CLEVELAND AREA
TI-99/4A
USER GROUPS

Oct. - Nov,
~~Nov - Dec.~~ 1998

WITH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE...
1803
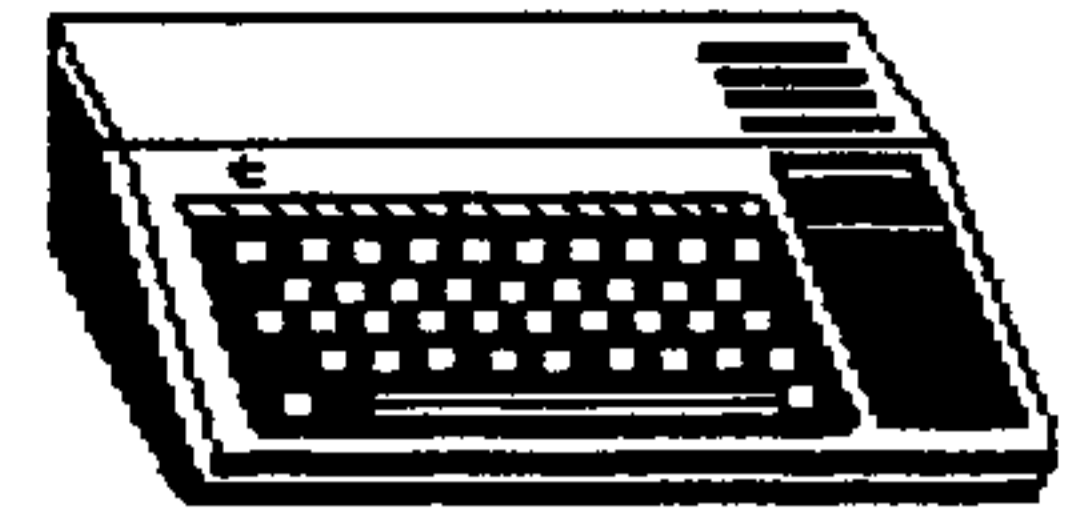
OFFICE	TI-CHIPS		MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Fred Ialacci	941-9397	NOTE TIME CHANGE!
CO-PRESIDENT	** OPEN **		N. Royalton
TREASURER	Lin Shaw (440)	234-4227	County Library
MEMBERSHIP	John Parken	331-2830	State Rd. SO. of
	4172 W. 217th St.		Route 82 1/4mi
	Fairview Pk., OH 44126		EVERY THIRD SAT.
SECRETARY	Glenn Bernaset	230-6335	
DISK LIBRARY	Les Kee	230-6938	OCT 17,1998
TAPE & MODS	John Parken	331-2830	NOV 21,1998
EDITOR	Harry & Nina Hoffman	631-2354	DEC 19,1998

OFFICE	NORTHCOAST 99'ers		MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Ken Gladyszewski	1216 357-7274	1-4 P.M.
CO-PRESIDENT	(OPEN)		Euclidian Room
Treasurer	Frank Jenkins	283-8526	Euclid SQ. Mall
MEMBERSHIP	Martin Smoley	12162571661	E.260th off I-90
	6149 Bryson		(South)
	Mentor, OH 44060		EVERY THIRD SAT.
SECRETARY	Deanna Sheridan	440-979-0041	
DISK LIBRARY	Martin Smoley	1216 257-1661	OCT 17,1998
TAPE & MODS	Frank Jenkins	283-8526	NOV 21,1998
HARD COPY	Dick Alden	12162571661	DEC 19,1998

From the Editor's Desk:

HI TIers,

I have been working overtime for the last several months and not enjoying any of it except for the $$$! I'm finally biting the bullet and refusing this important meeting.

Plans for the Ohio "MUG `99" are going along as planned and though a meeting hall is sketchy, we are making second and third plans. Glenn is doing a terrific job of co-ordinating the MUG`99 and I have every confidence that it will be a great one! All we need is for all to help in this endeaver

The TI-List Server is moving along at a fast clip. Many people are still actively programming and working on hardware that needed upgrades. Mr Becker and his group of hardware prople are busy helping Don Oneil with the SCSI card! Good Luck, guys!

