

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



**TI99ers
On-Line
User Group**

www.ti99ers.org

SOUTHWEST NINETY-NINERS

MAY 1988

P.O. Box 17831 Tucson, AZ 85730

Officers

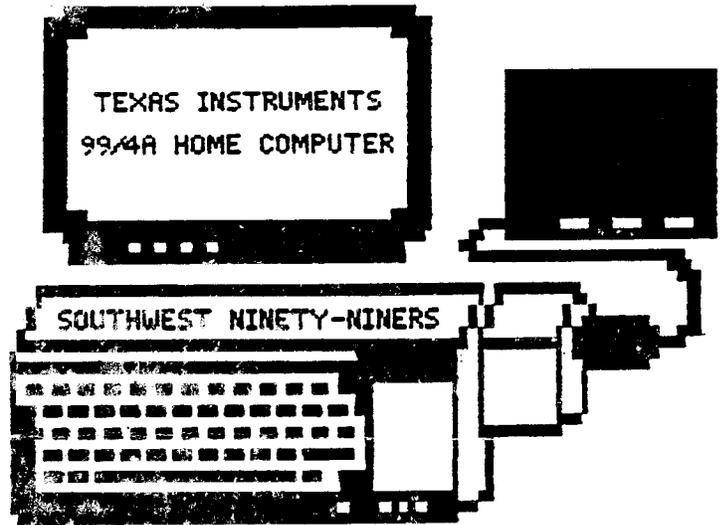
BJ Mathis - President
Ed Hallett - Vice President
Ed McCullough - Secretary
Al Armstrong - Treasurer

Newsletter

BJ & Jack Mathis - Editors

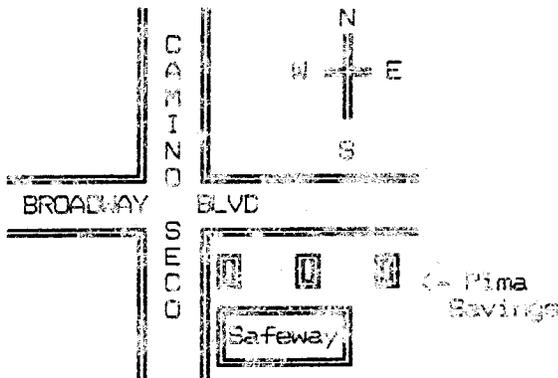
Library

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



ATTENTION MEMBERS !!

Next Meeting, SATURDAY, MAY 7th at Pima Savings on Broadway Blvd, east of Camino Seco at 1pm. We will continue to meet there until we find a better location. PLEASE CALL AN OFFICER, IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS.



UPCOMING EVENTS

John McCleary will be talking about Word Processing and Desk Top Publishing at the May meeting.

Dave Wolfson will no longer continue the explanations of Assembly Language at the general meetings. Those who wish to learn more about Assembly Language should join the Advanced Languages Workshop. Al Armstrong is teaching a beginning Assembly language class at this workshop. Newcomers are always welcome!

A Question and Answer Session precedes each meeting, please remember we are all here to learn. If you have your questions prepared in advance it will allow us to find the correct answer, however we will endeavor to answer your question whenever we receive it. If we cannot answer a question we will try to find someone who can.

The June demonstration schedule shows Dave Wolfson on Programming Philosophy and Rod Stallard on Forth. Currently, Eric Stallard is scheduled to give us an overview of LOGO and Ida McCargar will explain some PRGASE usage and tricks in July.

Geneva Users Workshop: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm (May 10th). Ed Hallett's home 5600 S Country Club Rd - 629-5525.

TI Users Workshop: Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (May 17th). Bring all your TI-99/4A questions and problems to the Mathis Home - 5941 E 26th - 747-3046

Advanced Languages Workshop: Fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (May 24th). Includes: FORTH, A/L, etc. Rod Stallard's Home - 7575 E Logan - 745-6071

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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Please make your contributions for Fairware you are using and haven't paid the authors. If you wish, the group can handle your contribution for you. I want to collect contributions for DM1000, BA-Writer, PRBASE, Archiver, and anything else you are using. The group is not licensed at this time to collect for TELCO, so please send the payment for it directly to the author.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an article by Rodger Merritt describing Picture-It. At the end of the article Rodger says you can obtain the program by sending him \$10. At the Fest West in Las Vegas, Rodger told Ida that we can sell it through the group for \$7, keep \$2 and send him the remaining \$5. If you would like a copy please contact me so I can have them ready for the May meeting.

