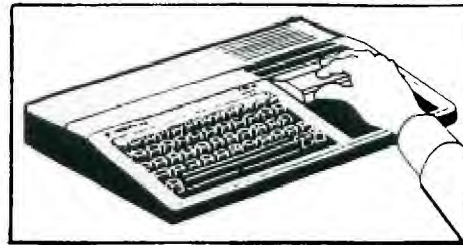


8501/850

MILWAUKEE Home Computer



JANUARY
1985
EDITION

M I C R O

REPORT

A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE MILWAUKEE AREA 99/4A USERS GROUP

USER GROUP NEWS

The November meeting of the Milwaukee Area 99/4A Users Group proved to be one of the more productive sessions of the year, in that a number of "major" decisions were made.

Led by "substitute" president (treasurer) Jerry Trinkl, the Group decided to invest in the future, and purchase a TI console unit, as well a TV or system. This equipment would be used (beginning at the next meeting on January 12, 1985) as a resource for software demonstrations at the 1985 meetings. It was noted that most of the members agreed that attendance and interest in the Group would grow if we could regularly get to view software demos from members and/or third parties. A sign up sheet will be available for those who wish to demo any new hardware or software at one of the 1985 meetings.

Since the November meeting, the officers have been able to seek out and locate a member who is willing and capable in conducting seminars in extended basic and/or basic following the regular monthly User Group meetings. These will be done for the benefit of those members who have questions or problems in programming in these languages.

With the 1985 membership dues increasing to \$10.00 per individual, there was extensive discussion as to the future of the meetings and their format. Some of the suggestions for improvements included solicitation of vendors for demonstrations, demo library programs, and have programming "seminars" or workshops at the meetings themselves. Several members felt that the former concept of having special interest groups was obsolete, and actually led to the declining attendance at our meetings.

It was also noted that the Group needed more ACTIVE participation from its members. This was brought to light due to the election of officers scheduled for the January meeting. A vote will be taken for the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. Incumbents can be renominated and/or elected, as well as any other member that is interested. THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A DIRECT INPUT INTO THE FUTURE OF THE MILWAUKEE AREA 99/4A USERS GROUP AND IT'S MEETINGS. CONSIDER YOUR INVOLVEMENT.

As stated in our last issue, MILW. MICRO REPORT will be published every other month in 1985. This is the 1st edition of 1985. While only 6 issues will be printed, the contents of each issue will be larger and more valuable to you, the User Group member. The Editors intend to give you information that will help you get the most out of your TI. We ask that you be involved, by submitting articles or comments (or submit your technical questions to our "Ask The Programmer" column).

This is YOUR newsletter. Whether you are a beginner or a programming whiz, we will make every attempt to provide total resources within these pages.

AND FINALLY --

SEE YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 12, 1985!!!!

DATABASE CORNER

CompuServe:
Consumer Information Service

GETTING ON THE CIS NETWORK

By
George Kasica

One of the most useful things that can be done with a computer equipped with a modem is to subscribe to a database network such as CompuServe. The database networks are like giant libraries of information, just waiting to be tapped by the modem user. In the CompuServe network there are over 700 different topics of interest as of November, 1984. Each of these topics is further divided into several (usually at least 4) different sections. That makes over 2800 individual user options available at one time.

The way to begin to use CompuServe is to buy a Consumer Information Service Starter Kit. These kits can be purchased for as little as \$28 (at the BES* CO. Wholesale Stores or TARGET department chain). The kit contains a free CompuServe SNAPAK-containing your user ID# and first password, 5 hours of free connect time at 300 baud, a 475 page Users Guide to CompuServe, and all the forms you will need to become a subscriber to CompuServe. In addition to this, if you become a subscriber you will receive (FREE-monthly) the latest issue of ONLINE TODAY, a magazine directed at the CompuServe subscriber to let you know what is new with the service.

Well, now that you have your starter kit, or plan to investigate this further, let's go through the sign up procedure.

The first thing to do is open your SNAPAK and see what your ID# and password are. Keep your password SECRET-it is what will give you access to the CompuServe network. Also in the SNAPAK you should find a Service Agreement. Fill the Agreement out now, but don't mail it yet. The next step is to decide how you wish to be billed for your time once the 5

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MILWAUKEE HOME COMPUTER MICRO REPORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Milwaukee Home Computer MICRO REPORT is published bi-monthly by the Milwaukee Area 99/4A Users Group, located at 2007 N 71ST Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53213. The Milwaukee Area 99/4A Users Group is an association of individuals with the same interest in using, programming, and enjoying their Texas Instruments 99/4A Home Computers. This Users Group is not affiliated with Texas Instruments, nor any other commercial companies or organizations.

Opinions expressed by authors of articles, reviews, or columns do not necessarily reflect those of Milwaukee Home Computer MICRO REPORT. The Editors of this publication reserve all rights to edit or change the original content of articles, columns, reviews, advertisements, endorsements, or other material printed within Milwaukee Home Computer Micro REPORT. ALL the items submitted (except tapes or diskettes) will become full property of this publication.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership to the Milwaukee Area 99/4A Users Group is open to anyone who is interested in using and/or programming the Texas Instruments 99/4A Home Computer, and is willing to share his/her fellowship with other members. Annual dues for Individuals - \$10.00, Family membership - \$15.00. This fee helps to defray the expense of the publication of this newsletter and provide a library to members for their enjoyment.