The TI-99 & Geneve is not dead yet, as many are still in love with our simple and great machine!

CU @ the meeTing,

HARRY

Happy Thanksgiving all you
TI-99ers and Genever's!

*** AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ***

ATTENTION *** ALL *** TI-99/4A AND GENEVE 9640 USER GROUPS, PROGRAMMERS, HARDWARE DEVELOPERS, USERS AND VENDORS!

THE TI-CHIPS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE WILL BE HOSTING NEXT YEAR'S TI-99/4A AND GENEVE 9640 M.U.G. CONFERENCE (DUBBED TIMUG `99). TIMUG'99 WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 15 AT THE SPANG MANSION ON KOLTHOFF ROAD IN BROOK PARK, OHIO (A SOUTHWEST SUBURB OF CLEVELAND). (KOLTHOFF ROAD IS 3/4 MILE SOUTH OF CLEVELAND HOPKINS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, OFF OF STATE ROUTE 237, AND DIRECTLY SOUTH OF THE I-X CENTER.)

THE INTERIM CONFERENCE SCHEDULE FOR TIMUG `99 IS AS FOLLOWS:

    WHAT: TI-99/4A AND GENEVE 9640 M.U.G. CONFERENCE (TIMUG `99)
    WHEN: SATURDAY - MAY 15, 1999
    WHERE: SPANG MANSION - BROOKPARK, OHIO

TIME	EVENT
7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	SET-UP TABLES AND DISPLAYS
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	CLEAN UP
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	PIZZA PARTY

(A DELICIOUS AND EXCELLENT ON SITE FOOD SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING THE CONFERENCE.)

(A MAY 14, FRIDAY EVENING, PRE-CONFERENCE SITE HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED. THEREFORE A TIers GET-TOGETHER HAS NOT BEEN SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME.)

(ANY CHANGES IN CONFERENCE DATE, SITE AND/OR SCHEDULE WILL BE ANNOUNCED WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE CONFERENCE TO ENABLE OUR GUESTS TO MAKE SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS.)

TIMUG=9299 WILL BE SET UP MUCH LIKE THE SUCCESSFUL LIMA USER GROUP M.U.G. CONFERENCES.

AND LIKE THE CONFERENCES IN LIMA, THE 1999 CONFERENCE IN BROOK PARK, OHIO WILL BE *** FREE ***!

THERE WILL BE *** NO ADMISSION CHARGES OR SET-UP FEE ***. HOWEVER, WE WILL ACCEPT DONATIONS TO HELP DEFRAY TIMUG `99 CONFERENCE SITE AND SUPPORT COSTS.)

SO... IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR THE TI-99/4A AND/OR GENEVE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHOW, SHARE, SELL OR JUST TALK ABOUT. PLAN TO COME TO TIMUG `99 IN BROOKPARK, OHIO NEXT MAY 15.

ALSO... IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS AND/OR WISH TO MAKE CONFERENCE RESERVATIONS (PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AS-EARLY-AS-POSSIBLE) ..... CONTACT: GLENN BERNASEK, 13246 HARPER ROAD, STRONGSVILLE, OHIO 44136 PHONE: (440)846-0865 (After 9:00 PM EST) (ALL MESSAGES WILL BE ANSWERED)!
E-MAIL: GBBasics@aol.com

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, 1998

The September meeting was so informal, I don't even have any notes written out. Our program person for the month was not in attendance so we talked about this and that.

I was out of town for the October meeting and have not talked with anyone who was present. I see that Frank Jenkins? is scheduled for November.

I received the following e-mail message from Northcoast's founder and president, Jim Cline. I thought you might be interested. He would like to hear from some of you.