I am putting together a group order for modems. We will be ordering the Avatex 1200e. The cost per modem will be \$69.95, plus handling. If you wish the group to handle this purchase for you please give me a check by May 18th, for \$75. Anything not used for purchasing the modems will be refunded or you can contribute to the group treasury.

March's Minutes

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1. Twenty-four SouthWest Ninety-Niners members were present.
 2. No Question and Answer period was conducted due to lack of questions and the unavailability of Vice President Ed Hallett, who usually handles this part of the meeting.
 3. Orders were taken for a group purchase of Avatex 1200e modems.
 4. The net income of the booth at the Fest West in Las Vegas was \$140. However, all remaining items prepared for the booth will result in profit as they are sold, so we can expect the \$140 figure to grow considerably, which will accomplish our original goal, to upgrade the BBS.

We are conducting a raffle for Advanced Diagnostics. This program was donated by Ed McCullough as he now has a MYARC controller and Advanced Diagnostics will not work with it. The winner will be chosen when we have \$18 in the pool. Raffle tickets are \$1 each.

If you work for a company with a large meeting room or cafeteria and you think they might be willing to let us use it for meetings in the evenings, please let one of the officers know. We appreciate Pima Savings letting us use their meeting room, but it is only available to us on Saturdays and is really smaller than we need. We are still looking for another place to meet and we are also trying to get back into the Firemen's Training Center.

BJ Mathis - 747-5046

5. Leonard Taffs presented "Computer Visuals" from Compute's TI Collection Volume 1, pg. 55, by Richard D. Jones and Howard Alvier. This program provides an on-screen reference library of:
 - a. User Reference Manual Index (Alphabetical)
 - b. Comparison of Basic, Extended Basic and Super Extended Basic.
 - c. Enhancements of Super Extended Basic
 - d. Summary of User Reference Manual Programs
6. Dave Wolfson presented the third orientation segment on Assembly Language.
7. Al Armstrong provided us with an overview of the Disk Drive System, with some detail about the components (Disk Media and Drive Unit), and system set-up and use.

Ed McCullough, Secretary

The Ant Farm BBS - 602-889-6930

SysOp - Edward Hallett 300-1200 BAUD - 24 Hrs.

XBASHER - Review

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Scott Darling (C)opyright 1987 - from Tacoma 99'ers June '87

XBASHER is written by Mike Dodd, Distributed by Genial Computerware, Box 183, Grafton, MA 01519.

This program is needed by anyone and everyone!! No clarification you say?? EVERYONE has an Extended Basic program! At least one!! This program will make that one program run faster and reduce its size. GUARANTEED!! Most of us who have been around the TI World for awhile remember what SMASH is. The BAD part about SMASH is you had to start it at night and HOPE it was done by morning!! You won't have to worry about XBASHER! Xbasher runs out of the Extended Basic environment. There are two versions available. One for TI XB and one for Myarc XB II. No mention was made of the 9640 compatibility. Probably because the 9640 will be so much faster. You can even run XBASHER on combined XB and A/L programs. Complete instructions are given on how to do this!

To run XBASHER requires you to save your program in MERGE format using the following: "OLD DSKn.filename" then SAVE DSKn.mergename,MERGE". Then insert the XBASHER disk in drive 1 and select XB. The disk files will determine which XB you are using and load the correct version of XBASHER. After the program has loaded, you are presented with a title screen. Next is the option screen. Which is: Shorten Variables, Crunch Lines, Remove REMS and !'s, Remove LET's, Change CALL CLEAR to DISPLAY ERASE ALL (this one alone saves you 5 bytes!), Don't Change CALL SUB routines Digits, and Change Constants. Some of these are obvious as to what is going on.