MEETING INFORMATION

Meetings of the Milwaukee Area 99/4A Users Group are held on the SECOND SATURDAY each month in the lower level of Wauwatosa Savings and Loan, located at 7500 W. State Street in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Meeting times are from about 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, depending on the content of the meeting for each particular month. Users are encouraged to bring their computers and/or related hardware and software to any of the meetings to assist members in utilizing their own equipment.

USER GROUP OFFICERS:

- PRESIDENT - TO BE ELECTED 1/12/85
- VICE-PRESIDENT - TO BE ELECTED 1/12/85
- TREASURER - TO BE ELECTED 1/12/85
- CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY - Gene Hitz (453-0499)
- RECORDING SECRETARY - TO BE ELECTED 1/12/85
- GROUP LIBRARIANS (DISK) - Steve Sanders (546-1821)
(CASE) - Fred Pabian (327-3618)
- NEWSLETTER
CO-EDITORS - Peter Radtke (292-2158)
Gary Pichler (355-2051)
- CONTRIBUTING
EDITOR - George Kasica (321-7558)

free hours are used up. The options here include the following charge cards: MasterCard and VISA. You may also have the charge billed directly to your checking account in the form of CHECKFREE billing. This option will cause CompuServe to send an electronic request to your bank on the 17th of the month (or the first business day after) and tell it to transfer the correct amount out of the account. This will then show up on your bank statement when you receive it. This option is only available to BANK checking accounts not to SAVINGS AND LOAN accounts.

Now that you have filled out the forms, wait until after 6pm or on a weekend at any time. You now call the CompuServe number listed in the Users Guide nearest to you. Currently over 2000 major cities can make a local call to connect to CompuServe (CIS from here on). In Milwaukee there are 3 numbers listed. To call, first set your modem up at either 300 or 1200 baud (1200 costs more), Even parity, 1 stop bit, no echo, 7 data bits, and full duplex operation. This will allow you to access CIS in the most efficient manner on the TI computer. At this point, call one of the numbers and follow the instructions that are given in the Users Guide in the New User Information section. The type of terminal to select is ANSI Compatible (VT100). This will allow you to send the needed control characters later on.

Now that you are done with the on-line sign up, remember to type OFF or BYE to disconnect, do not just hang up, or you may be billed for up to 20 minutes of additional time!

Since you have finished the on-line sign up, you will receive (in 7-10 days) your second password in the mail. This will give you access to the entire CIS network. Once this is done, the best thing to do upon receipt of your second password is to logon and change it again to your own choice - just to protect you in the event that it is known by someone else.

The rates to use CIS are as follows: Weekdays from 8am-6pm \$12.50/hr at 300 baud or \$15/hr at 1200 baud. Weekdays from 6pm-8am, all weekend, and announced CIS holidays \$6/hr for 300 baud or \$12.50/hr at 1200 baud. These do not include charges for any surcharged services like Travel/Aviation Reservations, or certain specialty services like Aviation Flight Plan generation.

In the next issue I will show some of the other items shown in Figure 2, namely the Home Services section, an area where many useful items reside.

But until then don't be afraid to go looking through CIS and finding out on your own, that is often one of the best ways to learn about all that it has to offer. For those who would like further information now, there is an excellent book published by Bantam Books. It is called GETTING THE MOST OUT OF COMPUSEVE and is written by Charles Bowen and David Peyton. It is available at local bookstores for about \$12.95.

Good-bye. I hope you enjoy the CIS network!

NEXT: USING THE HOME SERVICES SECTION

FIGURE 2

- [1;1H[2JCompuServe[1;70HPage CIS-1
- [5;1HCompuServe Information Service
- 1 Home Services
- 2 Business & Financial
- 3 Personal Computing
- 4 Services for Professionals
- 5 The Electronic Mall (tm)
- 6 User Information
- 7 Index
- [19;1H[Enter your selection number,
or H for more information.[19;30H

There are currently 141 Milwaukee Area 99/4A Users Group members that have paid 1984 dues. The 1985 dues prices are now ---- \$10.00 per individual and \$15.00 for the family membership. ONLY PAID DUES MEMBERS can receive the newsletter of the User Group - the Milwaukee Home Computer Micro Report, as well as borrow tapes or disks from the Group Library.

Currently, there are 400 programs in the Library for the use of members. These program tapes and disks may be obtained at User Group meetings by means of presentation of a membership card and a small deposit (refundable upon return of the program).

The Milwaukee Area 99/4A User Group dues are maintained in the treasury for printing a newsletter and library upkeep.

As of this newsletter publication date, the treasurer is reporting an account balance of about \$0. The treasury is replenished by annual dues payment and RENEWALS. All paid members receive an annual membership card. SO MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR 1985 DUES PAID AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

LIBRARY INFO

This program list represents the entire collection of cassette based programs available to all User Group members, and includes the program name, type of program it is, language it is written in, and the User Group Library Tape number. Our next newsletter will feature the entire disk based library.

