

**CLEVELAND AREA 99/4 USER GROUPS
NEWSLETTER**

from

NORTHCOAST

SOLOON

TI-CHIPS

GOLDEN_CRESCENT

JANUARY - 1985

Executive Notes - Solon

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Please attend our annual meeting on Saturday January 12, 1985. On that day, we will elect the officers for 1985.

Thank you Frank Jenkins for your demonstration of the MULTIPLAN command module.

Hope to see you all in 1985.

Walter Ryder, President

JANUARY MEETING

Saturday, January 12, 1985

On this first meeting of the new year we've planned a belated Holiday luncheon at which we will elect and/or reelect a new slate of officers. QUINN'S Restaurant, who hosted us so well last year, is the spot. The luncheon starts at the usual time...11:30 A.M. Address follows:

QUINN'S RESTAURANT

33175 Aurora Rd. (Route 43), Solon, Ohio

(On north side of street, several blocks west of SOM Center)

Editorial Comments

In addition to Walts' comments on Frank Jenkins' well organized MULTIPLAN presentation, I'd like add my thanks. I wish you all could have seen it. I've just purchased it, and he gave me a lot of pointers. I think it will be an ideal tool for setting up a budget...better than TI's Household Budget in particular.

Talked with Charles LaFara, Intn'l. Users Group prez. He says May/June issue of Enthusiast '99 was last to be published. I gathered that IUG is taking the "deep six"! Apparently they only received about 3% membership renewals...and they originally had over 100,000 members. Re:Ken Vargo's cry for info on Home Computer magazine, I just received an issue...the first in a long time, and of no great interest (to me). Most agree that Compendium is the way to go. I have all the original copies of 99'er, if Ken wishes to contact me at 561-2967, I'll be glad to discuss it with him.

Called Dr.Grunder, the partner of the Grunder & Smyth-Staruch articles on computers in the Plain Dealer. His secretary says the newspaper "dumped" them. What a shame! The new author appears to be a little more sophisticated than we need. Their booklet "Complete Guide to Cleveland Computing", was shown to us at our last meeting. It costs \$8.95, and is supposed to be at local book stores. I looked for it (but didn't ask), at the three stores in Randall..to no avail.

Jon Lucas sent us the following sheet from Millers Graphics, which we're reproducing. Next month I'll hope to publish some goodies I gleaned from copies of other newsletters.

"We're late, We're late...for a very important date", and couldn't hold off for TI CHIPS copy submission. Our apologies.

THE SMART PROGRAMMER

To start off this issue we have a couple announcements to make about some new products for the 99/4A. We were recently contracted by SCI TECH to work on the firmware for a RAM Disk card (Disk Emulator) for the 99/4A PE Box. SCI TECH is an established computer related company in Southern California that is branching out to manufacture products for the TI 99/4A.

This RAM Disk card is slated to be user expandable from 64K up to 256K in 64K increments. There is also space on the board to plug in an optional 32K for use as memory expansion, if you don't already have it. This card will have an optional external power supply available for it which will allow you to turn off your system without losing the contents of the RAM Disk. The RAM Disk can hold ALL types of files and programs, including Forth, and depending on the size you can have up to 127 different files stored in it at one time. If the card does not have the external power supply attached it will automatically format itself on system power up. You can also format it from the complete Advanced Disk Manager that comes with it. The disk manager allows you to format all or part of the RAM Disk. The unformatted part can be used by Assembly programmers as extra ram space. The RAM Disk looks exactly like a disk drive to the system except that it has a much higher transfer rate, approx 10-15 times faster. The load time for a 50 sector Basic program in single density format was approx 18 sec. With the RAM Disk this same program loaded in 1.5 seconds, very fast!