Shorten Variables will take all your string and nonstring variables and shorten them to one or two character variables. There is an immense saving in memory by doing this. Tho, most people like to have a 'name' for variables. If the variable name is less than 3 characters there is no saving in memory. It's when you go over this limit that memory is being eaten away. There is also an option to print the Variable list to an output device.

Crunch Lines was very impressive. XBASHER will crunch or combine lines together. So what about the lines that are GOTO'ed you ask?? (Well somebody will ask!!) The A/L in XBASHER keeps track of the logic flow of the program! THIS part makes the program FAR superior to SMASH!! The only bad thing about this function is the line length of a crunched line is so long you may not be able to edit the new line! Considering this is the only drawback, it is a worthwhile option! I have been able to get 8 lines of code to a line number....so did XBASHER.

Remarks are good for developing a program but are a hindrance when actually running the program. Remove REM's and !'s will delete them and restructure the resulting deletion of them.

Remove LET's. PLEASE I hope everyone by now realizes the LET statement is inconsequential to programming!

Change CALL CLEAR to DISPLAY ERASE ALL. Nothing irks me more in XB programs than to see a "345 CALL CLEAR" then "350 DISPLAY AT(12,1):...". If you use "350 DISPLAY AT(12,1)ERASE ALL:..." it does the same thing as CALL CLEAR and saves memory!!

Don't Change Sub Digits changes the numeric constants to the characters @, \, [,], and . This saves 2 bytes per each occurrence of the variable. But, because of the nature of CALL SUB routines this may cost you MORE memory than any savings. Also, note: CALL SUB routines are like a separate XB program within a program. Consequently you can use identical variable names in CALL SUB's as in the program without any type of error received by the Basic Interpreter. Also, CALL SUBs are slower processing than GOSUBs. The only advantage to CALL SUB's is variable passing!! (Are we confused yet??)

Lastly is the Change Constants option. Basically, what was said in the previous paragraph applies to this option. EXCEPT in this environment, this option will save you memory. Don't ask me why there is a difference. Just believe me!!

Each option has a letter reference, by pressing that Letter toggles each option on and off. Hitting X says you like what you see on the Screen. Next screen asks for the input filename. The one you saved in MERGE format and checks to see if you remembered the filename correctly. Then asks for an output name, and even provides a suggested name. Next is an output device and name for the variable listing if you selected that option. FINALLY the computer starts doing the work!! The screen will show you the status of the program. A line count, and the last line number referenced by a GOTO, or GOSUB statement will be shown on the screen. Xbasher makes two passes thru a program. First to make lists of variables, line numbers, and other info. The second pass will write the new program to disk. How long will it take?? The size of the program involved is the ONLY factor. I ran an 11 sector file thru Xbasher and it took 5 minutes to do the job. The savings were 500 bytes. Next I ran the ultimate EGO test on XBASHER. I wrote a BBS program that is 90 plus sectors long. Almost 23K in bytes. So, I ran XBASHER against it. I felt I was a decent XB programmer and there was no way XBASHER was going to save any bytes in MY program!! Well after selecting ALL the options, and about 30 minutes, the darn program found 200 bytes somewhere!! I'm still trying to see where it found them!! To sum it up, XBASHER will show you what XB programming is all about! There is a lot of power in that cartridge!!

TI-WRITER TIPS

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by John McCleary

FORMATTING

I still remember my great frustration the first time I tried to format the TI-Writer to give me what I wanted from my printer. I'm just thankful I was a member of the Southwest Ninety-Niners here in Tucson, Arizona because we have a great mix of people in our users group and I needed the help of a programmer. Danley Franks came to my rescue that day and told me how to get what I wanted. TI-Writer is a good word processing system from my perspective with only a few shortcomings, one of these is somewhat inadequate documentation. My problem was compounded by not being familiar with TI-Writer and needing to use all of the available characters for the document I was writing. My lack of familiarity and need to use all characters eliminated key transliteration (.TL see page 107 of the reference guide for TI-Writer). Enough history, here's the tip.