PROGRAM NAME	TYPE	LANGUAGE	TAPE #
FAIR DERBY	GAME	BASIC	623
SPEL EP	GAME	BASIC	614
ALIEN ATTACK	GAME	BASIC	602
ODON	GAME	BASIC	644
DEPTH CHARGE	GAME	BASIC	603
TUNNELVISION	GAME	BASIC	603
YAHITZEE	GAME	BASIC	605
BLOCKADE	GAME	BASIC	606
DEALER	GAME	BASIC	606
CHECKERS	GAME	BASIC	607
AUTOBAHN	GAME	BASIC	607
PARROT	GAME	BASIC	607
MATCH PEAR	GAME	BASIC	607
SCORE 4	GAME	BASIC	607
MISSION	GAME	BASIC	614
MINER	GAME	BASIC	614
HOUSE IN A HATE	GAME	BASIC	615
CARS & CARCASSES	GAME	BASIC	615
PINK ELEPHANT	GAME	BASIC	616
SKOOL DAZE	GAME	BASIC	616
BOMB SCARE	GAME	BASIC	617
MOTOCROSS	GAME	BASIC	617
NIGHT BLOCKADE	GAME	BASIC	618
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS SIMON	GAME	BASIC	618
MEGASLOTS	GAME	BASIC	620
LUNAR LANDER	GAME	BASIC	620
BIORHYTHM	GAME	BASIC	623
ASTERMIND	GAME	BASIC	625
SPACE WARS	GAME	BASIC	627
MAZE RACE	GAME	BASIC	627
BATTLERS	GAME	BASIC	625
FACTOR FOE	GAME	BASIC	629
ANTI AIRCRAFT	GAME	BASIC	629
SPACE SCOUT	GAME	BASIC	630
HIDDEN PAIRS	GAME	BASIC	630
PEG JUMP	GAME	BASIC	630
BLACKJACK	GAME	BASIC	632
BOGGLER	GAME	BASIC	632
ANOTHER ALIEN#2	GAME	BASIC	637
PEGASUS	GAME	BASIC	637
AIR DEFENSE	GAME	BASIC	637
BARTENDER	GAME	BASIC	637
LUCKY SEVEN	GAME	BASIC	637
MATCH-EM	GAME	BASIC	637
MURDER	GAME	BASIC	637
TI-TREK	GAME	BASIC	637
BATTLE AT SEA	GAME	BASIC	640
DECATHLON	GAME	BASIC	640
BOA ALLEY	GAME	BASIC	641
ASTROSTORM	GAME	BASIC	641
HOME SECRETARY	MISC	BASIC	A01
HOME LIBRARIAN	MISC	BASIC	A07
GOLD	MISC	BASIC	A07
RECORDS	MISC	BASIC	A07
WORD PROCESSOR	MISC	BASIC	A07
PERSONAL BANKING	MISC	BASIC	A08
CHOROPLETH MAP	EDUC	BASIC	E01
FINGER SPELLING	EDUC	BASIC	E01
BLACK LETTERS	EDUC	BASIC	E01
TYPING ACCURACY	EDUC	BASIC	E03
LEARN NOTES	EDUC	BASIC	E03
TYPING TEACHER	EDUC	BASIC	E04
STAR TREK THEME	MUSIC	BASIC	A01
SOUND EFFECTS	MUSIC	BASIC	M02
OVER THE RAINBOW	MUSIC	BASIC	M06
TELEVISION	GAME	BASIC	676
SAKES & LADDERS	GAME	BASIC	676
BIORHYTHM II	EDUC	BASIC	676
TERMITE	GAME	BASIC	646
ARITHMETIC	EDUC	BASIC	E44
BAR GRAPH PLOTTING	MISC	BASIC	A13
STARGUARD	GAME	BASIC	651

