August 84      Vol. 2  No. 12

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## AUGUST MEETING

DATE: Thursday, August 30    TIME: 7 PM

PLACE: Bellevue Public Library, 11501 Main Street, Bellevue

PROGRAM:
* CorComo 9900 Disk Controller Demo by Chuck Wynne
* Fingerprint Demo by Chuck Wynne
* Widget Board from Navarone Demo by Chuck Wynne
* Special Interest Group Sessions

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## SEPTEMBER MEETING

DATE: Thursday, September 27    TIME: 7 PM

PLACE: Shoreline Public Library. 345 NE 175th. Seattle

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## OCTOBER MEETING

DATE: MONDAY. October 22    TIME: 7 PM

PLACE: Bellevue Public Library, 11501 Main Street, Bellevue

# JULY MEETING

## Minutes -- Richard Martin, Secretary

July's meeting at Shoreline Library was opened by Ralph Devin, the club's president. Ralph mentioned that the Home Computer Magazine's latest issue was just out. He also mentioned that our July's newsletter had not been mailed but was forth coming.

Chuck Wynne noted that the mail-order firm of Triton Marketing has just about everything for the TI-99/4A but the prices are high and that it might be best to buy from one of the local merchants for a better price and service.

Bits and Chips (542-1636) now has the CorComp 9900 Mini-Box for sale and the SUPER SKETCH PAD.

Chuck Wynne gave a demo of how to speed up the start of programs by suppressing PRE-SCAN. July's newsletter for details.

Al Lawrence of Bits and Chips gave a demo on a new word-processor called COMPANION. Al said that in several weeks that the people that made COMPANION will have a spelling checker for it and for TI-WRITER. Also when updates of COMPANION come out you can mail your copy in and it will be updated for free. Al also noted an often overlooked powerful tool in Extended Basic programming is -- ON ERROR. For more info check in your EXTENDED BASIC manual.

Ralph then asked if there was anything for sale and there were several items.

Chuck Wynne gave another talk in a series on DEBUGGING.

Thanks to Doug Keller and Rick Schultz for bringing their computers to the July meeting.

## ****************

## DISK DRIVE MODIFICATIONS

### Adding a second disk drive -- Richard Martin

In June I added a second disk drive to my system. I followed the instructions found in the Disk Memory Drive Manual and also talked to others that had added a second disk drive. My system seemed to work. but at times it would not load TI-WRITER TEXT EDITOR or would wipe out portions of the directory on a disk so that I couldn't access a file that was on the disk. The more I tried to recover the file the more files I would lose. This is what happened to the second disk of data I use for the newsletter mailing labels. I spent about three days reconstructing the mailing list. this was NOT fun. I talked to John Ueland. our club librarian, about my problem and he said that TI had an addendum to the Disk Memory Drive Manual that adds a resistor pack in place of the first disk drive terminating resistor.(which the manual says to remove when adding a second drive) I then called 1-800-TI-CARES and to my relief they still care and mailed the addendum and the new resistor pack to me for free. Since adding the resistor pack my system has worked fine except when I turn the expansion box on first then the second drive(which is backwards from the manual). When this is done I can not

load TI-WRITER.  TI does not mention in the addendum what the new resistor pack is
for or what happens if it is left out, but I am leaving mine in!