My Epson printer frequently calls for CHR\$(27) [the escape command] followed by another symbol in order to communicate with the printer. If I were writing a program and wanted emphasized print mode I would write...CHR\$(27)&"E". This would turn on the emphasized mode in the printer. But how could I do this within TI-Writer? I could transliterate but would lose the use of a symbol or have to go through all sorts of gyrations to get it back. The answer was simple use the following while in TI-Writer: hold down control and press the letter "u" (the cursor changes from a box to an underline and the computer is set for special character mode); hold down the function key and press the letter "r" (this special character is the ASCII code for 27, see page 146); hold down the control key again and press the letter "u" (returns you to normal box cursor); hold down the shift key and press the letter "E". Your command is now complete and will be read by the printer as CHR\$(27)&"E" it will turn on the emphasized print mode but won't be printed when you print the document through the Formatter

For other special functions you may not need to use CHR\$(27) followed by a symbol but just CHR\$(n). For example to turn on compressed printing requires only CHR\$(15). To transmit this to your printer from TI-Writer simply press letter "u" while holding down control and then find ASCII code 15 in column one on page 146 and press the keys as indicated in column four to send CHR\$(15). In this case you hold down the shift key and press the letter "O". Any combination of special instructions may be sent in this manner.

One caution, although these characters won't be printed they may be read by the computer and figured into the line on which they appear as characters if that line contains characters. This means blank spaces at the end of your line. This is easily avoided by placing these control codes on their own line without an end paragraph symbol. In this way the computer ignores them and won't even put in an unwanted extra line space. But be certain these symbols aren't on a line which begins with a period for the computer doesn't send information on such a line to the printer.

I prefer this method to transliteration as it is faster in set up and doesn't limit my use of the characters and symbols available in any document. If you haven't tried it, give it a shot the next time you use TI-Writer. If nothing else, this method and transliteration allows for increased flexibility. One final note, I load in partial files all the time with previously set up formatting commands. It saves making errors and cuts down on the time it takes to do any word processing.

CENTERING

If you know how, it seems so easy, but if you've never done it, then you feel as if it were some deep dark mystery only known to sages. That's the way centering appears to be for many TI-Writer users. Let me share the "secret". Centering is most easily done using (.CE n) the formatting command, where the period appears as the first entry on a line [so the computer won't print that line] followed by CE in caps, for center, and ending with a number [n] to define the number of lines to be centered. It's really that simple but there is one catch! You must define your margins with formatting commands also. That means knowing what those same margins will be when you change font sizes too. Our newsletter is a good example of that. The title and month are done in Expanded mode while the rest of it is done in Elite. To get the centering correct in these two type styles you must know that there are ONLY 40 characters per line in Expanded type compared to 96 in Elite. This means when you change fonts you must change margins as well. THAT, is the BIG secret! Just remember that Expanded mode prints 40 characters per line, Pica 80, Elite 96, and compressed 132. Knowing this define your margins and centering will work every time.

PAGE NUMBERING

Have you ever wanted automatic page numbering from TI-Writer placed somewhere other than the left corner of the page? It's easy. Follow the normal commands for either a header or footer (.HE or .FD) placing the command on its own line. Then determine where you want to place the page numbers, based on 80 columns when using Pica or 96 columns when using Elite and use carets (required space markers) between the command and the percent sign (%) used to format page numbering. This allows you to place the page number anywhere for Pica and at least centered for Elite. It works like a charm. Unfortunately, it is inoperable when using 132 column Compressed type.

EDITING OPERATIONS

Are you a hunt and peck typist or do your fingers fly over the computer keyboard. Well if you are a fairly good typist you ought to pay attention to the TEXT EDITOR - EDITING OPERATIONS as found in the manual and on the Quick Reference Card. Using the Control Key and one other a touch typist can literally fly through editing operations.

There are fully two pages of operations listed on the quick reference guide. Knowing these functions is the key to fast and easy word processing. Take the time to study and learn each of them. The payoff will be faster word processing and fewer errors.

USE A 40 COLUMN DISPLAY WITH TI-WRITER === = == ===== ===== =====

by George Brandt

Many times I have wondered what the TI-WRITER would be like if there was only a single window to look at. If you have too, then this is for YOU!

Let's begin by asking ourselves how we use TI-WRITER. If composing our documents on the screen is typical, then it is a distinct advantage to not have to either scroll between three screens or to have to print the document to see what was said in the last sentence or paragraph.