The RAM Disk can be configured, from a command line or a running program, as DSK1 or DSK5 and it can always be accessed as RDSK. The card will also add some new

CALL's to both Basic and X-Basic one of which is:

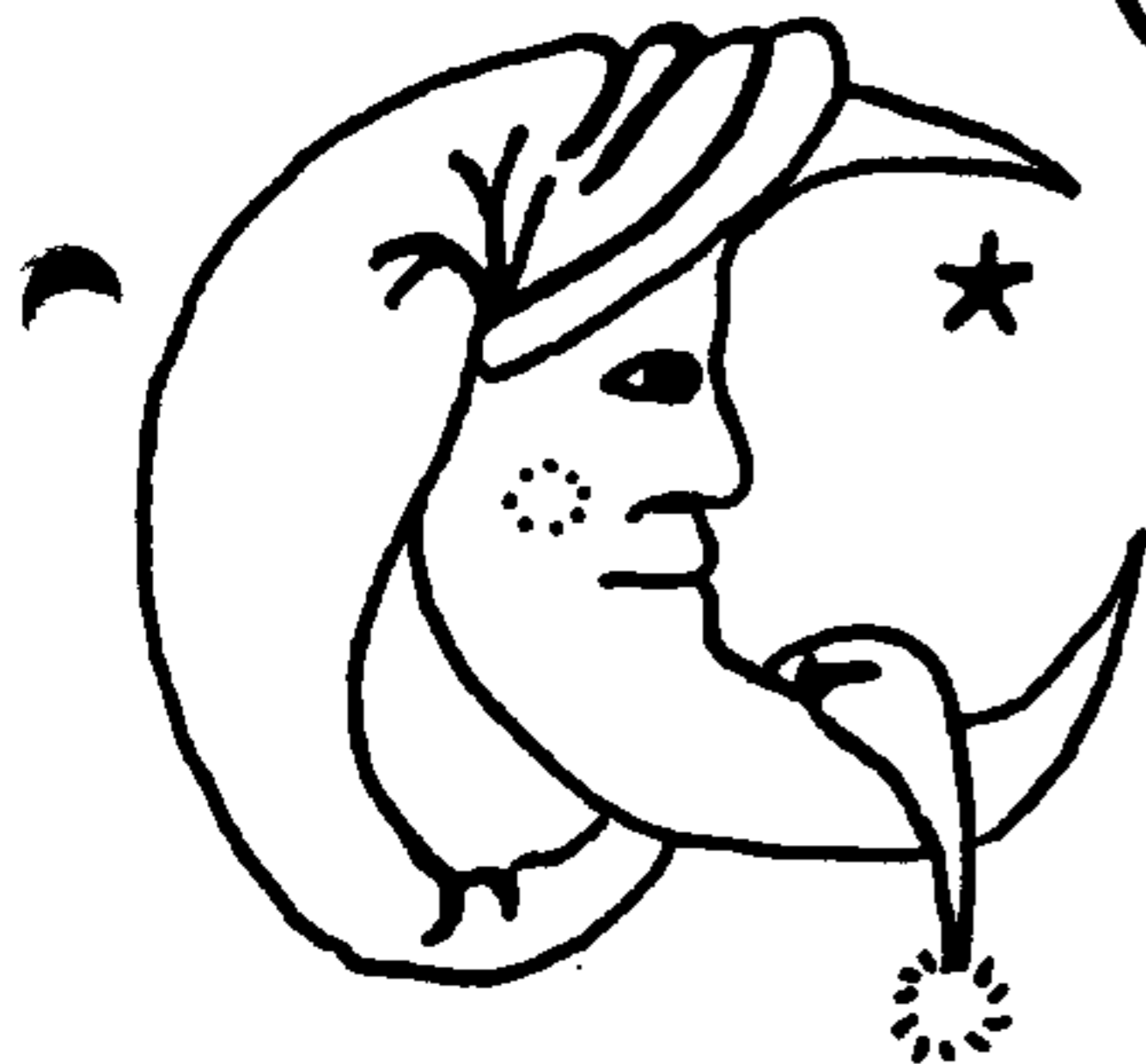
CALL DIR This command or program statement will allow you generate a paged Catalog of any disk in your system WITHOUT losing your program or data in memory! After the directory is finished your program is still intact and can continue execution.