From: jcline@erols.com (James R. Cline)
Subject: Hello from Washington, DC
To: aa726@cleveland.Freenet.Edu
Reply-To: jcline@erols.com

Deanna,

    I'm not sure if you remember me or not. It has been at least 10 years since I have seen anyone from the NorthCoast '99ers User group. I was surprised when I did a search on the internet and pulled up your information and found that you are still having meetings. I would assume that great many of you have IBM computers by now. I would be interested in what is happening now.

    What a legacy TI left behind. I still have a couple of my old 99's with the expansion boxes, etc. I would like to get in touch with some of the members to renew old accquaintenances. I would like to come up to one of your meetings in the near future to see the old gang and see what you do at the meetings. The TI-99/4A was quite a computer for it's time.

    Tell everyone I said hi. If any of them have e-mail addresses, please have them contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

    Jim Cline
    11406 Sunflower Lane
    Fairfax, VA 22030
    301-504-0445 x1112
    jcline@erols.com or jcline@cpsc.gov

    P.S. I now work for the US Consumer Product Safety Commission as the Network Manager. Although I am up to my eyeballs in new Dell 350's right now, I will never forget those days with all of you.

    Se ya at the Meeting. Deanna
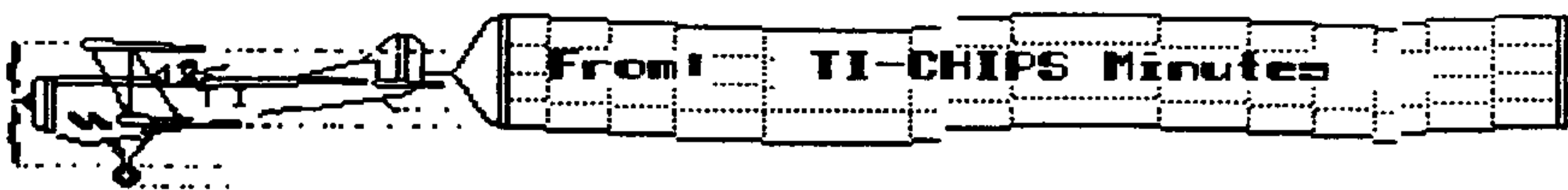
By Glenn Bernasek

The September meeting of the TI-Chips was opened by Fred Ialacci. Reading of the August meeting minutes was waived. Our Treasurer, Lin Shaw, was unable to attend. Therefore I gave his report.

John Parken gave the membership report and stated that there were 21 paid members in the TI-Chips. John said he was working on re-entering membership data in PR Base, and he asked for input on how to organize the data base fields. It was suggested that since John has had the most experience with the membership records, that it would be all right with us what ever way John decided to organize his files.

Les Kee reported that he was able to un-arc the 1997 Lima software files and that he will be working on hard copies of a catalog of the file titles.

Ada Markus gave an excellent report on possible locations for the TIMUG'99. The report, the result of hard and dedicated work by Ada Markus, Nina Hoffman and Matt Andel, was transcribed by Ron Markus. After listening to Ada's presentation and much discussion, the Chips decided to go with Spang Mansion (near the I-X Center and Cleveland Hopkins International Airport) on an interim basis. Since we will be unable to reserve Spang Mansion until April 1st, we also elected to place St. Peter the Apostle Hall and the Old Brick Schoolhouse as alternates. This will allow the Hall Committee to continue their search. However, as of now, TIMUG'99 will be held at Spang Mansion on Karloff Drive just south of the I-X Center on Saturday, May 15, 1999. The Friday evening set-up and get-together is still to be decided.

I brought up an old subject. I said I had found a device to allow the Chips to display demonstrations from a PC onto the library's large screen T.V.. The device I found is the TView Micro by Focus, and it sells at Staples for $99. There was a lively discussion and a motion was made and passed to authorize me to purchase the TView Micro and bring it to the next meeting. The TI-Chips will now have the ability to conduct demonstrations of both TI-99/4A and PC systems on the big screen T.V.. (This will open up a whole new world of learning and sharing for the Chips. We may have just guaranteed our survival as a user group.)