Scrolling makes a 40 column screen seem one third the size of an 80 column which we all know is not true, but it does make reading difficult. Printing is easier, but adds extra steps and chops down a few trees in the process.

Well, there is another alternative. The secret is to set the left margin at 0 and the right margin at 40. The next requirement is that the line numbers are turned off (FCTN Zero). This gives you a full 40 column screen and full wordwrap capabilities we appreciate so much.

To test the space requirements on the diskette, the following test was run:

Three files were created with the same data (all "X's"). The first file had the margin set at 21 and 60, with 10 paragraphs of 6 lines

(240 characters) of data. The second file had the margins at 1 and 80 with 10 paragraphs of 3 lines (240 char) of data. Comparing the sectors used, the first file required 19 sectors, while the second only used 12.

This represents a 58% loss of capacity on each floppy and would raise a question about the end justifying the means. Then the light bulb came on. The only reason the margins were set to 21 and 60 was to get a full 40 column screen of data. In truth the only purpose was to eliminate the line numbers on the left of the screen.

Hence the third file was created using margins at 1 and 40, and with the line numbers turned off (FCTN 0). With 10 paragraphs of 6 (240 char) lines of data I was ready to use SD (Show Directory) to tell me the answer. Surprise, Surprise! The sectors used were not 19 or even 13. It required 12 sectors! The same as with a full line length of 80 columns. If this fact surprises you as much as it did me you may wish to set up a different test and verify my results. In the meantime I plan to do all of my composing on a 40 column screen, and then use the FORMATTER to adjust the printed page back to a full 80 columns.

Who said you can't get anything for FREE!! You now have a choice of 40 or 80 column mode without feeling guilty about requiring more disk space.

The Case of the Disappearing & === ===== == ===== =====

by BJ Mathis

When the & (ampersand) is put immediately next to a word in text the TI-Writer formatter underlines everything up to the next space. If we want to have the underline continue without using special commands we place carets (^) in the spaces. The ^ won't print unless transliterated, and the & won't print unless doubled, but the words will be underlined until the next empty space.

On several occasions it has been necessary to use the & as part of a centered title for a section of a report. The & (ampersand) has

caused me many problems if I use the .CE (centering) command. When I have tried to use & in italics in a centered report title it has disappeared even though I have typed it in two or three times. When I have used & in conjunction with a double strike command, the & and the rest of the line have not printed at all. I have found that if I need to use the & as part of a title that I want to be centered, I must place the entire line in the appropriate position and not use the .CE command.

BEEFED-UP BASIC

by Bill Harms

Triton and M G published the Super Extended Basic Module in 1987 that adds beef, and I published CLASS in 1988 to add more beef to Basic.

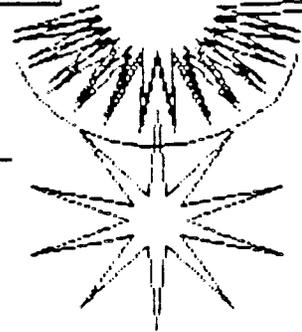
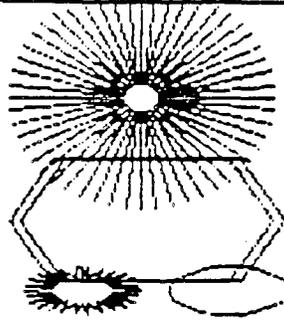
The module is exactly the same as TI's Extended Basic module, plus more commands. The commands are to either make a programmer's life easier or to add a "Super" capability. You can MOVE a block of program lines to a new series of line numbers or RES a block of lines, or COPY or DEL a block of lines. It has 24 new CALL's, ie. CALL CLOCK for a resetable clock, CALL CHIMES, CALL KEYS("keylist", numeric variable), CALL CAT("DSKn"), CALL GOTO (numeric variable), CALL DRAWNPLOT, and more.

TRACE line #'s to a printer is another real good programmer assist, as well as the ability to move the cursor directly to the end of a long line (maybe 150 char. of code).

After entering a couple of commands you can use the joystick to make neat drawings on the screen because MG put the Quality 99 Software's Draw 'N Plot routines by M.Shillingburg into the module.