PROGRAM NAME	TYPE	LANGUAGE	TAPE #
OF TOURIST	GAME	BASIC	659
PERASUS II	GAME	BASIC	662
THE WHITE HOLES	GAME	BASIC	662
FORGOTTEN ISLAND	GAME	BASIC	662
SPACE EARTH	GAME	BASIC	662
SOLO: THE DOGEM	GAME	BASIC	662
JUMPING JACK	GAME	BASIC	662
LOST RUINS	GAME	BASIC	662
PONY	GAME	BASIC	662
MOON FESTIVAL	GAME	BASIC	662
AT COMBAT	GAME	BASIC	662
ENEMY ATTACK	GAME	BASIC	662
ALIENS	GAME	BASIC	662
RESOUND	GAME	BASIC	662
SAILING	GAME	BASIC	662
SCHMOO	GAME	BASIC	662
SCRAMBLE	GAME	BASIC	662
TI-WARS	GAME	BASIC	662
WIMBLEY	GAME	BASIC	662
HUNT THE WAMPUS	GAME	BASIC	662
ENGLISH TENNES	GAME	BASIC	662
BACH IN F	MUSIC	BASIC	M13
MARKET SIMULATOR	GAME	BASIC	667
QUILT	GAME	BASIC	667
COOKIE	GAME	BASIC	667
RIVER TRIP II	GAME	BASIC	667
NIM	GAME	BASIC	667
HANGMAN	GAME	BASIC	667
LARGE CHAR SET	GAME	BASIC	667
SPEED READING	GAME	BASIC	667
STATE CAPITALS	GAME	BASIC	667
COLOR MATH	GAME	BASIC	667
MATH TUTOR	GAME	BASIC	667
MULTIPLE CHOICE TEST	GAME	BASIC	667
SWITCH A ROW	GAME	BASIC	667
DRUM POKER	GAME	BASIC	667
DUNGEON	GAME	BASIC	667
FLAG-D-RAMA	GAME	BASIC	667
WORKING WITH NOUNS	GAME	BASIC	667
SOUND ASSEMBLER	GAME	BASIC	667
STRESS	GAME	BASIC	667
DEVILS DUNGEON	GAME	BASIC	667
KNIGHTS	GAME	BASIC	667
QUINTUS	GAME	BASIC	667
ANARI	GAME	BASIC	667
CLONES	GAME	BASIC	667
PARTY FUN	GAME	BASIC	667
SPACE ATTACK	GAME	BASIC	667
STAR WARS	GAME	BASIC	667
STAR TREK	GAME	BASIC	667
MAZZLE	GAME	BASIC	667
CAR WARS	GAME	BASIC	667
BOWLING DATA	MISC	BASIC	A23
NAME THAT BONE	EDUC	BASIC	E18
MYSTERY WORDS	EDUC	BASIC	E18
THEME FROM STING	MUSIC	BASIC	M10
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF	MUSIC	BASIC	M11
MUSIC BOX SANCER	MUSIC	BASIC	M11
MUSIC CREATOR	MUSIC	BASIC	M12
JINGLE BELLS	MUSIC	BASIC	M12
COUNTING LESSON	EDUC	BASIC	E17
FRACTIONS	EDUC	BASIC	E17
ELECTRONICS	EDUC	BASIC	E31
ZENNER DIODE POWER SUPPLY	EDUC	BASIC	E42
WORLD MAP	EDUC	BASIC	E44
LINEAR REGRESSION	EDUC	BASIC	E45
ASIC	EDUC	-LANGUAGE	E35
BASIC PRIMER I	EDUC	BASIC	E26
BASIC PRIMER II	EDUC	BASIC	E26
ADVANCED CHARACTER DESIGN	EDUC	BASIC	E29
DECIMAL & DIAGNOSTIC TEST	MISC	BASIC	A16
CUBE	GAME	BASIC	673
HARRIED HOUSEWIFE	GAME	BASIC	675
BUILD A BUG	MISC	BASIC	676
ANNUAL BUDGET	MISC	BASIC	A18
ELECTRONICS II	EDUC	BASIC	E31
USING LOG	EDUC	BASIC	E32
MINER II	GAME	BASIC	689
PRINTER DEMO TI-IMPACT	MISC	BASIC	A22
TIC TAC TOE	GAME	BASIC	628
START CASSETTE	MISC	BASIC	A26

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

PROGRAM NAME	TYPE	LANGUAGE	TAPE #
BEGINNING SPANISH	EDUC	EXTENDED	E27
PLANETWATCH	EDUC	EXTENDED	E26
BEAN MOMENTS & REACTION	EDUC	EXTENDED	E27
SPACE SHOOT	GAME	EXTENDED	D.O.
STARBLITZ	GAME	EXTENDED	G92
PATTERNS	EDUC	EXTENDED	E38
PLOT 3020	EDUC	EXTENDED	A31
NEW 40F ZONE A/L CCLINES	MISC	EXTENDED	D.O.
DISK LISTER BAR-6FAS	MISC	EXTENDED	D.O.
POKER	GAME	EXTENDED	G87
DISSEMBLER	MISC	EXTENDED	D.O.
TEX-SCRIBE	MISC	EXTENDED	A24
MATRIX	EDUC	EXTENDED	E36
SCREEN DUMP/3 MODULE VER.	MISC	EXTENDED	A22
MINIGOLF	GAME	EXTENDED	G92
SHRINK	MISC	EXTENDED	A40
VERBOSE	EDUC	EXTENDED	E38
TEACH YOURSELF EXTENDED	EDUC	-LANGUAGE	40
I'M LOST	GAME	MM	G24
CODE RELOCATION	MISC	MM	A02
SCRIBL	MISC	MM	A02
DUMP	MISC	MM	A02
SPRITED	MISC	SUPEREXTENDED	A25
SPRITE EDITOR	MISC	SUPEREXTENDED	A25
EON	EDUC	TE2B	E44
SPEECH HELPER	EDUC	TE2B	E05
SPEAK & SPELL	EDUC	TE2B	E06
FARM	MUS.C	TE2B	M06
MICHIGAN	EDUC	TE2B	E10
SPEAK & SPELL #2	EDUC	TE2B	E12
SPEAK & SPELL #5	EDUC	TE2B	E12
WORD TEACHER	MUS.C	TE2B	M10
BANNER	MUS.C	TE2B	M13
ALOPHONES	EDUC	TE2B	E34
SPELL	EDUC	TE2B	E34
FRENCH TEACHER	EDUC	TE2B	E04

BULLETIN BOARD CORNER

WRFM: MILWAUKEE'S FREE RADIO

By George Kasica

In this installment of the Bulletin Board Corner I will discuss WRFM, better known as Radio Free Milwaukee. The Radio Free Milwaukee system is a free access (no user fee) BBS. The WRFM BBS is one of the most varied and extensive of the free access systems in this area.