Ron Markus reported that he had tried to contact John Koloen of MICROpendium, regarding subscriptions, through the old e-mail address without success. Ron said he found that John had changed ISP servers and his new address is: JKoloen@earthlink.net. Ron said he is still waiting for a reply from John.

John Parken brought in his desktop PC and gave us an impromptu demonstration on "3D Home Architect". The 3D images of rooms being designed with the software were quite impressive for a $21 program. Thanks for the demo John.

TI-Chips October 1998 Meeting

By Glenn Bernasek

The October meeting of the TI-Chips was opened by Fred Ialacci. The minutes for the September meeting were read and accepted.

Lin Shaw gave his Treasurer's report. Lin paid the $106.99 for the TView Micro that the Chips purchased to enable presentations to be made from member PC's on the library's large screen TV. Lin also reported that the club hasn't been billed for the newletter since June. Lin said he will look into this. Proceeds from the August and September raffles were turned in to Lin at the meeting. Membership dues collected at past meetings will have to wait until our membership chairman is able to attend. John Parken, our membership chairman, was unable to attend the meeting this month.

Les Kee reported that the 1997 Lima disks, that Harry Hoffman reformated, have all been cataloged. Les will give Harry additional disks to have reformated in DSSD format for him to read with his TI Disk Controller Card.

Curt Gadd inquired if there was a program for the TI-99/4A that would produce line graphs. The general consensus was that the TI's character size was too large to allow line graphs. The only graphs those in attendance could remember was the vertical or horizontal bar graphs. (If anyone in the TI community knows of a line graphing routine for the TI-99/4A, please let us know.)

I read the approved, interim TIMUG'99 conference schedule. It is set as follows:

Date: May 15, 1999   Place: Spang Mansion - Brookpark, Ohio

TIME	EVENT
7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Set-up tables and displays
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Seminars and Conferences
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Hall clean up
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Pizza Party

(A May 14, Friday night pre-conference get together site has not been determined at this time. And therefore has not been scheduled.)

I reported that our meeting room, at the North Royalton branch of the Cuyahoga County Library, has been reserved through August, 1999. There are some exceptions however. The meeting times for November and January will be different. Due to scheduling conflicts, the November 21, 1998 meeting will be from 12:45 to 2:45 PM and the January 16, 1999 meeting time will be from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. (I am sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but it was either accept the time changes or lose the room for that date.)

Our 'sweep-the-corners' pre-conference meeting will be held on Sunday - May 9, 1999 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. I e-mailed these dates and times to Harry, and Harry said he will publish the changes in the newsletter. Fred Ialacci said he would also call members and remind them of the meeting time changes.

Some PC discussion was conducted. I advised that McAfee 4.0 Virus Scan was not compatable with AOL 3.1 or AOL 4.0. Since I had replaced McAfee with Norton's Virus Scan in my Compaq, I offered my McAfee 3.1.1 to anybody at the meeting. (It's better than nothing, and this version is compatable with AOL 3.0 and 4.0.) Les Kee asked if anyone knew anything about LINUX. Les said he would like to install it in a partition of his 6 GB hard drive.

Back on the TI-99/4A, Les asked if there was a home security program written for the TI. He said Ron Markus was interested in one. I said one might have been written for the joystick port some time ago, but I wasn't certain about that.

I then demonstrated the TI-Chips' new PC/TV interface device the TView Micro by focus. I demonstrated a $2 calendar/scheduling program I had purchased form Marc's drug store. The demonstrations went off without a hitch (for a change). The TView Micro was given to Fred Ialacci for safe keeping. Fred said he will bring it to each meeting. If Fred is unable to attend, he will get it to me to bring to the meeting.

Besides additional demonstrations of the club's TView Micro, I will bring in my new 120 meg, 3 1/2" floppy Super Disk drive by Imation. This drive not only reads and writes 120 megabytes to a special 3 1/2" floppy, it also reads and writes a standard 1.44 meg 3 1/2" floppy. Les Kee said he will also bring in his laptop to do a demonstration. (The TI-Chips is up and running again!)