Only a few drawing techniques are possible, but I would say they are adequate for many jobs, but not as good as TI-Artist, etc. There are commands to load a drawing, save it, screen dump it (in small or large size). The drawing file is fully compatible with TI-Artist, which adds a world of capabilities. But the real bonus is that those 5 to 10 commands are also usable as statements in a program. Well, so what? you ask! Because now with some very simple program lines like: 100 CALL LINK("MOVE",1,1) and 200 CALL LINK("DRAW",255,191) you have massive power over those 50,000 approx. little pixels. The 2 line prog. above did a line from the bottom left to the top right. When you use variables and put the statements in a loop to do it several times with different variable values, you can fill the screen in a hurry with pixel perfect accuracy and do geometric shapes not possible in TI-Artist or others. I know, -- I did it and you can have it too with CLASS, a program I wrote to put that module to work. The demo. I gave at the 2/19 meeting showed some of the potential. More can be done but the demo'er didn't have 3 hours or more.

The demo. also highlighted one of the constraints of the module. When the program is close to the stated size



limit, you get dots on the normal text screen everywhere there is not a character displayed. Speaking further of constraints, the module used in a widget (multi-port expander) is the only one accessible. The new RES command doesn't cause a nonexistent line number reference to be shown as 32767 so it's harder to scan the program for bugs. The Draw 'N Plot routines have some other constraints, which the manual only hints about. A program will crash if you have too big a string array and try to load a picture or when you Exit the drawing SHOW or EDIT mode. The screen can go whacko then also when the program does screen dumps or disk i/o, but can be revived many times by just using the SHOW or EDIT command. String variables and string arrays are usually blasted to Mars when the SHOW or EDIT drawing command are used. This minor constraint can be partially circumvented by programming tricks, many of which I had to use in CLASS.

Many of these features were already available on disk, but the module provides instant and easy access.

But, what is CLASS you ask? You should have come to the meeting for the demo. Well see below for a short description because with the module, CLASS, TI-Artist, and a couple of other programs, you will have great power over the TI Home Computer.

C L A S S © by Bill Harms Copyright 0188

*Create Letters And Special Shapes for Signs, screens

*Add a touch of it to your work. A bold new program to make signs, posters, and generate draftings, and otherwise put the Triton SXB Module's drawing commands to work with pixel perfect accuracy!

REQUIRES Triton Super Extended Basic, 32k memory, disk. Compatible printer and Joystick recom'd.

COMPATIBILITIES -- @TI-Artist's _P Picture or Instance files for great effects and via PICTURE-IT or @ART-CONVERT to put pictures, letters, etc. into text documents using @TI-Writer's Formatter to print, and convert the drawing to be usable directly by TI's Extd Basic via various programs.

CAPABILITIES *Printouts are Super Extended Basic's screen dumps of either 4x2.5" or 7x6" approx.

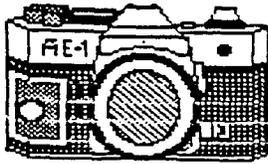
*Large (and small) Letters A-Z, some punctuation, 0-9, Box, Star can all be done in Block Outline Style. You enter screen placement, height, width and line size. Can do a phrase across or down, and even inc. or dec. height of letters in the phrase from the 1st to last letter. Can put a normal text font message anywhere on the screen.

*Special and custom shapes can be done. Arc, True-Circle, Oval, Triangle, bentline, Line, Box, Rhombus, Octagon, Hexagon, Stair steps & Grid [with step or cell size you specify], Fan, Star and other Equal sided shapes - of any size, anywhere on screen --- Most shapes can be auto. repeated Across or Down or Diagonally for n times or Fill screen equally, and Overlapped. Most shapes can be squashed or tall and thin. Add a text message in TI's normal font anywhere. Use the SHOW/EDIT option to further customize the drawing.

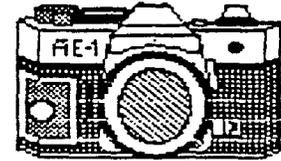
On the Design Custom Shapes screen you can enter (or load from disk) the values for up to 30 points, which the program will connect, if you wish, save and print the values for future use.