To sign onto WRFM you simply dial 784-8830 any time day or night since the BBS is in 24 hour operation, and rarely down for any sort of mechanical or electronic reasons. Once connected to the BBS at 300 or 1200 baud, no parity, 2 stop bits, and full duplex, it will pause about 10 seconds and then display a title screen with the name of the BBS as well as the address to send contributions to, since the BBS is totally supported by donations. After the title screen, it will prompt for your first and last name, and then if you are a new user you will be asked the standard questions of city and state, phone number, and computer type. Be sure to give correct information as I have been told by the SYSOP that if you falsify your data you will not be permitted access now OR in the future. Once the data on you is taken you will be asked to enter the password you wish to use. This can be changed as often as you wish to in a section of the BBS called <E>ngineering. After you are signed on you will have only limited access for a few days (3 at most) until your information is validated by the SYSOP, after which you will see the entire menu like that shown in Figure 1.

Once you are validated, you can use all of the sections with the possible exception of the <X>-Rated Smoking Section, where you must be 18 or over to get in and use. This is done to prevent the SYSOP from getting in any legal trouble since the section does contain "graphic language".

At the present time WRFM has in the <D>iskette Jockeys section almost 20 sub-boards dedicated to a variety of special interests from Role-Playing Games in the Adventurer's Guild to a political discussion in Speaking of Politics. Whatever your interest, you should be able to find a little area for it in the Diskette Jockeys section.

The <E>ngineering section is the area of WRFM where you are able to Chat to the Manager (SYSOP) or change your password, or any of the other numerous functions that are useful but not often used.

The roadcast Board is an area open to general messages to be seen by all, and is a good place to put up questions or comments of a general or wide ranging type. It functions just like most message bases in that it will ask you who the message is to, although it can be read by anyone.

The Mail Room (E-MAIL) is the way to send a private message to someone. In here you can be assured that no one will see the message you enter except the person you are addressing.

The <J>ock's Lounge is not what one might suspect, it has nothing to do with sports, instead it is an area that contains longer "public service" type messages. These can range from news of a Users Meeting for a specific computer type to notice of a dance at a local area VFW Post or any type of thing in between. It is a good area to check to see what is happening around town or to see if any other type of wide appeal activities are going on that might interest you.

The <N>ewsroom contains news about the BBS or the recently started trivia game questions, or the SYSOP may post an editorial on some current issue there.

The feature <R>ead/Scan Combined Boards lets you search or read messages from all the various sub-boards on WRFM. It is a handy feature if you want to look for a certain type of message or subject in the entire BBS system.

The <S>ales Department is an area of WRFM that is under development. In the future it will hopefully contain an electronic shopping section.

The <T>ime and Temperature section will show the time you logged on to WRFM, the current time, and the time you have been connected. This feature is useful since you are limited to 40 minutes of connect time on the BBS system.

The <U>ser Group & Computer Boards section is just what it sounds like. This section contains many sub-boards for almost all types of computers made.

The <V>isit the Game Room section is an area that is also under development. It will someday offer online games of many sorts.

The <X>-Rated Smoking Section is an area open only to those users who are over 18 years of age, and it contains a message base where it is possible to leave messages containing language usually prohibited on other BBS systems.

Overall, I would have to say that WRFM is one of the finest free access BBS systems in the Milwaukee area and possibly the country as far as the variety and number of sub-boards, as well as the reliability of the hardware running it. So I feel that taking the time to gain access to the WRFM BBS is probably a must for anyone who wants to see a versatile and well run BBS. I think that you will find it an excellent addition to your list of BBS numbers.

Have fun and happy telecommunicating!

NEXT: MAUDE-Milwaukee Area Utility for Digital Exchanges

§ RADIO FREE MILWAUKEE §
§ Reception Area §

FIGURE 3

- roadcast Board.
- <D>iskette Jockeys.
- <E>ngineering.
- <G>oodbye (Sign Off)
- <J>ock's Lounge.
- <M>ail Room (E-MAIL)
- <N>ewsroom (System News).
- <R>ead/Scan Combined Boards.
- <S>ales Department. (Shopping)
- <T>ime & Temperature
- <U>ser Group & Computer Boards.
- <V>isit the Game Room.
- <X>-Rated Smoking Section.

BULLETIN BOARD INFO

HELPFUL HELPERS

The following is a list of the most complete and up to date bulletin boards (both free and pay) available to all TI users in the Milwaukee Area. The telephone numbers represent those most recently checked.

JUST A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS...

Several people contributed a great deal of their own free time so that this newsletter could be put out for you at this date.

