

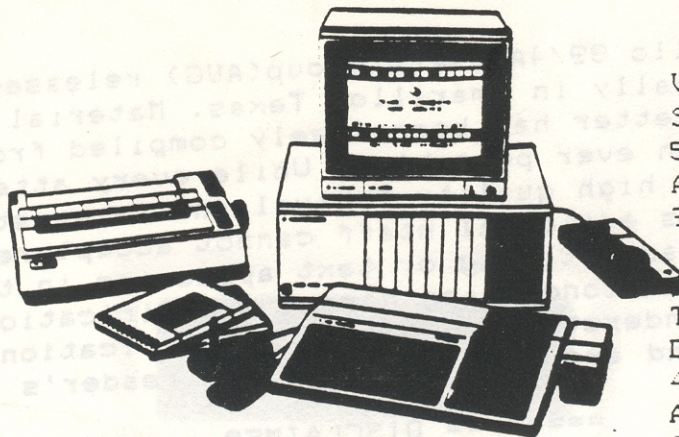
# AMARILLO 99/4A USERS GROUP

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## JULY 1988 NEWSLETTER VOL 8 NUM 7

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This newsletter is the official publication of the AMARILLO 99/4A USERS GROUP, a non-profit organization serving member/users of the Texas Instruments 99/4A HOME COMPUTER and compatibles.

### INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

Minutes of last meeting  
President's Article  
Editor's Comments  
Treasurer's Report  
Vice-Presidents Article  
POWER SUPPLY CORRECTION  
CORRECT V2.2 CONSOLES

TI MOD. MANUAL  
A GENEVE IS HERE!  
TI-99/4A,QI AND 99/5 Layout  
Bits and Bytes  
Computer Humor  
Swap and Sell  
RGB MONITOR INTERFACE

### TIPS FROM TIGERCUB

\*\*\*\*\*

\* \* \* TEXAS INSTRUMENTS \* \* \*

Do you have their number?

TI CARES : 1-800-842-2737  
TI MANUALS : 806-741-2265  
TECHNICAL ASS'T : 806-741-2663

The Amarillo 99/4A Users Group(AUG) releases its newsletter 12 times annually in Amarillo, Texas. Material contained within this newsletter has been freely compiled from various sources (cited when ever possible). While every attempt has been made to provide high quality factual and interesting articles, the AUG and its editorial staff cannot accept responsibility for errors in advertising or text appearing in this newsletter. Any articles concerning hardware modifications are printed with the understanding that the modifications void the warranty and are undertaken at the reader's own risk!

===== DISCLAIMER =====

The Amarillo 99/4A Users Group (AUG) is not affiliated with Texas Instruments and has no type of relationship with them, either implied or otherwise. WE are an independent non profit organization. Views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the group.

===== ADVERTISING RATES =====

For best results, each ad must be on white photocopy ready media. The AUG is not held liable for any damages exceeding the cost of advertising. Members of the AUG are permitted to advertise TI equipment in the Swap and Sell section at no cost.

FULL PAGE	\$10.00
HALF PAGE	5.00
QUARTER PAGE	3.00
BUSINESS CARD	2.00

\*\*\*\*\*

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Keep other TI99ers in touch with your work by contributing articles, programs and helpful tips. If you want to grow and prosper then your help is needed and appreciated by the officers and staff of the AUG. For information about submitting articles, call Sam Burton - Editor, at (806)-352-4778.

We welcome papers, tutorials and application articles. Length should be 400-500 words. We prefer delivery by mail or on a 5 1/4 diskette using TI-Writer compatible format. Double spaced, letter quality hard copy is acceptable. Original computer art work (TI-Artist or MAX-RLE files) are welcome. Please include a short biography and author's telephone number.

\*\*\*\*\*

MINUTES .....By Sam Burton

The meeting was called to order by Joe Slutz at 7:12 PM.

Old Business consisted of discussion about the TI Fair in Dallas.

New business consisted of a renewal of the Micropendium subscription.

DEMOS: Sam Burton showed off the PARE-FORE golf simulation and Mike Phillips demoed FUNNELWEB 4.0 and SPAD XIII. Joe Slutz discussed the speech to console hardware modification, and Steven Eggers brought in his GENEVE computer " to prove that he really had one". The meeting broke into a talk session on the problems the Sisters in Borger were having with their QI consoles. PRBASE problems were discussed as well.

The meeting broke into smaller discussion groups and the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

ATTENDING WERE: Joe Slutz, Steve Eggers, Sam Burton, Vicky Burton, Diana Woods, Fred Dennis, Frank Aleman, Erwin Kohn, Corkey Billingsley, Carl Bourn, Sister Claire, Sister Margret

\*\*\*\*\*

From Your Editor.....Sam Burton

Well it is sure great to see some fresh faces in our group! It is always heartening to see new members joining the ranks of the TI community. Let me tell you that not all microcomputers are equal.... not all microcomputer users groups will treat you like a family like the TI groups will. I know many members of the MS-dos, Apple, and Commodore groups but really enjoy the TI99ers the best! We seem to be the orphaned stepchild of microcomputing...but our machine is still here and still kicking the pants off other machines.

With the addition of the TI upgrade (GENEVE 9640) this fact becomes even more apparent. The GENEVE has AMIGA quality graphics, runs faster than an AMIGA (at 12 MHz), and can even do multitasking like an IBM PS2! And with GEME the GENEVE offers better user friendliness than a MAC II graphics interface. Pretty good for the orphaned stepchild of microcomputing.

