

The MID ILLINOIS COMPUTER RESOURCE ORGANIZATION
P. O. BOX 766 BLOOMINGTON, ILL. 61701-0766

BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL MICRO NEWSLETTER
June 1984, Vol. 2, No. 6

Welcome to the age of the computer in the home! Future meetings will be held the third thursday of each month at 7 P.M. in Room 200 Turner Hall, ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY, Normal, Il. Future dates include June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, and October 18, 1984.

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The program for June will consist of:

- * Our normal business meeting.
- * "CALL SOUND DEMO" - by Sherwood Smith.
- * "MICRO RAP SESSION" - by Bill Hull and Gorton Marsden.
- * "MICRO BIRTHDAY PARTY" - Hosted by the MICRO Executive Committee.

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FRESIDENTS NOTES

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A milestone ... that's what they call birthdays and our's is no exception.

A year ago this month a small group of TI 99/4A owners met to form what is now the focal point of support for the 99/4A in Central Illinois. The pathway we have shared in getting to this point has had both good moments and bad. We saw the 99/4A become one of the most popular computers on the market only to find ourselves abandoned by TI. We have seen our dealers give up support of the TI and we have seen many new and innovative products introduced by third party vendors. Above all else we have seen the tremendous growth in our membership from the 20 or so people who attended our first meeting to the 89 families on our current membership roster. To say the last year was "interesting" would be quite an understatement.

With any occasion such as a birthday one should take time to both celebrate and to think about the direction one wants to take in the future. In our June meeting we will attempt to accomplish both of these tasks by having a party and a general rap session. To celebrate we plan to have free cake and drinks for all who attend along with a door prize for one lucky winner. While everyone is having a good time we will also try to have an open discussion about anything and everything. Got a gripe? A suggestion? A programming problem? Want information or have some you're willing to share? If so this is the meeting for you. In addition to the rap session we will also take a member survey to plan our future meetings. If all possible I urge you to attend the meeting for both the fun and the feedback. see you there!

Bill Hull

get produced due to the fact that your Editor (also known as your President) was in the middle of remodeling his house and could not even get to his computer much less think about what should go into a newsletter. For anyone who missed the meeting because of the lack of a newsletter I deeply apologize however due to the fact that I have no one to help in preparing the text I'm sure you can understand that some things do take priority.

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NEW SOFTWARE IN THE LIBRARY... Bob Griffith our Club Librarian announced that he has received over 150 new programs for the library free of charge from an unnamed source. The programs received are on disk so it will be some time before we can make them available to the membership on cassettes. Bob has asked that any Micro member who has a disk drive and is willing to help download these programs to tape to give him a call. For those of you interested in numbers our library now has over 700 program available to members free of charge. Quite a deal for your \$10.00 annual dues!!!

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NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE STILL GROWING... With this months mailing we are now corresponding with 40 other User Groups across North America. I have to say North America as we are now exchanging newsletters with the Edmonton User's Group in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. To our neighbors to the north we wish you a warm welcome!

For any member interested in finding out what's going on in other groups we will institute a check out procedure starting this month that will allow you to read some of these interesting and enlightening articles.

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1984 MICRO OFFICERS ~~~~~

|                |                     |          |
|----------------|---------------------|----------|
| PRESIDENT      | BILL HULL           | 454-3062 |
| VICE PRESIDENT | RON SECORD          | 662-1719 |
| SECRETARY      | SOPHRONIA BREEDLOVE | 452-9746 |
| TREASURER      | ROY BREEDLOVE       | 452-9746 |
| PAST PRESIDENT | JERRY WALKER        | 728-2493 |

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MICRO is a registered non-profit corporation whose goal is to promote the use and understanding of the TEXAS INSTRUMENTS 99/4A and other TMS 99000 based computers through discussion and exchange of ideas. The MICRO NEWS is published monthly and is a benefits of regular membership in the organization. Members are encouraged to contribute articles for publication. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the writer and not necessarily those of MICRO, its officers, editor or members.