The RAM Disk will be a nice addition to our systems and a great speed enhancer! I currently do not know the exact price or the release date but we will let you know in the next issue.

Millers Graphics is about to release new Memory and Disk Diagnostics program for the 99/4A that is compatible with the TI Disk Controller and the CorComp Disk Controller. This program, which is written by Steve Mildon, will do a complete memory check for VDP, Scratch Pad and Memory Expansion RAM and report any errors it may find. It will also do a complete disk diagnostic check which has the following features:

Check and display the disk drive motor speed (RPM), check the bit map for bad sectors and report their numbers and check the disk for fractured files and report their names. It will also seek out any sector on command and read it or write to it with a verify and it will seek out any track on command and read it or write to it with a verify. It will allow you select different head step times to test your drives with to find the optimum time. After running this program there won't be any doubt in your mind as to the status of your systems memory, diskettes or disk drives. At 19.95 plus 1.50 shipping and handling we believe that you will find it to be a nice utility that is well worth the money. (It should be ready to ship in approx 4 weeks.)

GOLDEN CRESCENT MOONLIGHTER



JANUARY 1985

EDITORSNOTES

EXECUTIVENOTES

CLUB ELECTIONS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS WILL TAKE PLACE
AT THE JANUARY MEETING (the 26th).
THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE WILL BE
SUBMITTING A SLATE AT THAT TIME.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RUN FOR OFFICE
OR SUBMIT A CANDIDATE, CALL DALE
BEDFORD AT 458-8765 OR HAROLD
SKIPWORTH AT 1-631-4529.

WE WILL BE ELECTING :

PRESIDENT

VICE-PRESIDENT

TREASURER

SECRETARY

SEE YOU ELECTION DAY!

P.S. CLUB DUES ARE COMING DUE AND
THOSE OF YOU WITH AN "X" ON YOUR
ADDRESS LABEL WILL NOT RECIEVE A
NEWSLETTER NEXT MONTH UNLESS YOU
RENEW SO RENEW NOW OR MISS OUT ON
A GOOD THING.

WELL IT'S 1985, THE START OF A
NEW YEAR. I HOPE EVERYONE HAS
MADE A FEW RESOLUTIONS FOR THE
NEW YEAR AND I HOPE ONE OF THEM
HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH OUR
USERS GROUP. I PLAN ON MAKING
OUR SECTION ONE OF THE BEST AND
MOST TALKED ABOUT. HOPEFULLY
MANY OF YOU WILL AGREE AND HAVE
A HELPING HAND. TO MAKE THIS
POSSIBLE I CAN'T DO IT ALONE AND
NEED ONE OR TWO PEOPLE TO HELP
OUT. YOU DON'T NEED ANY
EXPERIENCE (I DON'T HAVE ANY)
JUST WILLING TO PARTICIPATE. HOW
ABOUT IT SOMEONE. JUST VOLUNTEER
AND MAKE ME FEEL MY EFFORT IS
NOT WASTED AND MAKE ME PROUD.
THIS MONTH I'D LIKE TO FINALLY
FILL THE POSITION OF SECRETARY.
IT'S BEEN VACANT TOO LONG AND
IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT IT SHOULD
BE FILLED. I ADMIT THAT IT IS'NT
A GLAMOUROUS POST, BUT IT IS
GREATLY NEEDED. COME ON ANY
TAKERS OR IS IT TOO MUCH OF A
CHALLENGE?