Your efforts are appreciated:

- George Kasica
- Phil Norton
- Gene Hitz
- Fred Pabian
- Gary Pichler
- Steve Sanders

Free Access Systems

Atari Music Machine 24 hrs.	353-1185
Auto-net 24 hrs.	273-3434
Breakin' AE (System Password: BREAKN)	529-3067
Color-80 24 hrs.	543-3333
Coco Connection 9:30pm-8am	321-5132
Commlink	784-2096
Commodore 64 HOURS UNKNOWN	544-9468
Commodore Castle 11pm Sat-7am Sun	425-9584
Commodore Up/Download Line 1pm-12pm	675-9103
Computer Palace 10am-10pm WEEKENDS	755-1422
Crystal Cave 5pm-8am	784-2096
CSB 9pm-7am	282-8525
Datatech-4 Games System 24 hrs.	672-5687
Demon's Realm 2pm-8am, Afternoons Saturday	721-2653
Dragon's Lair 24 hrs.	81-8581
Dragon Slayer 20+hrs.	82-101
EAP:H 24 hrs.	772-508
EBBS #1 24 hrs.	766-9645
E.S.C.A.P.E. 24 hrs.	875-1754
Exec-PC 24 hrs.	964-5160
Far East Network(FEN) 3pm-11pm & 12pm-11pm Wknds.	691-8741
Force BBS HOURS UNKNOWN	481-4484
Generic Crossroads 6pm-9am	724-4181
Genies Loop(a.k.a. Midnight Star) 10pm-1pm	784-2402
Golter 1:30-2am	488-8274
Group-BB(Coco) 24 hrs.	478-8772
H.A.U.S.E. 7pm-7am	668-8645
Heath BBS 24 hrs.	877-7664
Joe's Bar & Grill 24 hrs.	781-8887
Marquette -CURS UNKNOWN	224-5776
Mars -PS UNKNOWN	497-8130
Micro Share 24 hrs.	441-4161
Mil Atari (Milw. Atari Users Group BBS) 24 hrs.	946-5631
Milw. Area Commodore Connection(MACC) 24 hrs.	465-889
Mil. Area Utility for Digital Excn.(MAUDE) 24 hrs.	241-8764
Milwaukee BBS 24 hrs.	541-6174
Milwaukee Communications 3pm-11pm	552-6177
Milwaukee Connection 24 hrs.	252-5288
Mil. Software Lib.(MSL) 5pm-6am & 12pm-6am Wknds.	777-7273
Milwaukee Tribune(a.k.a. Canopus) 24 hrs.	251-8545
Mini-Board WEEKENDS	774-8478
Pony Express 10pm-1pm	761-2529
Radio Free Milwaukee(WRFM) 24 hrs.	784-8830
Rogue Moor 6pm Fri-10pm Sat	462-2225
RSTB(PRIVATE) HOURS UNKNOWN	476-8010
SUE(Serious Users Exchange) 24 hrs.	762-4411
Tabloid 10pm-6pm	233-500
Telecommunicator's Edge 24 hrs.	542-2102
TIBBS 24 Hrs.	649-332
Trader's Alley 24 hrs.	272-8769
Tunes 3pm-6am	242-1184
Uni-Net HOURS UNKNOWN	549-3970
Util-Atari 24 hrs.	353-100
Whizz's Wares AE Line(Syst. Pswrd.:LADCA) 24 hrs.	781-8653
World of Cryton HOURS UNKNOWN	246-765
	246-4702

Pay Systems

Comuserve Network 24 hrs.	475-6381
" " " " " "	475-6691
" " " " " "	475-6775
Cash HOURS UNKNOWN	554-0000
Milwaukee Express 24 hrs.	327-5500

FORTH TIF

-Reprinted from the Central Iowa Users Group Newsletter

For those of you who have a one disk drive system...this program is for you! This will be put in our library soon! It will copy the entire contents of an original disk in only 3 passes! For example, if you had a disk with 20 program or data files on it and used TI's DISK MANAGER, (and only one disk drive) it would take you about 8 minutes to copy all of the files. With two drives, it takes about 3 minutes. Now you can do it in 2 minutes! First, type and save this program. To operate, load TI FORTH, and when the cursor appears, type COLD. The disk drive will "kick in" momentarily. Next, insert your disk with this program on it (drive #1), and type 30 LOAD. this will load both screens automatically. The screen prompts will give you all of the instructions to proceed.

```
SCR #30
0 ( 3 PASS DISK COPIER - DOUG SMITH 301-645-1432 ) ; IT ;
1 ; CLS 16 SYSTEM 1 ; VMBW 2 SYSTEM 1 ; VMBR 6 SYSTEM 1 ;
2 0 ; VARIABLE AREA 15360 ALLDT 0 VARIABLE PL 0 DISK_LD !
3 ; TX CLS 5 11 507XY !
4 ; M1 TX ." INSERT COPY DISK-PRESS ANY KEY " KEY DROP ;
5 ; M2 TX ." INSERT MASTER - PRESS ANY KEY " KEY DROP ;
6 ; M3 TX ." DONE - ENTER W TO COPY ANOTHER " ;
7 ; PR TX ." COPIER NOW READY-PRESS ANY KEY " KEY DROP !
8 ; PU PL @ 20 + PL @ 5 + DO I BLOCK AREA 2 + I PL @ 5 + - 1024
9 ; + 1024 CHOVE LOOP !
10 ; BU PL @ 5 + PL @ 5 + DO I BLOCK UPDATE LOOP M1 FLUSH ;
11 ; DR PL @ 10 + PL @ 5 + DO AREA 2 + I PL @ 5 + - 1024 * + I
12 ; BUFFER 1024 CHOVE UPDATE LOOP FLUSH PL @ 15 + PL @ 10 + DO
13 ; AREA 2 + I PL @ 5 + - 1024 * + I BUFFER 1024 CHOVE UPDATE
14 ; LOOP FLUSH PL @ 20 + PL @ 15 + DO AREA 2 + I PL @ 5 + -
15 ; 1024 * + I BUFFER 1024 CHOVE UPDATE LOOP FLUSH ; -->
```

```
SCR #31
0 ( 3 PASS COPIER CONTINUED )
1 ; BPU PL @ 28 + PL @ 20 + DO I BLOCK 5120 I PL @ - 20 - 1024
2 ; + 1024 VMBW LOOP
3 ; PL @ 28 + BLOCK 3072 1024 VMBW
4 ; PL @ 29 + BLOCK 1122 1024 VMBW ;
5 ; BDR PL @ 25 + PL @ 20 + DO 5120 I PL @ - 20 - 1024 * + I
6 ; BUFFER 1024 VMBR UPDATE LOOP FLUSH
7 ; PL @ 28 + PL @ 25 + DO 5120 I PL @ - 20 - 1024 * + I
8 ; BUFFER 1024 VMBR UPDATE LOOP
9 ; 3072 PL @ 28 + BUFFER 1024 VMBR UPDATE
10 ; 1122 PL @ 29 + BUFFER 1024 VMBR UPDATE FLUSH ;
11 ; PAS BPU PU BU BDR DR ;
12 ; CY 0 PL ! 30 / 1+ 0 DO PAS PL @ 50 > IF M3 ELSE M2 I 2+ .
13 ; 30 PL + ! THEN LOOP ;
14 ; W M2 89 CY ;
15 PR W
```