Permission to use original articles or programs published in the MICRO NEWS is hereby granted to all TI User Groups as long as proper credit is given to the author and to The Mid Illinois Computer Resource Organization (MICRO).

Advertising by software/hardware manufacturers is accepted and encouraged. Rates for each publication are:

\$20.00 for a full page ad.  
\$12.00 for a half page ad.  
\$7.00 for a 1/4 page ad.

All advertising submitted by manufacturers must be camera ready and cut to size based on 8 1/2 x 11 inch copy format.

## The Role of a Computer in Genealogy and Family History

Personal Computing and Genealogy are both popular and growing hobbies. Genealogy is the third largest hobby in the United States. Since ROOTS and the Bicentennial, many people are tracing their roots. "Computers" are sold at Kmart, JC Penney, Woolworth, Computerland, and Radio Shack. Some people are doing genealogy with the help of personal computers. Is it time now to combine these two popular and growing hobbies?

Computer Clubs are for users and owners of computers. These clubs provide for exchange of computing information, exchange of solutions to mutual problems. Join a Computer Club and discover how its members are using their computers. Do other members seem satisfied with their computers? Are they using their computer for similar functions?

There are only a few outlets for learning about computers for genealogy. Several Newsletters are devoted to Genealogy with computers:

Genealogical Computing  
5102 Pommeroy Drive  
Fairfax VA 22032

Genealogical Computer Pioneer  
P.O. Box 338  
Orem, Utah 84057

Genealogy Today  
2815 Clearview Pl.  
Atlanta GA 30340

Computers in Genealogy  
37 Harrington Gardens  
London, England SW7 4JX

What are Genealogy computer software requirements? It must allow relatively fast access to information; and must be as fast as finding that information in your existing manual files. It must be easy to add and change information. It must be flexible to allow keeping the kind of information you are interested in (existing genealogical programs may limit notes to 200 characters). It must have the ability to print pedigree charts, and family group sheets; the charts and sheets ought to be satisfactory for your needs. It must automatically examines the information entered for consistency and errors (death before birth).

There are several mail order sources for obtaining Genealogy Software. Most of the software is written for a limited set of computers. It is generally recommended that you first select the software that best fits your needs, and then obtain a compatible computer. Some Software sources include:

PERSONAL ANCESTOR FILE  
Salt Lake Distribution Center  
1999 West 1700 South  
Salt Lake City, Ut 84104

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP  
Tenex  
P. O. Box 6578  
South Bend, IN 46660

ROOTS  
Commsoft  
2452 Embarcadero Way  
Palo Alt, CA 94303

FAMILY TIES  
Computer Services  
1050 East 800 South  
Provo, UT 84801

COMPUTER DESK FOR SALE... This desk was duplicated from an illustration in the TENEX catalog. Constructed from 3/4 inch yellow pine, this desk is finished in oak and comes on casters for easy moving. See Wayne or Aubrey Johnson at the next meeting or call 452-3210. Asking \$45.00.

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LOGO DESIGN WINNER TO BE ANNOUNCED... The winner of the newsletter logo design contest will be announced at the next meeting. The Executive Committee wishes to thank the three members who submitted designs for judgement and we want you to know that the quality of your designs and the workmanship that went into your programs surpassed our expectations. Congratulations to one and all!

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### Getting Started (RATS AND DRAGONS) -- conclusion