Jack Koryta won this month's 50:50 raffle. Congratulations Jack.

Date: Wed Sep 30 22:44:48 1998
From: ttesch@juno.com (Tim Tesch)
Subject: TI99: Re:Updating HFDC /Horizon for QUAD/HIGH Density(was 3.5" drive)

On Wed, 30 Sep 1998 21:49:43 -0400 tony knerr
<72070.573@compuserve.com> writes:
>How about a constructive project here. Only the Geneve can support 1.44m floppies. I hereby suggest a way to give the TI 1.44m floppy support. It is known that the eprom does not have room for the high density routines. Well, how about deleting the low density routines and ONLY supporting the 1.44m floppy in the HFDC eprom. You could still use another floppy controller for the double and single density routines. (A myarc FDC with an 80 track eprom would be a perfect match.) Just set the HFDC to respond at >1000 CRU and off you go!

>I'll even make it easier - I have the source code to the HFDC eprom, and the Mechatronic epromer. Ask me for the source code, I'll send it to you in the format of your choice. Send it back to me with the 1.44m routines, I'll test it out and make the Eproms available at cost to the TI world.
>How's that for a noble project. Any takers?
>>Tony Knerr   72070.573@compuserve.com

Tony,
The HFDC EPROM should have room for the routines; however, finding source code which matches currently known GOOD DSRs is difficult to find.

I have source to what appears to be version 12. I also have a message regarding a bug in the DSR, which was fixed, and subsequently a version 13 was perhaps availalbe. I have not seen this version, and I know that there are prolems with H12. This leaves H11 (version 11) as the most desirable.

To support 1.44MB you must:
    1. Replace the 9216 with a 9216B, rated at 500Mbit/s

    2. Modify key places in the code to divide/multiply the 3-bytes in the FDR relevant to AU size, file length.
    3. Distribute the 1.44 format program (I forget its name) or update MDM5, to which I also have source code, though it has been some time since I tried to reasemble it.

Oh... when I said there is room in the DSR, I did not mention it might have to be at the expense of other code. Perhaps the clock code? I have not co unted bytes in H11 nor H12.... but the code for High density is fairly simple and consumes few bytes of code.

I had wanted to implement the Quad density / High Density in the HORIZON RAMdisk ROS some time ago, but again, the latest version I have of the ROS source is 8.12, not 8.14.....
Tim

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Date: Tue Nov 3 01:12:29 1998
From: mjmw@ix.netcom.com (Mike Wright)

This is let everyone on the list server know that CaDD Electronics is no longer using the email address: mjmw@xyvision.com.

Please send all inquiries to: mjmw@ix.netcom.com.

We've had a couple of glitches in the changeover, and have lost a couple of items of mail. If Alan Bray (a PC99 user) sees this, could he please contact us at the netcom address. Thanks.

Regards,
Mike Wright
mjmw@ix.netcom.com
(for CaDD Electronics)

Date: Sun Oct 4 17:49:19 1998
From: don@whtech.com (Don O'Neil)
Subject: TI99: Latest SCSI Update as of 10/1/98

Hello all... Here is the latest information on the SCSI card updates.
As of early september, Michael Becker finished the Revision G changes and turned them over to me for testing. I have been working on compiling and testing them on the Geneve and TI and expect to be able to ship BETA units to a handfull of testers within the week.

After Michael finished the rev G fixes, he went on to try to integrate them into the earlier boards, for increased speed and stability. Unfortunately the design will not fit easily into the old revision, so he is testing the design of a daughterboard that will correct ALL errors on the earlier boards and speed things up as well! We are expecting this testing to be complete sometime in the next 2 months. It will take some extra time, especially since he must make a daughter board.