\*\*\*\*\* TREASURER'S REPORT \*\*\*\*\*  
 JULY 1988  
 \*\*\*\*\*

FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 1 - JUNE 30

CASH ON HAND, BEGIN	\$ 256.26
CASH RECEIPTS	15.00
CASH AVAILABLE	271.26
CASH DISBURSED	00.00
CASH ON HAND , END	271.26

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: DIANA WOODS, TREASURER AUG

\*\*\*\*\*



FROM UUU UUU PPPPPP  
 UUU UUU PPP PPP  
 THE UU UU PPPPPP 'S  
 UUU PFP  
 V PPP DESK

I am enjoying the use of my Geneve 9640 Computer system and speed and versatility of this magnificent computer. I recently got a RAVE 99 Speech Synthesizer Adapter Card and DS/DD drives. I still need an analog RGB monitor and I am in the process of trying to get the AMIGA 1080 RGB monitor which will display the graphics capability of the 9640 quite well and also show the graphics interlacing mode. I also want to get the GIF (Graphics Interchange Format) files for the 9640 and TELCO programs. I also need to get the MYARC mouse and MYART drawing program. I am excited about owning a Geneve 9640 computer and I will give a demonstration of the system at the next meeting. See you there!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Steve Eggers

BITS AND BYTES by Samuel RM Burton

The latest news from TI is that they will still support the TI 99 but has no plans to upgrade the system with a newer computer. TI also will discontinue the 1-800 number for a regular pay number.

The Amarillo Users Group now joins the ranks of those who have invested in the future of TI computer by buying a MYARC 9640 GENEVE computer. Steve Eggers recently received his computer in the mail and is presently making arrangements to demonstrate the power of the new machine at our next meeting. TELCO will be the next terminal emulation standard for the TI community.

Steve and I, called some of the BBS's that support the new 9640 and were pleasantly surprised at the numbers and quality of new (unheard of for our group) programs. We both now realize how important telecommunications is to the life of the TI users groups. More on downloads later.....

FCC has decided not to increase line charges for telecommunications...this is good news for all who use the long distance lines for strictly data transfers.

The Boston Computer Society TI Users Group has sent us a very interesting newsletter and asked to join our exchange program.

Nick Iacovelli of the Chicago Users Group wants to have a listing of our library in order to upgrade and duplicate their LARGE public domain library for our group. In his letter he said we would be able to upgrade our library for the cost of shipping!

Garth Potts of the Sooners 99ers wants to exchange newsletters and let us know about their BBS.

TI NET announces the first annual programming contest....Awards will consist of software and offers for commercial contracts. Programs, graphics, and games for the TI/99 and 9640 will be accepted. Ask me for more details if interested.

Our MICROpendium subscription has been renewed. Please take advantage of this fine information source.

Charlotte TI99 UG has changed their newsletter name to TI-READER...read back issues of this fine newsletter in the Amarillo Main Library TI-DRAWER of old newsletters.

REPLACEMENT STRIPS FOR THE TI 99/4A HOME COMPUTER

AMARILLO 99/4A USERS GROUP  
SUPPORTING THE TI HOME COMPUTER SINCE 1982

Character	Line	Page	TI-Base						
DEL	INS	ERASE	INS	FWD	BACK	HELP	EXE	ESC	QUIT

SINGLE EXECUTE	CONT EXECUTE	PRGM/STAT SCREEN	INTRUPS ON/OFF	SOUND OFF	newline	Mid line	New page	SAVE OPTIONS	EXIT	CTRL
MEMORY WINDOW	MEMORY SIZE	DISASSEM SIZE	Page Up	SEARCH	Page Down	OPTIONS	REGISTERS	EDIT FIELD/MEM	BASIC BIAS ON/OFF	ASCII/HEX
										FCTN

HEX	ASCII	E/A	↓	MainMenu	↓	WRITE				SK PATCH
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ASCII	Block	Center	H-tab	Graphics	newline	Mid line	New page	SAVE OPTIONS	EXIT	CTRL
DELETE	INSERT		↓	BEGIN	↓	MENU	END	EDIT FIELD/MEM	BASIC BIAS ON/OFF	ASCII/HEX
										FCTN

Delete	Insert	Pick-up	↓	<->	↓	InsertBklt	Erasseline	Deliver	ExitEditor	
										FORTH

DEL	INS	LIST DV.	HALT	MainMenu	Ex. Y/N	PrintCat.	REDO	BACK	QUIT	ON 1000
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SLOWER	FASTER	DRAW	ERASE	NOHELP	ZOOM	COLORS	LINES	CIRCLES	COPY	MENU
										GRAPH X

BaudRate	PrintSpool	Parity	Mod.Port.	Prt.Par.	Prt.Port.	Prt.Baud	TextColor	ScreenColor		LAST TERM
			BreakTone	<->						QUIT

HOME LOWER RIGHT	TAB	NXT UNL CELL	FORWARD CHAR BACK CHAR	FORWARD WORD BACK WORD	CHANGE WINDOW	REL/ABS HELP	RECALC	BACK SPACE	DELETE FORWARD	CANCEL
										MULTI PLAN