After an absence in April, and no newsletter in May, it is time to conclude this series. The coding of this simple chase game took less time than explaining some of its features. Since the program is in the MICRO software library, I will not provide a complete listing.

```
4110 IF RATX<>CHEESEX THEN 4200 First check to determine if the
4120 IF RATY<>CHEESEY THEN 4200 Black Rat is at the same
4130 SCORE=SCORE+NN location as the Yellow Cheese.
4140 REM PLOT SCORE If it is then increment the
4150 GOSUB 7100 score by the number of active
4160 GOSUB 7200 Green Dragon opponents. In the
4170 CHEESEX=INT(23*RND)+2 January 1984 issue, we described
4180 CHEESEY=INT(31*RND)+2 the routines to print
4190 CALL HCHAR(CHEESEX,CHEESEY,CHEESE) the score. The Rat
having eaten the cheese,
now needs a new goal: a different glob of cheese. Hence lines
4170-4190 reposition the Cheese, and plot it: CHEESE was set to
144, and was described as "7E7F7FF7FF7E7F", the Cheese has some
holes.
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4191 IF NN=5 THEN 4200 The next step was to increment the
4192 IF RND<.3 THEN 4200 number of opponents; thereby making
4193 NN=NN+1 the game more difficult as the
4194 DRAGONX(NN)=INT(23*RND)+2 score increases. But an upper
4195 DRAGONY(NN)=INT(31*RND)+2 limit of 5 opponents was selec-
4196 OLDX(NN)=DRAGONX(NN) ted. Also the number of Dragons
4197 OLDY(NN)=DRAGONY(NN) would not be
4198 CALL HCHAR(DRAGONX(NN),DRAGONY(NN),DRAGON) changed 30% of
the time; thus
adding an element of surprise as to when another Green Dragon is
to appear.
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Again I suggest that you list a program, examine it, and thereby learn the coding used by others. Remember the neat tricks, and discard the bad programs, or revise them using the good programming practices which you will have learned. BEST OF LUCK!

BIRTHDAY REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENT JERRY WALKER... The term "Founding father" brings up visions of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin. I don't intend to put myself into such a distinguished group, but do feel a bit of pride and satisfaction that a small group of people and I put together the organization that is now call "MICRO".

I'm quite sure that I would not have been pushed into a leadership role or have become one of the "founding group" had I not made noises to a group of friends and fellow TI owners. The founding group, consisted of Larry and Sara Dall; Bill Cowen; Ron Secord; Dave Vandergrif and Myself. We discussed the need for the group, and the mechanics of organization. Larry did most of the organizational work and wrote the constitution, Sara kept the minutes, Ron worked on publicity and everyone pitched in and helped where we were needed. We also got a big break in the fact that College Hills Mall sponsored a "Computer Fair" and we were allowed to participate. Because of the fair and a lot of hard work MICRO was born on June 16, 1983.

The point in bringing up all this past history is the fact that MICRO was formed because of our desire to share ideas and learn about our computers through a mutual association with other TI owners. THAT GOAL REMAINS TODAY!

We have grown from a founding group of five families to eighty-nine (89). Our library has grown from a few programs to well over 700. For many the thought of having a complete system was only a dream, now we have 27 members who have full systems. We have grown rapidly over the last year and have a great deal to be proud of but because of that growth we now face new challenges.

The rapid growth we have had has brought with it a host of problems. In a large group the close personal relationship we had in the beginning is harder to achieve. We also tend to find it easier to sit back and "let the other person do it". It is my opinion that in order for our group to continue to move forward new approaches will need to be defined and implemented. It also come down to the fact that each one of us must take a more active part in making the organization be what we need/want it to be!!!

The reasons MICRO was formed have not changed. The reasons why we bought our computers have not changed. The fact that we all have something to offer one another has not changed. We must however join together on a common path so that our growth in knowledge and understanding can match our growth in size.

Jerry Walker

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ADOPT A USER PROGRAM... In a recent article written by Teresa Masters, President of the LA 99'ers computer group, she spoke of a recent meeting between herself and Clive Scally, Editor of the TI\*TIMES of Sutton, England. According to Mr. Scally, England has a large base of TI 99/4A owner but due to the large geographical distance between users it makes forming a users group almost impossible. What Teresa proposed in her article was that those willing to invest a little time and postage could adopt a UK'er and enrich the lives of some users who really need help. For anyone interested in this proposal you can write Teresa in care of the LA 99ers Computer Group, P. O. Box 3547, Gardena, CA. 90247-7247.

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EDMONTON 99'ERS USER SOCIETY  
P/O BOX 11983, EDMONTON  
ALBERTA, CANADA T5J-3L1

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*          MM      MM      IIIIII  CCCCCC  RR      RR      00000000  *  
*  
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