For those of you who have earlier revision boards that are having problems, once all the existing Rev G boards have been returned to customers (I have 8 at this point), I will offer an exchange for the old board for a new board, ONLY IF YOU ARE HAVING PROBLEMS with the board AND latest DSR. I only have a limited amount of G boards available, and cannot replace all of the existing old boards. MANY, the vast majority in fact, of old board users are not having any difficulties with these boards.

Once the daughterboard is made available, I will offer it as a free upgrade to all of the existing board owners, with the exception of shipping fees to WHT.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me directly at:
        don@whtech.com
Thanks!
Don
Western Horizon Technologies is NOT affiliated in ANY WAY with Sonyx Inc.

Date: Mon Oct 5 11:49:36 1998
From: michael.becker@man.adtranz.de

Dear TI-users,I am sorry to hear such discussions about the status of the WHT-SC SI-cards.
Fact is: to increase the speed and the performace of all SCSI-cards, I have made a small daughterboard, which is currently working as a hand-made prototyp on my sample Rev. "E"-board.

I gave the design to my friend Juergen Stelter, who made all the designs for the system 99 user-group. He works on it only on weekends, as a private job without payment for it. The layout and the manufacturing will need a few weeks, but this was the best solution for the timing problem. Otherwise you will have more additional jumper-wires on the backside of the board than real copper-wires.....(grin)

THIS DAUGHTERBOARD IS MADE; FABRICATED AND PAYED FROM THE SYSTEM 99USER-GROUP in Germany! It is a gift to all american TI-users and for Don O'Neil.

All you have to do is, sent your board for the modification to WHT, when the daughetrboard is finsished. All you have to pay is, the postage for the shipment to Don. All right?

Tschuess (bye)
Michael Becker, snug, Mannheim, Germany alternativ: mibema@t-online.de (on weekends)
P.S: The daughterboard is made only for the Rev."E" and "F" cards, with the 3-GAL-set. The newest one (Rev "G") has a re-programmable PLD which is currently updated by Don from my MACH-design. All 3 revisions will have the same performance after this upgrade.
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
From: michael.becker@man.adtranz.de
Subject: TI99: What Revision I have???
Hi SCSI-users,
For the fabrication of the daughter-board, I need to know the actual count of old SCSI-cards. Please send me an answer

with the count of cards you own and what revision it is! Important! I have to know the revision, because it is a little bit different between "E" and "F".

Q: HOW CAN I RECOGNIZE THE REVISION?
A: Very simple: Look at the board, it is marked on the board, or: LOOK AT THE END OF YOUR BOARD; DO YOU HAVE ONE OR TWO CONNECTORS FOR SCSI-DEVICES? IF YOU HAVE ONE, it's an "E"-card If you have TWO, it's an "F" card.

This can be done without opening the box! I do not need to know the newest cards "G", which have also two connectors. Please try to do this in the few weeks, I do not want to order more than one lot of boards, because a big lot has a lower price! When Juergen has finished the layout, I will order the boards at once, because I will solder the boards before Christmas!

Tschuess,(bye) (FCTN QUIT)
Michael Becker, snug, Mannheim, Germany alternative: mibema@t-online.de (on weekends)

Merry Christmas

TO
ALL TI'ers EVERYWHERE
AND A VERY HAPPY AND......
PROSPEROUS TI-99/4A ......
NEW YEAR 0000

From: norbsit@juno.com
Subject: "David Howell" <dehowell@velocity.net>: TI Giveaway Successful
To: aa996@cleveland.Freenet.Edu

From: "David Howell" <dehowell@velocity.net> To: "Hillert Vitt"
<hnmiv@aol.com>, "Terry L Lukas" <tlukas@velocity.net>,"Tim Burkett"
<mad-tim@juno.com> Cc: "David Szymanski" <david@szy.com>, "Norb Sitter"
<norbsit@juno.com>,"Gene Meeks" <geneone@aol.com>, "Mark Mattson"
<bookworm@erie.net>,"Tom Kuklinski" <kuklinsk@velocity.net>,"Don Grim"
<goforit@velocity.net>, "Chip Devoge" <chipd@velocity.net>,"Louis
Cioccio" <lcioccio@velocity.net>,"Lou Cannarozzi"
<loucann@aol.com>,"Kevin M Brocki" <kmberie@velocity.net>