SPEAK	OUTPUT	CANCEL	TRANS	WRAP	CASE	PAGE			EXIT	QUIT
										TE-II

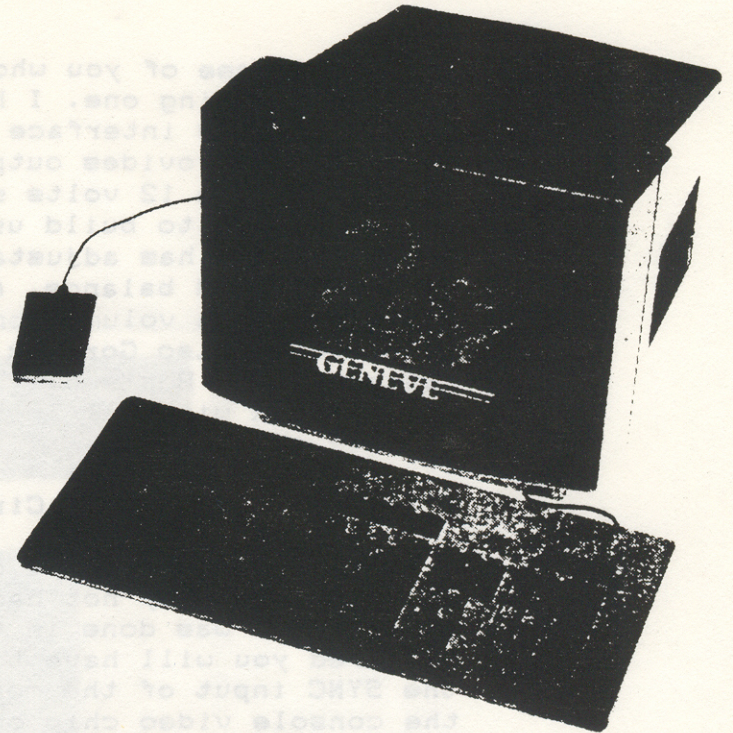
DELETE CHAR	INSERT CHAR	DELETE LINE	ROLL UP	NEXT SCREEN	ROLL DOWN	TAB	INSERT LINE	ESCAPE	QUIT	QUIT
										ES/AS

OOPSI DEL CHAR	REFORMAT INS CHAR	SCREEN COLOR DEL LINE	NEXT PARAGRAPH ROLL DOWN	DUPE LINE NEXT WINDOW	LAST PARAGRAPH ROLL UP	WORD TAB	NEW PARAGRAPH INS LINE	NEW PAGE COMMAND/ESCAPE	WORD WRAP LINE #s	QUIT
										TI-WRITER

DEL	INS	ERASE	CLEAR	BEGIN	PROC'D	AID	REDO	BACK	QUIT	
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I recieved my Geneve 9640 computer on June 8th and I was very excited when I opened the box and saw the 9640 card and the keyboard and the hardbound users manual that comes with the system. As I read and looked at the manual on how to set up the 9640 I grew more and more excited. After all of this, I finally booted up the machine and had a looksee around the system. I was very impressed with the M-Dos (Myarc-Disk Operating System) and how much alike it is to MS-Dos. I dumped all of my cartridges to disk using the cartridge saver program and started on my way. All of the cartridges I saved worked like a charm without any hitches. I was surprised that on the 9640 all of the software ran better, nicer, neater, and faster than on my 99/4A.

At first, I was uncertian about buying a Geneve 9640 computer because of all of the bad mouthing it gets from people like Carole Goldstein and Bob Fowler of the Chicago Users Group. Everyother word out of thier mouth is a dig to the 9640. I haven't had the problem of my two drives not loading any of my software or the MY-Word processor not printing two times in a row. I really think that thes people bought a 9640 to find every little problem possible with the 9640 and then complain about it in 4 issues of their user group newsletter and let the country know not to buy a Geneve 9640. You two people ( Carole and Bob ) expect too much at one time. Yes, Myarc does promise an Advanced Basic and a 4.21 run time of Pascal. But, when you bought your 9640, didn't the dealer tell you that these software packages are not finished? I was. Now come on people, lets be realistic, would you rather have an Advanced Basic and a 4.21 run time of Pascal full of bugs or would you rather have a ready to run Advanced Basic and a 4.21 run time of Pascal without bugs? I know my answer and I am pretty sure that I know yours.



The **GENEVE 9640** by MYARC, Inc.

Let us analyze the Geneve 9640.

First, Myarc is doing all a great favor by building the Geneve 9640. The 9640 is the computer Texas Instruments should have made and marketed, remember the 99/8?

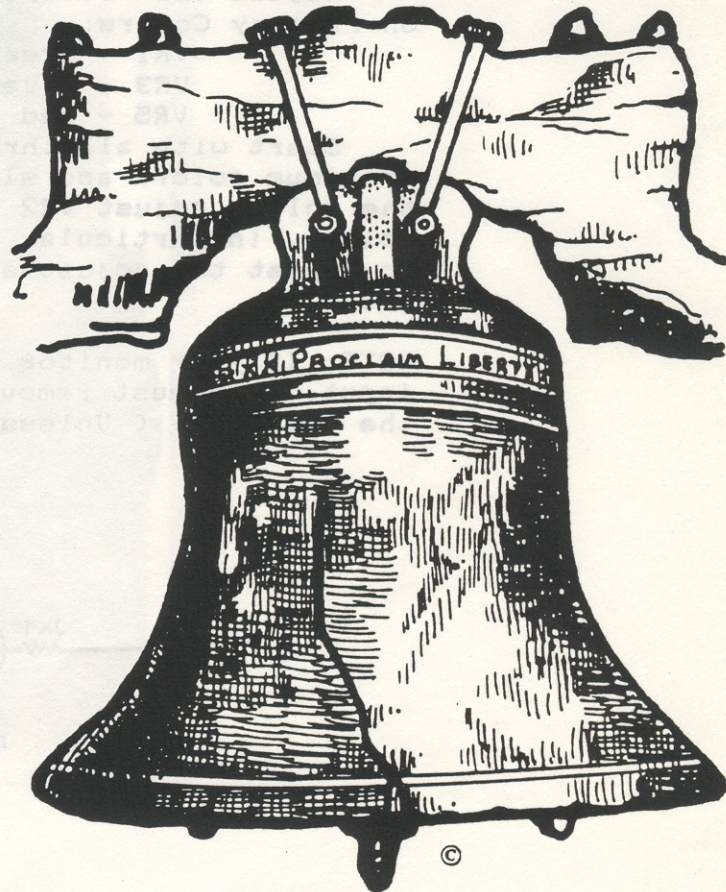
Second, the 9640 breathes new life in to the 99/4A world by giving us the speed and versatility we would like to have with our 99/4A.

Third, the average 99/4A user would have all of the hardware needed to run a decent 9640 (i.e RS232, Disk Controller). The only things a potential 9640 owner would have to buy would be an analog RGB monitor, a speech synthesizer adapter card, and DS/DD drives. ( I have all of this but the RGB monitor which I plan to purchase last.)