COMPUTER
NEWS

For a machine that is supposed to be an "orphan", there has sure been a great deal of new hardware and software appearing from third party manufacturers.

While everyone cannot run out and spend big bucks on TI compatible materials, it is important to remember that if we all do not support these companies with our business, no one will have products to buy some day. If you can afford to get a new piece of hardware or software, do so - from a reliable TI product merchant.

There have been more NEW TI 99/4A products released for us in the past three months than the last four years or so. Many are exciting new items, which will allow you to get the maximum benefit from your TI. Here is just a partial listing of what's become available:

FOUNDATION COMPUTING has announced the release of a CPM card for the TI expansion box. This \$349.00 product boasts a 4 Mhz Z80A with 64K of built-in RAM, two RS-232 ports, and a double density disk controller. In other words, you are getting a CPM machine for the money - one capable of running up to 10,000 programs that are on the market for CPM machines.

FOUNDATION has also released their 80 column card, which will work with your existing TI or their CPM card. It sells for \$249.95 retail.

QUALITY 99 SOFTWARE has introduced two new disk-based pieces of software. Both operate in extended basic and require 32K memory expansion --- The first is Draw N Plot, for those who wish to produce pixel defined graphics that can be saved to disk for future reference or dumped to a printer. A joystick is also needed. The second item is Database 99, for those record-keeping enthusiasts. It boasts a very fast sort routine, and can store up to 750 records on a SSD disk, and can be set up with up to 28 files of 28 characters each.

SCI TECH is a Southern California company that is just starting to get into the TI market, after working on product developments for other computer brands. This company will be releasing a 64K-256K RAM Disk Card for the expansion box. It will be sold with an optional external power supply which allows you to turn off your TI system without losing all the contents on the RAM Disk. This card will hold all kinds of programs, including FORTH, and can hold up to 127 different files at any one time. If the external power supply is not attached, the RAM Card will automatically format itself upon powerup. Included with the Card is a Disk Manager diskette, which allows you to format all or part of the RAM Disk. The unformatted parts can be used by assembly programmers as extra RAM space. Loading time is supposed to be lightning fast in comparison to floppy operation. Expect a March, 1985 date for release.

MILLERS GRAPHICS (those ingenious programming people) plans to release a new utility software product in January, 1985. Their DIAGNOSTICS PROGRAM will be TI and Corcomp Disk controller compatible, and will do a complete VDP, Scratch Pad, and Memory Expansion RAM check. Errors will be reported on your screen. In addition, this program will check and advise you what your Drive RPM speed is, check your disks for bad sectors, and check for fractured files. Any errors diagnosed are reported. It will also seek out and read or write to any sector on command. All in all --- alot of good utility for the \$19.95 cost (plus shipping).

These are the announced new TI compatible products that we know of...although rumors of others abound, such as:

An "Apple Card", similar to the CPM card, that turns a TI into an Apple computer, running Apple software.

A TI compatible Koala Pad...with full features (not to be confused with the Sketch Pad product already out).

A TI compatible Hard Disk Drive - for under \$1000!

As we stated earlier, things no longer look so gloomy, with all of these new "goodies" coming out. BUT IF WE CAN'T GET THE STUFF, THEY WON'T MAKE THE STUFF. FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

We will do our best to continue to keep you informed on the latest new product releases, here in the MICRO REPORT.

SOFTWARE
REVIEW

OFFICE HELPER

A review by Peter Radike

Now that TI has abandoned the Home Computer market, it seems as though there are more new QUALITY programs coming out than ever before. Software authors are finding a viable market for their products, particularly in DISK based formats.