Subject: TI Giveaway Successful
Date: Tue, 22 Sep 1998 18:42:03 -0400

By Dave Howell

    As announced, we put a sign on some TI-99/4A Home Computers at our
garage sale on Sunday, September 13th. By one o'clock in the afternoon,
we had given away no less than 28 fully functional computers complete
with the required power packs, modulators and instruction books. We
also gave away some game and educational software cartridges to certain
benefactors who had young children.

    On hand to witness at least part of the experience was Norb Sitter,
another intrepid TI'er, who obviously was having a good time at the
sale.

    We still have perhaps another 20-30 consoles that either have not
been tested or need some TLC to get them back into shape. Norb
suggested, if we can get together some manpower, we can repair a
sufficient number of units to do nate to the Shriner's Hospital for use
with their little patients. These computers are perfect for such
audiences and rugged enough to withstand ro ugh treatment. I should
know - I used them extensively in the public school clas sroom for many
years! Then too, the manufacturer of the equipment was the very same
outfit that made the infamous "walkie talkies" used during World War II.

    We would also need to acquire more of those educational and game
cartridges

    ((Editor Note: I left all the CC (Carbon Copy) names on the message
because you will recognize many TIer names from the old Erie group.
Many have become officers in the CUE (Computer Users of Erie). We
exchange newsletters with them!))

    Maybe some of you have cartridges or joysticks you could donate to
this worthy cause!-). You could give them to Norb Sitter at the North
Coast meeting or Harry at TI-Chips.
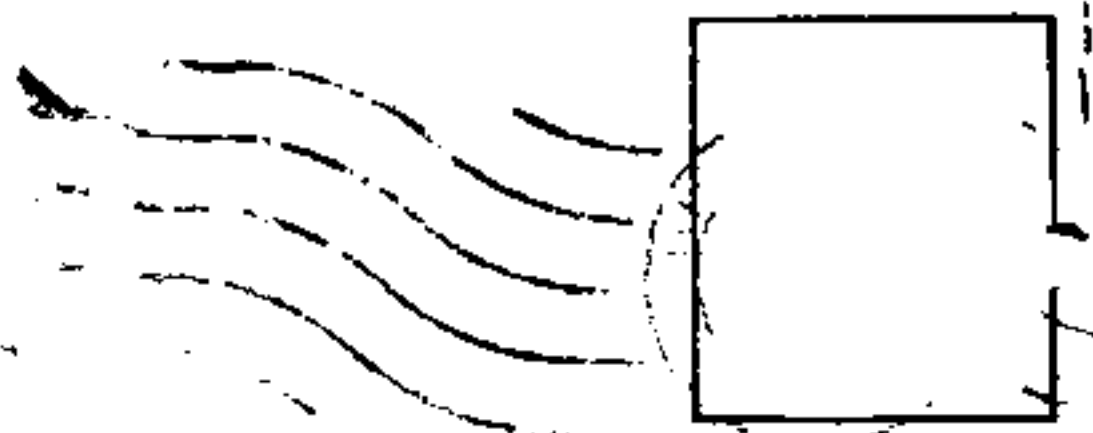
Check your expiration date.
This may be your LAST issue!

Membership rate is $15.00/yr, w/library privaleges,
             $12.00/yr newsletter only.

CHANGE IN TI-CHIPS MEETING TIMES

MONTH	DATE	NEW TIME
November, 1998	21	12:45 to 2:45
January, 1999	16	12:00 to 2:00

Pre-conference Meeting:

Sunday, May 9 from 1:00 to 3:00

(Editor's note.) We realize it is Mother's Day and want input as to who
will be able to attend this important meeting! No sense in meeting if
no one shows!