I am glad to see that a company respected and known in the 99/4A world built this wonderful new machine, my compliments go to Myarc and their engineers. Because, I know of no other company in the world that would build a 99/4A compatible computer. I remember hearing about a month after TI's pull out of the Home Computer market that Texas Instruments was going to build another machine that was 4A compatible. Did these rumors ever materialize????? I am now hearing that boxes under contract from TI that say Texas Instruments Home Computer on them!!! Now, think about this for a minute, do you think that Texas Instruments would come out with a machine with its own operating system, not MS-Dos compatible, and run the risk of going into bankrupcy and having to pull out of the market again! If TI does come out with a new home computer it will certainly be MS-Dos compatible and if it isn't, no one will buy the computer because of what happened on a Friday in October of 1983.

This artical got a little long but, I just wanted to bring up some points that are important to us all.

Steve Eggers



# RGB Monitor Interface for the TI99/4A

by Peter Schubert, TIsHUG

For those of you who have an RGB color monitor, or would consider getting one. I have just finished building and testing an RGB interface board that plugs into the standard console and provides outputs for an Analog RGB monitor. It is powered by the 12 volts supplied from the modulator socket, and is simple to build using common transistor (8 off) and resistors. It has adjustable resistors for setting color saturation and balance. Also included is a single chip sound amplifier with volume control. A printed circuit board has been made by Leo Gorniak and for details on availability, contact Cyril Bohlsen. This PCB can be mounted into a small plastic box with a 3 inch speaker, or directly inside the console or monitor

## Circuit Diagram

Figure 1 shows the complete circuit of the RGB board. Some monitors may not handle the Y signal for the console directly as was done in this design, and as it is not buffered you will have to remove the 75 ohm termination from the SYNC input of the monitor, as this load is too high for the console video chip output. Figure 2 shows an optional buffer stage that can be added if needed. It requires a 5 volt power supply which must be regulated, and because it must drive a 75 ohm load will draw more current from the console 12 volt than desired. This is one reason why I did not use it, because it is the 12 volt regulator in the console which makes it hot.

## Adjustment Procedure

Adjust the following potentiometers for color saturation on Primary Colors:

- VR1 - Green
- VR3 - Blue
- VR5 - Red

Start with all three potentiometers fully clockwise (minimum color) and slowly turn each counter-clockwise to get the color. Adjust VR2 and VR4 for purity of the secondary colors, in particular CYAN and MAGENTA. It may be necessary to repeat the adjustment procedure to obtain a true white and grey.

NOTE: If your monitor has a 75 ohm termination on the SYNC input, this must be removed by opening the monitor and cutting the resistor. ( Unless Fig. 2 is used )