One such quality disk operated program to be recently released is OFFICE HELPER. This program, designed for a small business or office, is exceptionally advanced in features and versatility. Those TI owners with 32K and a disk drive (even better with two drives) will really get their money's worth out of this program. Extended Basic is also needed.

As is the trend in recent releases, the disk is written with various menu driven options that can be used by even the most inexperienced computer user. The package is sold with three main selections- INVENTORY, INVOICE, and MAIL-LIST. The MAIL-LIST portion is probably the finest one released to date.

The Inventory category has the following menu options:

ADD RECORDS	UPDATE RECORDS	EXAMINE RECORDS
EXAMINE BY FIELDS	PRINT REPORTS	DELETE RECORDS
SET UP FILE	SINGLE LABELS	COMPLETE LABELS
SORT BY STOCK NO. SPECIAL PRINTER SETUP		
REPORTS (In 80 or 132 Column Format)		

The Invoice category has these options:

INVOICE WITH OR WITHOUT INVENTORY UPDATE
INVOICE WITH OR WITHOUT DISK BACK-UP

The Mail-list category has the following options:

ADD RECORDS	UPDATE RECORDS	EXAMINE RECORDS
EXAMINE BY FIELDS	PRINT LABELS	PRINT RECORDS
DELETE RECORDS	SORT BY ANY FIELD	
RECORDS CAN BE PRINTED IN LABEL FORMAT OR 80 COLUMN		
FORMAT. LABELS CAN BE PRINTED IN ONE TO THREE LABEL		
WIDTHS. VARIABLE AMOUNTS OF LABELS FOR EACH RECORD		
CHOSEN.)		

A Utilities option program is included in the OFFICE HELPER package disk, which converts mail-list files to TI-WRITER form letter files.

Obviously, you are getting alot of programming here for the \$139.95 retail price (with a 15% discount to Milwaukee Area 99/4A Users Group members only).

The INVENTORY, INVOICE, and MAIL-LIST categories are also sold SEPARATELY on individual disks for \$54.95 each (with the same 15% discount mentioned earlier).

Continued on Page 8

Continued From Page 7

Complete documentation is included with your package, although none is really necessary. You also get a personalized "password" to enter your program.

All three programs utilize high quality sort and search routines, which are quite fast in an extended basic program. By including so many printing options and sub-menus, OFFICE HELPER is probably one of the best buys for anyone needing and or all of the 3 program categories.

OFFICE HELPER is available from:

GARY'S SOFTWARE
10421 W. BONNA DRIVE
MILWAUKEE, WI 53224

OR by calling GARY at 355-2051.

HOT DEF
THE WIRE . . .

Hardware Available Soon Software

These little bits of news pertaining to TI owners were just received prior to publication of this newsletter, and we thought you might want to be informed about them right away.

Comp-U-Serv's sales operation at the Abacus Micro store (7511 W. Oklahoma Ave., Milw.) has ceased. The owner of the Comp-U-Serv firm, Dan Gunia, said he is moving his business to the Starting Computer store, located at 120th and Capitol Drive. He plans to be fully operational with TI products at his new location as of January 1, 1985.

Micro Pal products has announced they have obtained the rights from Texas Instruments to manufacture a full TI 99/4A package called Extended Basic! Yes, this means we now have a new company actually making a fully compatible TI Extended Basic cartridge, which should run 100% of all EX BASIC programs you already may have. The package includes a TI manual and TI's "latest enhancements" (whatever those are!). Tenex Computer Products is already advertising this product, with other local vendors anxiously awaiting the product on their shelves. Retail introductory price is \$74.95. There are also rumors of other manufacturers planning to make these popular cartridges.

Well, as many of you already know, HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE is alive, basically well, and hopefully organized to be printing on a regular basis for 1985. HCM has said that they will now put out 10 issues a year, with "many exciting new + quality programs to be included" in their 1985 issues. From past experience, we should all believe it when we see it, but still wish them well. Even though they are erratic, they are still the best overall publication covering the TI 99/4A.

For those of you ADVENTURE fiends out there, there is a newer book out that can help you keep your sanity. "The Book of Adventure Games" by Kim Schuette is a comprehensive collection of maps and solutions to all of the SCOTT ADAMS and INFOCOM adventure games for the TI (as well as other makes). It is published by Arrays, Inc. Publishing, and available at many local computer and book stores for about \$17.50 (still less than a shrink).

SOFTWARE REVIEW

POLE POSITION

A REVIEW BY GARY PICHLER

This time I have the opportunity to review one of the Atari games. I was expecting to see a game as good as the rest of the Atari games for the 99/4. I was a little disappointed upon playing this game. The graphics were not as good as the other Atari games. There are three different skill levels but I could not tell much difference between them. I played the game several times in the two weeks that I had the game. The only way I could get a bad score was if I used a bad joystick. The game was okay for a few plays but I soon found myself very bored. I had a chance to play the arcade version which seems a lot better. The cartridge is very easy to use: just plug it in and you are up and running.

I would like to thank DAN at COMP U SERV for letting me use the game for this review.

POLE POSITION is available at COMP U SERV

PRICE \$23.71

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