HAY! DOES ANYONE OUT THERE KNOW
WHAT'S HAPPENED OR IS HAPPENING
TO HOME COMPUTING MAGIZINE?? IS
DEAD OR WHAT? THE LAST ISSU I'VE
SEEN OR GOT IS THE SEPTEMBER
ONE. WHAT GIVES! IT WAS A GREAT
SOURCE OF T.I. MATERIAL. IF
THEY'RE OUT OF THE PICTURE THEN
ALL WE HAVE LEFT IS MICROPENDIUM
(ANOTHER SMALL BUT GREAT
MAGIZINE). I HOPE THEY DON'T
GIVE UP ON US, WE WON'T HAVE
ANYONE LEFT. IF YOU HAVE ANY
WORD ON H.C.M. DROP US A LINE
AND LET ME KNOW. WE'LL ALL
APPRECIATE IT.
WELL THAT'S IT FROM ME. COME ON
VOLUNTEERS LET ME HEAR FROM YOU
NOW AND KNOW THAT YOUR
INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT LIKE I
WAS. PLEASE!

MOONLIGHTER

ARTICLE

BOY IS TECHNOLOGY CHANGE. IN THE RECENT CREATIVE COMPUTING MAGAZINE THERE APPEARED AN ARTICLE ON THE NEW WAVE OF ROBOTS. THE JAPANESE HAVE DONE IT AGAIN. LITTLE TINY ROBOTS. THEY'RE CALLED MOVITS AND THEY LOOK WILD. THEY'RE BATTERY OPERATED, COME IN KITS, AND ARE'NT VERY USEFUL BUT LOOK LIKE ALOT OF FUN. PRESENTLY 10 OF THE 15 KITS MANUFACTURED ARE AVAILABLE AND ARE BEING IMPORTED BY OWI, INC. (A CALIFORNIAN IMPORTER). LISTED HERE IS A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE MOVITS:

-SOUND SKIPPER AND SKIPPER MECHA, WALK ON TWO WIDELY BASED LEGS IN A SKIPPING MOTION. SKIPPER MECHA IS MORE A TOY BECAUSE OF LACK OF INTELECE (NO CIRCUITRY). SOUND SKIPPER RESPONDES TO SOUND COMMANDS (IE. HAND CLAPPING OR WHISTLE).

-PIPER MOUSE AND PEPPY, HAVE TRICYCLE, WHEELED BASES. PIPER MOUSE RESPONDS TO SOUND COMMANDS AND PEPPY USES MICROPHONE ON A BOOM TO DETECT COLLISIONS ,THEN TURNS AND GOES ON ITS WAY.

-MEMOCON CRAWLER AND LINE TRACER II, ALSO TRICYCLE, WHEELDD BASES THAT ARE TURTLE SHAPED. LINE TRACER II HAS RED INFRA-RED SENSORS THAT IT USES TO FOLLOW LINES ON THE FLOOR. MEMOCON CRAWLER IS THE MOST SOPHISTICATED OF THEM ALL. IT COMES WITH ITS OWN KEYPAD AND CAN BE PROGRAMMED TO TURN LEFT, RIGHT, FORWARD, OR BEEP. WITH A LITTLE BIT OF TINKERING IT CAN BE INTERFACED WITH A COMPUTER AND COMMANDED IN BASIC.

-AVOIDER AND TURN BACKER, SIX-LEGGED MACHINES. AVOIDER USES DETECTS REFLECTIONS WITH ON BOARD INFRA-RED SENSORS WHICH IT USES TO SEE OBJECTS IN ITS PATH. TURN BACKER RESPONDES TO SOUND COMMANDS.

-MR. BOOTMAN AND MONKEY, MORE SIX-LEGGED ROBOTS. MORE A TOY WITH OUT MUCH CIRCUITRY.

TIPS

THOSE OF YOU HAVING PROBLEMS WITH LOSING ALL YOUR HARD WORK BY TYPING FUNCTION QUIT INSTEAD OF SHIFT + WILL LOVE THIS. TO ALLEVIATE THIS PROBLEM THE QUIT COMMAND SHOULD BE DISABLED. THIS CAN BE DONE IF YOU HAVE EXTENDED BASIC AND THE MEMORY EXPANSION. ALL ONE MUST DO IS TYPE IN:

100 CALL INIT

110 CALL LOAD(-31806,16)

TYPE RUN AND QUIT IS GONE.

THANKE GOES TO JEFF MARKEY, FORT DODGE, IA.