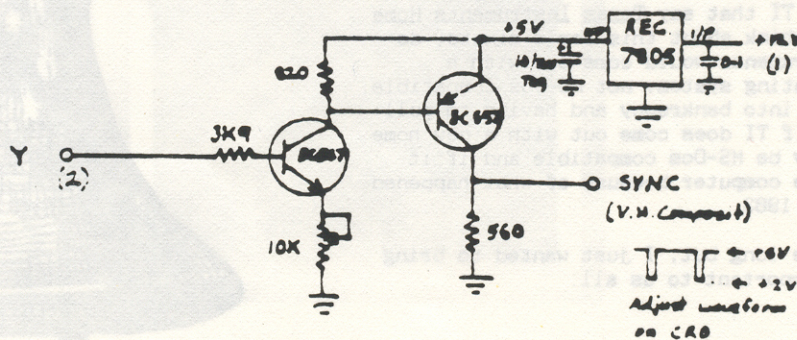


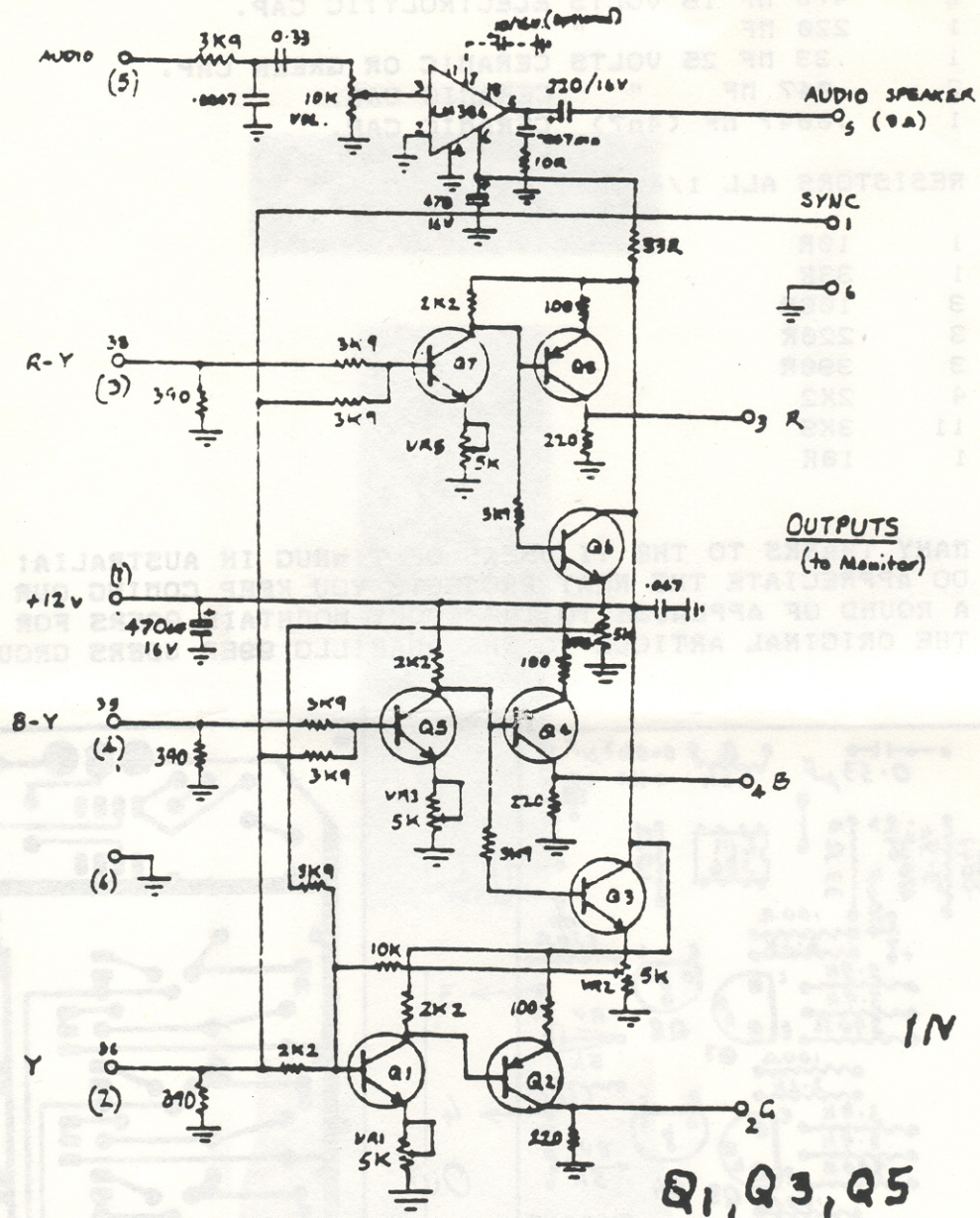
FIG. 2



TI-99/4A RGB INTERFACE (ANALOG)

13-3-88 P. Schubert

INPUTS (from Console)



OUTPUTS  
(to Monitor)

Q2, Q4, Q8  
BC 558

FIG. 1

Q1, Q3, Q5  
Q6, Q7  
BC 548

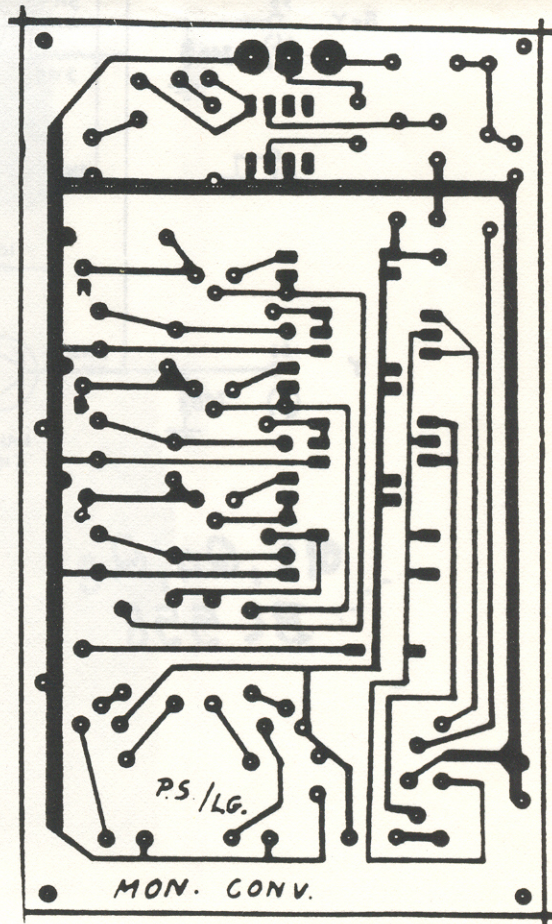
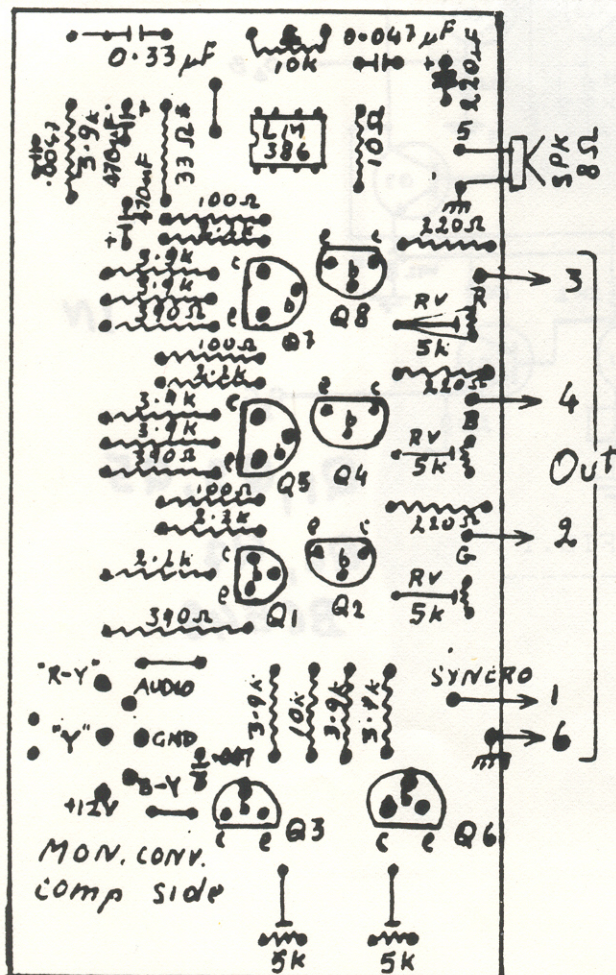
PARTS LIST FOR RGB CARD

- 5 BC547,548 TRANSITOR (NPN)
- 3 BC557,558 " (PNP)
- 1 LM386 SOUND IC
- 1 3 INCH SPEAKER
- 5 5KA TRIM POT MINIATURE
- 1 10KC VOLUME CONTROL POT
- 2 470 MF 16 VOLTS ELECTROLYTIC CAP.
- 1 220 MF "
- 1 .33 MF 25 VOLTS CERAMIC OR GREEN CAP.
- 2 .047 MF " CERAMIC CAP.
- 1 .0047 MF (4n7) CERAMIC CAP.