*Drawings Show-Semiautomatic, or a banner can be set-up. Picture file names are entered in show order and saved to disk as a file to be used for the show/print. Can do a screen dump during the show.

Send \$10.00 to Bill Harms, 6527 Hayes Court, Chino, CA 91710.



PICTURE IT



by Rodger Merritt 1987

TI ARTIST INSTANCES - TI WRITER - BANNERS - X BASIC

This month I am proud to announce a new product that I believe is a vast improvement over its predecessors. I am calling this product **PICTURE IT** as it is a collection of TI Artist Instance Conversions that can place those Artist pictures on Banners and in TI Writer documents. It can also display Instances on the screen and into an extended basic program.

TI ARTIST - My favorite artist program (version 2.01) is the most professionally done software the TI has. The enhancement mode allows one to put together artwork and fonts in seconds. With my collection of over 150 font styles and hundreds of instances, I put together the above header in thirty minutes. I wonder what Chris Faherty has been doing? Does anybody know?

TI WRITER - As you can see from this page header, the graphics made in TI Artist can be printed very nicely through the Formatter. In a previous article I mentioned Art Convert, a very good program that also converts instances. My program can now print four times faster and twice as dark making a very nice letterhead. You can convert one instance or convert and merge two instances giving you a full width page. Easy menus allow you to choose the page location and merge alignment of your instances.

SCREEN - This program displays the Instances on Screen in seconds and can then convert them to an XBasic merge program. At assembly language speed this whole process takes from less than 1 minute for a small (5*5) Instance to about 4 minutes for a large one (say 20 * 20) that is 400 characters. How can you get a 400 char graphic when you can only redefine 112 chars in XBasic? When you choose the display option each char is checked against previously defined chars and if it finds a match uses that one. If the Sprite option is picked then the picture is set up and saved to disk in 4 char blocks and with this you are limited to 112 chars or 28 sprites. When this is done you simply type "MERGE DSKn.NAME" and then "RUN" and the picture is displayed in the middle of your screen in your new XBasic program. If the Sprite option was selected then you may delete the last line of this program then type "MERGE DSKn.SPRITEMOVR" supplied on the disk. This will set this large Sprite in motion uniformly due to the special CALL LOADS it uses. The Sprite will smoothly go from side to side. Examples of these are used in the title screen. By the way you may just view the Instance on screen and return to the Menu without saving it in XBasic format.

BANNERS - Yes another Banner program but give it a try. The letters are 8 inches high and fully defined with no block effect. They print as fast as the printer can go at less than 1 minute a letter. This banner program also prints Instances up to 12 chars or half a screen high and a full 32 chars wide. If the char is greater than 12 high the top 12 chars will be printed. The conversion is rather time consuming I'm sorry to say but you may save the results to disk and print that the next time. That will be as fast as your printer since it is straight print code. You may choose the ASCII char of the printout and that and the tab are saved to the file. When you print a previously converted picture the char that it was saved in is displayed and you may change it for this printing. Each Instance is Auto Centered on the page. There is an option to change all your printers specs so this should work on any printer that can be put into Elite type. You may also opt to convert without printing.

CATALOGS - This has a Disk Cataloging option that can produce a catalog in two ways. A straight catalog of all disk information with the help of F9 to abort or Space Bar to pause if there are many files on the disk. You may sort the files since Instances have an "I" the converted Banners have an "B" and the TI-WRITER converted graphic files are given an "W". This catalog sorts and displays only those files.

USES - The TI-WRITER graphics converter can produce easy letterheads, signature for your name using a script font for TI-ARTIST, or other pictures in your document. The Banners can add a special touch to that celebration and with all the Artwork out there for it you can display the corresponding pictures. Also once Instances are blown up to Banner size you don't need to buy coloring books for the kids anymore. My pictures of Odie, Garfield, Mickey, Donald and many more make great coloring pages. Finally putting that artwork into your XBasic programs is done for you in less than 4 minutes.

BOTTOM LINE - You may get **PICTURE IT** a two disk collection that includes many converted Banner Instances and many Instances for you to try from me.