ARTICLE (CONT.)

MONKEY MOVES HAND OVER HAND ON STRING OR WIRE.

-MEDUSA, FOUR LEGGED WALKER LIKE WALKING TANKS IN "STAR WARS".

-CIRCULAR, A RADIO-CONTROLLED SYSTEM THAT MIGHT BE ABLE TO INTERFACE WITH A COMPUTER MORE ARE ON THE WAY. THEY COST ABOUT \$20 TO \$75 FOR THE MEMOCON CRAWLER. IN COMPUTER SHOPPER, RIO GRANDE ROBOTICS ADVERTISED THEM FOR SALE.

THEY ALL COME IN A KIT WITH EVERYTHING LABEL AND WITH A WRENCH FOR ASSEMBLY. ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS A SCREWDRIVER AND NEEDLE-NOSE PLYERS. THEY'RE SMALL AND MADE OF PLASTIC BUT THEY LOOK LIKE THEY COULD BE ALOT OF FUN TO HAVE. IF ANYONE PURCHASES ONE OR INTERFACES IT WITH THE T.I. LET ME KNOW I'M INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT THEM. I PLAN ON TELLING MORE ABOUT THEM WHEN I GET A FEW BUCKS TOGETHER AND GET ONE FOR MYSELF.

MY THANKS TO CREATIVE COMPUTING FOR THE NEW TECH VEIW AND WISH RIO GRANDE ROBOTICS LUCK WITH MOVITS.

MOONLIGHTER

B.B.'S

LISTED IS OUR CLUB BULLITIN BORAD AND OTHERS AROUND THE COUNTRY. THOSE WITH MODEMS PLEASE CONTACTS THESE BOARDS AND LET THEM KNOW T.I. IS ALIVE. THEY HAVE A LOT OF HELP TO OFFER AND SOME MAY EVEN NEED YOUR HELP. IT WOULD BE A GREAT SERVE TO SHARE ANY INFORMATION THAT YOU RECEIVE WITH THE REST OF OUR GROUP. REMEMBER TO SUBMIT ANY PROGRAMS ALSO.

* CLUB TI COMM 324-4388
CHUCK MARENO (SYSOP)
SUNDAYS 9 PM - 11 PM

* OTHERS TERRY'S TIBBS
1(902)434-3121
TERRY ATKINSON (SYSOP)
NOVA SCOTIA
HOURS UNKNOWN

TI-LINES TIBBS
1(415)355-3092
MARK WONG (SYSOP)
CALIFORNIA
24 HOURS

SOLICITATION

WE ARE FORMING A PRINT LIBRARY FOR OUR MEMBERS AND ANYONE WISHING TO CONTRIBUTE MATERIAL SHOULD GIVE IT TO ONE OF THE OFFICERS. ALL MAGIZINES, BOOKS, AND ANYTHING THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS IS GREATLY APRECIATED. MEMBERS ARE ALSO URGE TO CONTRIBUTE ANY PROGRAM THAT THEY HAVE CREATED OR AQUIRE THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO SHARE WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS. GIVE THEM TO THE OFFICERS FOR REVIEW AND SO THEY CAN BE FILED ACCORDINLY.

MEETINGS

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD JANUARY 26 1985. ALL MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

SUBSCRIPTIONS : \$12.00 SINGLE
\$17.00 FAMILY
MEETINGS : 2:00 PM
4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
AMHERST FIRE STATION
CHURCH STREET
AMHERST, OHIO

NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED 12 TIMES PER YEAR

CONTRIBUTIONS

ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO SUBMIT PROGRAMS, TIPS, QUESTIONS, OR TECHNICAL INFORMATION TO THE NEWSLETTER. ALL MATERIAL (NO MATTER HOW LONG OR SHORT WILL BE REVIEWED AND USED PROMPTLY). SUBMISSIONS CAN BE ON PAPER, DISK OR TAPE. THE USE OF TI-WRITER OR TEXSCRIBE WILL HELP SPEED UP MATERIAL REVIEW AND SETUP. ALL TAPES AND DISKS WILL BE RETURNED. PRESENTLY THOSE WISHING TO WRITE FOR THE NEWSLETTER MAY AQUIRE A COPY OF TEXSCRIBE BY DROPPING OFF A TAPE OR DISK TO:
GOLDEN CRESCENT MOONLIGHT NEWS
C/O KENNETH VARGO
1111 MIDDLE AVE.
ELYRIA, OHIO 44035

DROP BY IN THE EVENING OR CONTACT ME AT THE MEETING!