RESISTORS ALL 1/4 WATT 5%

- 1 10R
- 1 33R
- 3 100R
- 3 220R
- 3 390R
- 4 2K2
- 11 3K9
- 1 10K

MANY THANKS TO THE TI USERS OF TI9HUG IN AUSTRALIA! WE REALLY DO APPRECIATE THE NEAT PROJECTS YOU KEEP COMING OUR WAY. ALSO A ROUND OF APPLAUSE TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN 99ERS FOR GETTING THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE TO THE AMARILLO 99ER USERS GROUP!



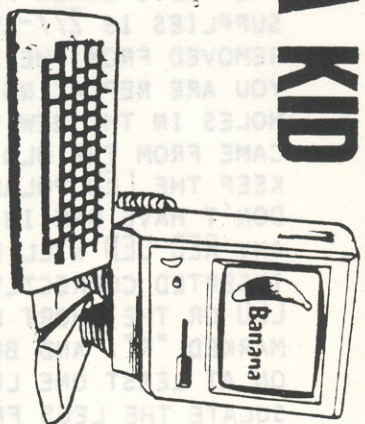
# GENE SIMMONS NEVER HAD A PERSONAL COMPUTER WHEN HE WAS A KID



How do we know? We know because our own well-documented research has shown conclusively that a child who lacks his own personal computer during those earliest school years will very probably grow up to be a bass player in a heavy-metal rock band who wears women's fishnet pantyhose and sticks his tongue down to his kneecaps. Just like Gene Simmons.

Your child's future doesn't have to look like this.

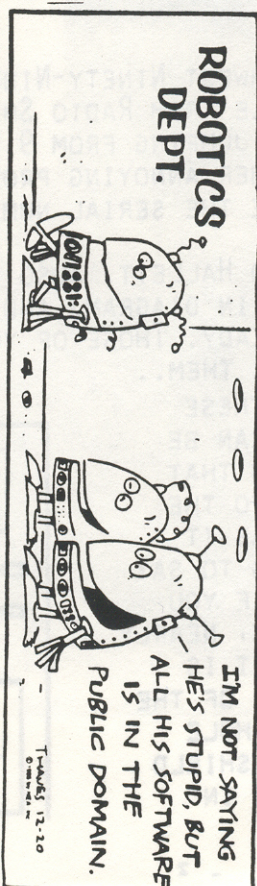
The Banana Junior 6000 Self-portable Personal Computer System, complete with its optional software—BananaWrite, BananaDraw, Bananafile and Bananamanager—is just what your four-year-old needs to compete in today's cut-throat world of high tech and high expectations.



Say NO to spandex and chrome. Say YES to silicon.

**The Banana Junior 6000...**  
Buy one before it's too late.  
Gene's mother wishes she had.

## Frank and Ernest



## Frank and Ernest



## Shoe



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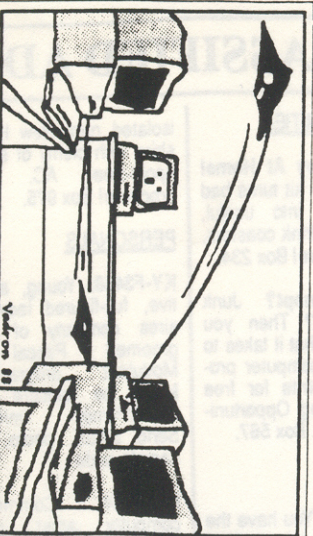
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Pewaukee, IL 60069



Birm Ingersoll, Riverview, N.B. Can.



The Computer Olympics are on. It looks like Jerry has got about 20 feet in the diskette throw and he's that's a nice hand off in the relay...

# THE HACKER'S HOROSCOPE

**ARIES:** You will have unusual success with audio or graphic digitization today. Avoid printer dumps.

**TAURUS:** It's your lucky day for tank and other land vehicle war games, and spelling checkers.

**GEMINI:** A good day for making backups. Problem copy protection will readily succumb to your efforts. But watch your dongles.

**CANCER:** Look out for a new strain of bootblock virus over the next few days. A good day for playing new text adventure games as long as you make maps.

**LEO:** It is most urgent that you remove your ID from any local pirate BBSs. But, as usual, a great day for writing screen display hacks.

**VIRGO:** Beware of shrink-wrap agreements: breaking the seal will be particularly fateful today. A good day for file copying, formatting hard drives and desktop video.

**LIBRA:** You will be plagued with file transmission errors. Avoid any activity which requires passing data through a

cable or telephone line. Even kite flying will be problematic. Spend the day with family and friends, however boring that may be.

**SCORPIO:** You will make your best scores on arcade games today, but avoid pressing your luck on flight simulators: Do not loan any disks to your friends.

**SAGITTARIUS:** An excellent day for creating macros and installing utilities. Brevity and speed are the watchwords. Printer dumps to your daisywheel printer or getting online at 300 baud could be especially disastrous now.

**CAPRICORN:** Stick to standard Kernel ROM calls today. Its a good day for organizing directories and mailing lists.

**AQUARIUS:** Beware of placing cold beverages on or near your disk drives. You will find RAM resident utilities to be more beneficial than usual.

**PISCES:** Making an 800-number discount order will end up costing more than it's worth. You will be surprised to find what you need locally or in the public domain.

# CLASSIFIED ADS

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Make Money At Home!** Professional kit turns bad 3.5" disks into useful, decorative drink coasters. Free brochure! Box 234.

