbers! Think about what you have done since setting up the formulas. Have you added or deleted any rows or columns within the parameters of the formula? Remember, to turn off the Recalc again before you try to fix those formulas. Once Recalc is off use the Edit("E") to look at each formula for possible problems. Start with the first formula containing #REF!. Use Back Char (Fctn 4), Forward Char (Fctn 5), Back Space (Fctn 9), and Delete Forward (Fctn 0) to change the formula as needed or completely rebuild the formula. Allow Recalc to work after correcting each formula until all the #REF!'s go away.

You may, also, see an error message of "#VALUE!", think about the formula. You may be trying to add, subtract, etc. your total to/from itself.

If you insert a row or column within a formula's parameters, or move a row or column containing a formula, the formula may automatically change and calculate only part of the information you intended.

A formula copied across may try to add each column to the next, this will result in an unbelievable total in the last column.

In order to correct these problems you may have to check each formula on the entire worksheet. After checking each formula select Options again and turn back on the Recalc.

COPY

When using MULTIPLAN, the Copy command is probably one of the most useful commands. It is especially useful for setting up a spread sheet. You can Copy Right, Down, or From. Each of these commands is useful for copying formulas or other information to another part of your worksheet.

Copy From lets you copy an entire rectangular area to another part of the worksheet. You can copy from one single cell to another single cell or you can copy from a group of cells to another group. In order to copy from one block of cells to another you first designate the boundaries of the group you wish to copy. For instance, if you wish to copy the information in row 3 column 2 through row 7 column 5 to the area with the boundaries of row 24 column 9 through row 28 column 12, you first chose the

Copy command then chose From. Now type R3C2:R7C5, tab to the next section, type R24C9, press Enter. Notice it is not necessary to give the computer the boundaries of the area you wish to Copy to, you only have to tell it where to start copying to, it will figure out the rest.

If you want the information in one cell to appear in another group of cells Copy From can do that, too. Let's say you want the information in row 5 column 3 to appear in all cells from row 6 column 7 through row 10 column 9. You will should again chose the Copy From command. The command line should read "COPY FROM cells: R5C3 to:R6C7:R10C9".

Copy Right will Copy cells to the right in the same row. If you want an item that is in row 8 column 10 to appear in row 8 columns 11 through 20, use the Copy Right command. To do this it is best to position your cursor at row 8 column 10, press "C", press "R", enter the desired number of columns, in this case, 10 and press Enter. Copy Down is much the same as Copy Right, however it copies down the column instead of across the row.

When Copying formulas with RECALC turned off the numeric value that was in the original cell will appear in the new position, however when you activate RECALC the numeric value will change based on the information Multiplan finds in the cells referenced by the formulas. When you Copy a formula that contains references to a specific row or column you may have to change that reference to relate to the specific row or column in it's new position. Copy can also be used to Copy text, this will not change when RECALC is turned on. NOTE: It is not possible to copy to a non-blank cell.

BUYER'S GUIDE

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The following information is provided as a service to our members. The items listed are for sale by the individuals indicated and are subject to prior sale. The group assumes no responsibility for items listed and makes no claims as to their condition or interface capability with the TI-99/4A computer. Only computer related items will be accepted for publication in this newsletter.

WANTED - Peripheral Expansion System reasonable price - Dan Benavides 578-0588.

32K Memory Card \$55, Axiom Parallax-TI Interface \$35. Call John Hale 296-5602.

Teknika 13" Color Monitor Model MJ-22, RGB/Composite, TI compatible, not Geneve compatible, only 6 months old, \$250. Call Jack or BJ 747-5046 or Aaron Traiger 625-0525 (Green Valley).

TI-99/4A Console \$35. Call John Hedspeth 885-0850 or 745-7253 (work).

TI-99/4A Console & Home Budget Management \$35. Call Darlene Webb 885-0347.

TI-99/4A Console, TI Joysticks, Thermal printer, Cassette Recorder, 12" TV(BW), all for \$125 o.b.o. Call Paul Garrison 747-3884(Days) or 573-0572(Evenings).

Peripheral Expansion Box w/TI Disk Controller, 1 SSSD disk drive, RS232, TI-Writer \$300 (NO Memory Card) o.b.o. Call Pam Bridgemon 885-1756.

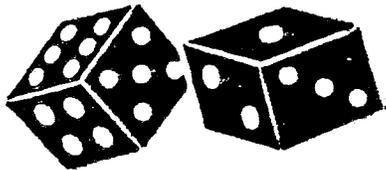
FOR MEMBERS ONLY: These items are for sale by SW 99ers. USED: Peripheral Expansion Box w/TI Controller, 1 SSSD drive, 32K Memory (NO RS232) \$250, TI-99/4A Console \$35, TI Extended Basic \$25, P-code Card(no docs or disks) \$30, Personal Report Generator \$6, Personal Record Keeping \$4, Tax Investment Record Keeping \$3, The Attack \$3, Munch Man \$3, Jawbreaker II \$4, Tombstone City \$3, Music Maker \$7. Books: Introduction to Assembly Language by Ralph Molesworth \$6; Smart Programming Guide for Sprites from Miller's Graphics \$5. Cassette & monitor cables \$3 ea. Call Jack or BJ 747-5046.

Modules: New/Unused: Moon Patrol \$2, Protector II \$2, Defender \$2, Reading On \$7, Munch Man \$3. Used: Early Reading \$7, Personal Real Estate \$4, Personal Record Keeping \$4. Book: Using & Programming the TI-99/4A by Frederick Holtz \$7. Call Jack or BJ 747-5046.

TI-99/4A Console \$35 o.b.o. Call Ejaz 623-8257.

The Southern Nevada User's Group Proudly presents....

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