Send \$10 to:

Rodger Merritt
1949 Evergreen Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92635

PC-Pursuit =====

by Irwin Hott - Spirit of 99, Columbus, OH - Jan '88

First a little general information. You can reach several cities by dialing a local number. The charges for PC Pursuit include a one-time hook-up fee of \$25, and \$25 a month of unlimited usage. PC Pursuit is available 24 hours a day, but there is an additional \$10.50 per hour charge for use between 7 AM and 6 PM weekdays.

In my case I dial 4639340, press enter 3 times, enter 212/12,pcpxxxxx where xxxxx is my ID number, and my password. I may get a busy and I will have to try again. The 212/12 represents the area code and BAUD rate. Once I get connected, I simply dial the local number I want. Note, you could call a friend in New York as long as his computer answers the phone. It is best to have several numbers at hand so if a BBS is busy or you do not get connected to an area code you can go to another one. I have had PC Pursuit for about a week as I am writing this and I have enjoyed it.

Note that key responses from the other system are somewhat slow. It may take a second or two to get a key press echoed back. This can be particularly interesting if you are typing a message. I get a word

or two behind the echo. Uploads and downloads are also slow. I would think twice about subscribing if you have a 300 BAUD MODEM. I had a chance to try 2400 BAUD however, and there seemed to be a significant amount of line noise.

I have really enjoyed looking at other BBS's. In general, I would recommend PC Pursuit if you really enjoy calling bulletin boards. I probably have spent 8-10 hours or so this first week connected to it.

Here is a list of the cities currently available to call.

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 404 Atlanta | 612 Minneapolis | 415 San Francisco |
| 312 Chicago | 212 New York | 408 San Jose |
| 214 Dallas | 215 Philadelphia | 206 Seattle |
| 313 Detroit | 919 Research Triangle Park ... | 813 Tampa |
| 305 Miami | 801 Salt Lake City | 202 Washington DC |

For more information about PC Pursuit call 1-800-TELENET

BUYER'S GUIDE =====

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.

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

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).

MYARC 512K Memory Expansion with MYARC Extended Basic II \$230, FORTI Music Synthesizer Card with 4 channel stereo and 12 voices \$100, GramCracker 80K with GramCracker Utility Disks \$150, P-Code Card w/disks \$35, TI-99/4A Console (new still in box) \$40, Speech Synthesizer \$35; Modules: Chishola Trail \$3, Zero Zap \$6, Munch Man \$3, Music Maker \$7, Terminal Emulator II \$7, Burgertime \$5, TI-Logo II \$10, MicroSurgeon \$8, Personal Record Keeping \$4, Personal Report Generator \$4, Disk Manager I \$3, Alpiner \$5, Navarone's Disk Fixer \$5, The Attack \$3, TI Logo \$8, Personal Real Estate \$4, Car Wars \$3; Books: The Best of 99'er \$10, The TI 99/4A User's Guide \$2, The Best of TI 99/4A Cartridges \$2, Free Software for your TI-99/4A \$2, The Best Texas Instruments Software \$2. Call Ed Hallett 889-5525, all offers considered.

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

TI-99/4A Console \$35. Call John Hedspeth 885-0859 or 745-7253 (work).

Teknika 13" Color Monitor Model MJ-22, RGB/Composite, TI compatible, not Geneve compatible, used 6 months, \$200, TI-RS232 Stand Alone \$60, Personal Record Keeping \$4, Early Reading \$7, Personal Real Estate \$4, Munchman \$3. Call Jack or BJ 747-5046.

From Southwest Ninety-Niners: Ribbons for Star Micronics NX-10 Printer \$4.50ea., "Best Newsletter" \$5ea., Overlays for TI-99/4A Computer, Cassette Cables \$3, Joystick Adapter \$3, Flip'n'File type Disk Holders \$5, Personal Record Keeping \$4, Tax Investment/Record Keeping \$3, Tombstone City \$3, Home Budget Management \$3, Addition \$5, Subtraction \$5, Demolition Division \$5, Fractional Numbers \$5, Decimals \$5. Books: Starting Forth by Brodie \$12, User's Guide to Texas Instruments Computer, Software & Peripherals \$2, Using & Programming the TI-99/4A \$6, Introduction to Assembly Language for the TI Home Computer by Molesworth \$4. Call Jack or BJ 747-5046.