**Socially inept?** Junk food junkie? Then you may have what it takes to become a computer programmer! Write for free "Programming Opportunities" booklet. Box 567.

## OCCULT

**Be a Guru!** You have the power within you to draw crowds of adoring fans at computer shows and be swamped with messages every time you go online. Free book shows how. Box 777.

## SERVICES

**COMPUTER CAMP-** Your computer has worked hard for you all year. Why not reward it by sending it to camp! Quiet, wooded campground in

isolated rural New Hampshire with plenty of stable, ripple-free AC. Free brochure! Box 975.

## PERSONALS

**KY-F3448.** Young, attractive, full-figured lady desires company of well-groomed Pascal or Modula-2 programmer. Must be sincere and 68000-family minded. Send SASE, photo, and sample code.

**IL-M2744.** Commercial computer artist, male, needs female model for dithering. Serious inquiries only.

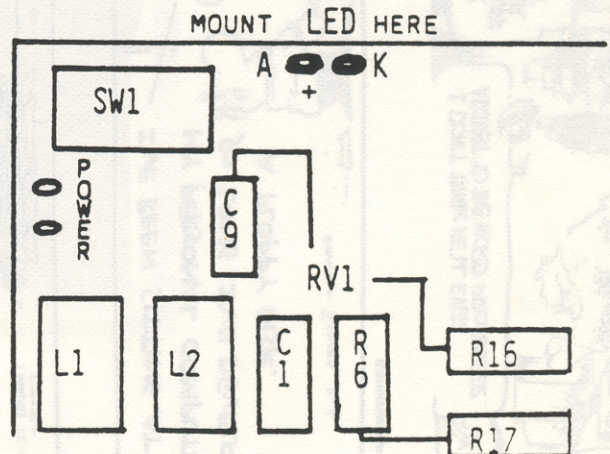
**OH-M7832.** Professional sysop, 22, seeks lovely lady with a great baud. Serious inquiries will EMail and upload digitized photo.

**Sheila:** I can't live without you. All is forgiven. Please come back. Love, Sammy (P.S.: Don't forget to bring the Amiga with you.)

B. J. MATHIS WRITING IN THE SOUTHWEST NINETY-NINERS (MARCH 1988) ISSUE, REPORTS THAT MANY POWER SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FROM RADIO SHACK FOR THE TI CONSOLE, HAD A PROBLEM WITH UNSTEADY +12 VOLTS, JUMPING FROM 9.5 V. TO 11.5 V. THUS CAUSING THE CONSOLE TO LOCK-UP AS WELL AS OTHER ANNOYING PROBLEMS. THE SUPPLIES AFFECTED HAD A PART NUMBER ON THE BOARD (ABOVE THE SERIAL NUMBER) OF 1053214-2, THE GOOD ONES HAD A PART NUMBER OF 1053201.

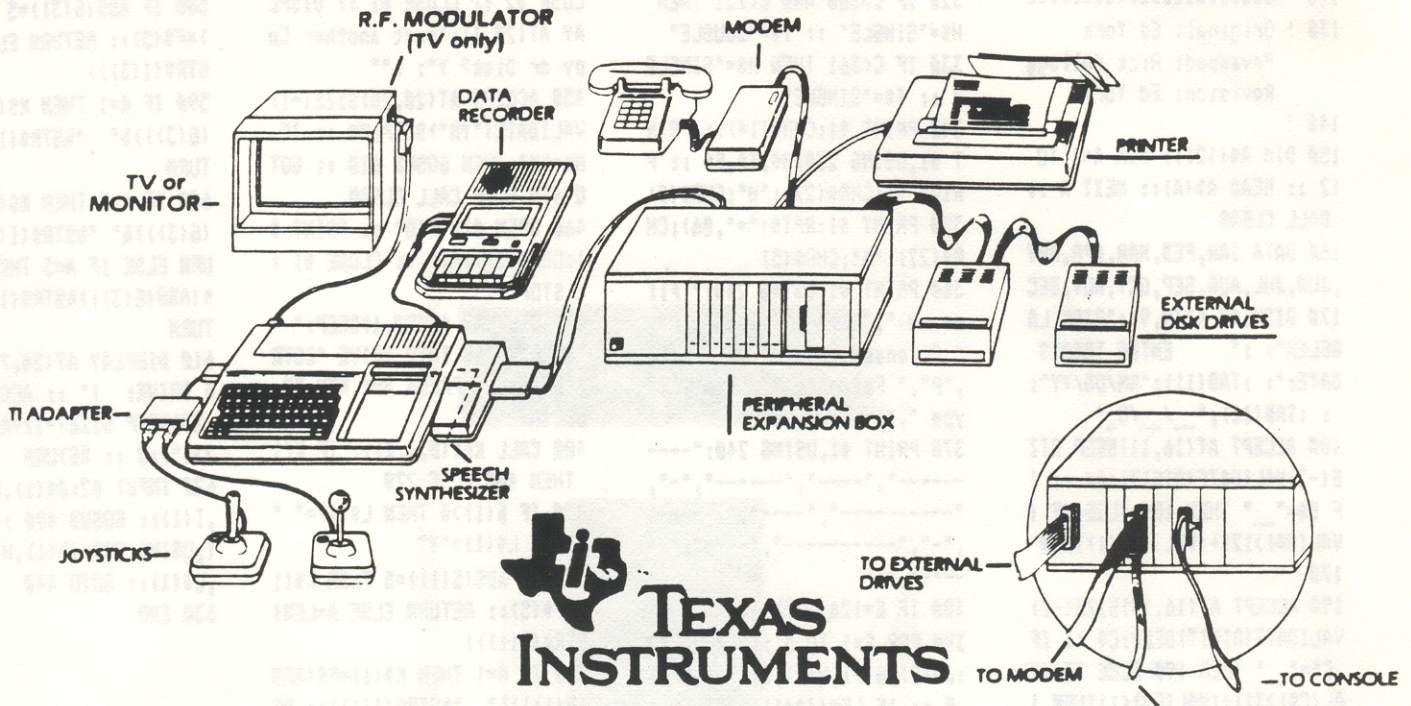
MR. MATHIS GOES ON TO SAY THAT ED HALLETT, ALSO OF THE SW 99'ERS, DISCOVERED THAT BY ADDING A 300 OHM RESISTOR (R6 IN DIAGRAM) AND LED TO THE "BAD" POWER SUPPLIES, CAUSED THE +12 VDC TO BECOME STEADY. THOSE OF YOU WHO BOUGHT SOME OF THE SUPPLIES AFFECTED, WILL NOW BE ABLE TO USE THEM..