MOONLIGHTER

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - CHUCK MARENO
324-4388
VICE PRESIDENT - DICK BURGER
967-1317
TREASURER - DALE SCHIEFERSTEIN
988-5150
SECRETARY - PRESENTLY OPENED
NEEDED DESPERATLY
LIBRARIAN - JUDY HAYDEN
988-5597
EDITOR - KENNETH VARGO
NO PHONE

DEADLINE

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS THE 12TH OF THE MONTH. ALL MATERIAL MUST BE IN MY POSSESSION BY THAT TIME TO ALLOW FOR PRINTING AND LAYOUT WORK.

ADS

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL, TRADE, WANT OR WANT TO GIVE AWAY YOU MAY SUBMIT YOUR AD TO THE NEWSLETTER FOR PRINT. YOUR AD WIL RUN FOR 3 CONSECUTIVE ISSUES AFTER WHICH IT WILL BE WITHDRAWN UNLESS NOTIFIED. THIS IS FREE TO ALL CURRENT MEMBERS. SEND TO:
GOLDEN CRESCENT MOONLIGHTER ADS
C/O KENNETH VARGO
1111 MIDDLE AVE
ELYRIA, OHIO 44035

ADS WILL RUN IN NEAREST ISSUE AFTER SUBMISSION.

WANTS

WANTED*THE FIRST SIX ISSUES OF 99'ER MAGIZINE TO BUY OR BORROW. CONTACT ME AND LET ME KNOW WHAT KIND OF DEAL WE CAN MAKE. DESPERATE!! CONTACT K.M.VARGO 1111 MIDDLE AVE. ELYRIA, OHIO 44035

DO TO MY SYSTEM FAILING WHILE PREPARING THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER SOME OF MY ARTICLES NEVER MADE IT TO PRINT. I WILL MAKE THIS UP NEXT MONTH WITH A LARGER THAN NORMAL SECTION. SORRY: SEE YOU NEXT TIME. KMV * THE EDITOR.

EXECUTIVE NOTES - NORTHCOAST

As we close the books on our first full year as an organization we look ahead to another year with anticipation. We have thrived in spite of the "TI pull-out". Many people have expanded their systems in the past year and others are finally bringing theirs out of the closet.

I, for one, am excited about what 1985 will bring to the club. Those with expanded systems are demanding more from their computers and from the third-party companies. This demand will bring some long-awaited software during the coming year. The club will continue to play an important role in informing users of these new developments.

One of the newer programs was Spell-Checker by Dragonslayer, a utility program to compliment TI-Writer. Thanks to Chuck Mareno of the Golden Crescent User Group for demonstrating this at the December meeting.

For those who want to learn more about TI-Writer, the seminar will be held on January 12th at 1:30 PM in the Euclidian Room of the Euclid Square Mall. Admission will be \$5.00 per person. This fee will be waived for those who bring a full system to the seminar.

Starting this month, our meetings will be held the third Saturday of each month. The January meeting will be held January 19th at 1:30 PM as usual. We will be demonstrating OSCAR, the bar code reader for the TI99/4A. Also, we will be holding our annual election of officers. Be sure to attend and cast your votes.

Jim Cline - President

CLEVELAND AREA 99/4A USERS GROUPS
P.O. BOX 391101
SOLON, OHIO 44139

RR Caboose
USA 11c
Bulk Rate



07/85

!! TIME DATED MATERIAL !!