THE RADIO SHACK PART NUMBER FOR THESE SUPPLIES IS 277-1016. THE DIODE CAN BE REMOVED FROM THE DEFECTIVE SUPPLY THAT YOU ARE REPLACING, AND PLACED INTO THE HOLES IN THE NEW SUPPLY EXACTLY AS IT CAME FROM THE OLD SUPPLY. THIS IS TO SAY KEEP THE LED POLARITY THE SAME. IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE IN YOUR OLD SUPPLY, NEARLY ANY RED LED WILL DO, AS LONG AS IT IS INSERTED CORRECTLY. THE FLAT SIDE OF THE LED OR THE SHORT LEG GOES TO THE HOLE MARKED "K", AND BE SURE TO PUT A SHIELD ON AT LEAST ONE LEG OF THE LED TO INSULATE THE LEGS FROM EACH OTHER.





# YOUR 99/4A SYSTEM AT A GLANCE....



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**KEN ESPIOU**  
 PRESIDENT

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**Susan Barackman**

1330 Fairfax  
 Paris, TX. 75460  
 214-789-5247

**FINE ANIMAL PORTRAITS**  
 done in oil paints  
 on stretched canvas

**1988 PRICE LIST**

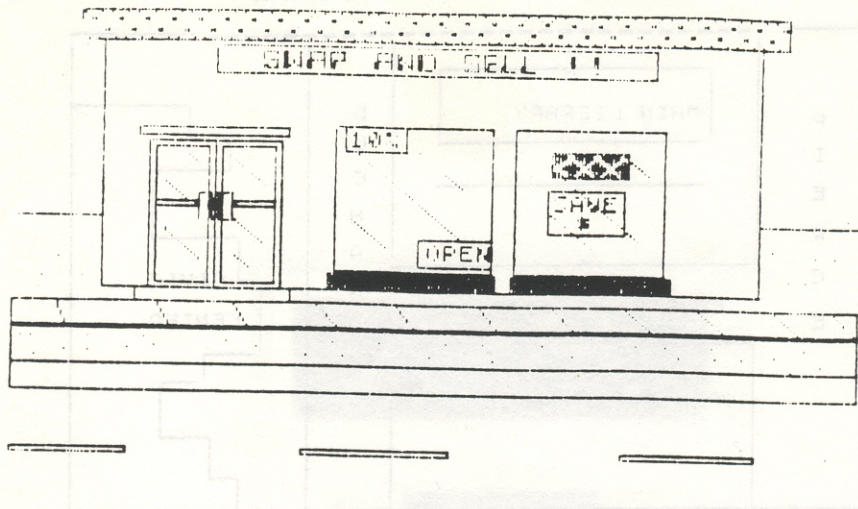


8x10	-	\$40
9x12	-	\$55
11x14	-	\$75
13x16	-	\$95
14x18	-	\$125
18x20	-	\$190



price includes p&h to  
 DFW Metroplex area

other sizes  
 available



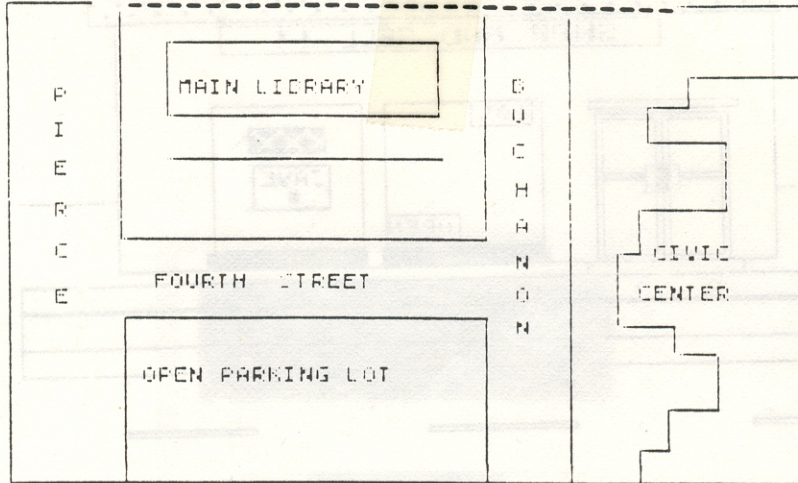
**F O R   S A L E :**

- TI P.E. Box w/32K & disk drive - \$150
- TI external disk drive assembly - \$50
- Half-height DS/DD disk drives - \$50
- TI RS-232 card for P.E. box - \$50
- CorComp RS-232 card for box - \$40
- Unitech Modem/Speakerphone - \$40
- 1200-baud autodial modem - \$100
- TI Speech Synthesizer - \$25
- PLATO cartridge - \$40
- TI joysticks - \$10
- TI WRITER - \$20
- TI LOGO - \$20

Fred Dennis 355-3868



AUG MEETING LOCATION MAP



MEETINGS ARE SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7:00 PM  
IN MEETING ROOM ON SECOND FLOOR OF MAIN LIBRARY...I'LL  
SEE YOU THERE!

Amarillo 99/4 Users Group  
P.O. Box 8421  
Amarillo, TX. 79114