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## BREAKOUT
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A Game from the disk of Tom Wynne
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Here is a little Break-Out game you might want to try.  It is a little on the slow
side, and it could stand some improvement.  Feel free to do what you want with it.
This is the EXTENDED BASIC version.  I am working on a similar  version  in  FORTH
that will run much faster.  Type it in and enjoy!

```
100 REM **************
110 REM * TI BREAK OUT *
120 REM * BY TOM WYNNE *
130 REM **************
140 REM
150 RANDOMIZE :: FOR I=3 TO 8 :: CALL COLOR(I,16,2):: NEXT I :: CALL CHAR(136,"0
0000000FF000000"):: CALL COLOR(14,9,2)
160 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREEN(2):: FOR I=1 TO 5 :: CALL CHAR(56+I*8,"007E7E7E7E7
E7E00"):: CALL COLOR(I+4,I+2,2):: NEXT I
170 FOR I=1 TO 4 :: CALL CHAR(39+I,"FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFF"):: NEXT I :: CALL COLOR(2,
16,2):: CALL CHAR(100,"00183C7E7E3C1800"):: CALL COLOR(9,13,2)
180 FOR I=1 TO 5 :: CALL HCHAR(I+5,4,56+I*8,28):: NEXT I :: CALL VCHAR(1,1,40,72
):: CALL VCHAR(1,30,40,72):: CALL HCHAR(1,1,40,64)
190 DISPLAY AT(14,10)SIZE(9):"BREAK OUT" :: DISPLAY AT(16,8)SIZE(14):"STRIKE ANY
 KEY"
200 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF S=0 THEN 200
210 DISPLAY AT(12,10)SIZE(9):"" :: DISPLAY AT(14,10)SIZE(9):"" :: DISPLAY AT(16,
8)SIZE(14):""
220 PC=13 :: BR=12 :: BC=INT(RND)+4 :: BRD=1 :: BCD=0 :: CALL HCHAR(23,1,136,
32)
230 CALL HCHAR(23,PC-1,136):: CALL HCHAR(23,PC,41):: CALL HCHAR(23,PC+1,42):: CA
LL HCHAR(23,PC+2,43):: CALL HCHAR(23,PC+3,136)
240 CALL HCHAR(BR,BC,100):: CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF S=0 THEN 260 ELSE IF K=68 THEN
PC=PC+1 :: IF PC>=29 THEN PC=PC-1
250 IF K=83 THEN PC=PC-1 :: IF PC<=1 THEN PC=PC+1
260 CALL HCHAR(BR,BC,32):: CALL GCHAR(BR+BRD,BC+BCD,CH)
270 IF CH>63 AND CH<97 THEN 280 ELSE 310
280 CALL HCHAR(BR+BRD,BC+BCD,32):: ADD=10 :: GOSUB 360
290 IF BRD=-1 THEN BRD=1 ELSE IF BRD=1 THEN BRD=-1
300 GOTO 350
310 IF CH=41 THEN BRD=-1 :: BCD=-1 ELSE IF CH=42 THEN BRD=-1 :: BCD=0 ELSE IF CH
=43 THEN BRD=-1 :: BCD=1
320 IF CH=40 THEN GOSUB 330 :: GOTO 350 ELSE 350
330 IF BRD=1 THEN BCD=-BCD ELSE IF BRD=-1 AND BR<4 THEN BRD=1 ELSE BCD=-BCD
340 RETURN
350 CALL HCHAR(BR,BC,32):: BR=BR+BRD :: BC=BC+BCD :: IF BR=24 THEN 380 ELSE 230
360 SC=SC+ADD :: DISPLAY AT(1,1)SIZE(13):"SCORE:";SC :: CALL SOUND(1,250,0):: IF
 SC/10=120 THEN 370 ELSE RETURN
370 FOR I=1 TO 5 :: CALL HCHAR(I+5,4,56+I*8,28):: NEXT I :: RETURN
380 DISPLAY AT(12,10)SIZE(9):"YOU LOSE!"
390 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF S=0 THEN 390 ELSE DISPLAY AT(12,10)SIZE(9):"         "
```

```
:: CALL HCHAR(23,1,136,32):: GOTO 220
```

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## GEMINI-10X PRINT STYLES
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A Program by Ralph Devin
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When I got my Gemini-10x, I wanted to know what the print would look like.  When I
opened the manual, there were print style programs for nearly every computer but
the TI-99/4A.   I spent a little time and developed the following EXTENDED BASIC
program, which prints out just like the ones in the manual.

```
 80 REM  GEMINI-10X PRINT STYLES
 90 REM  BY RALPH DEVIN, 1983
100 OPEN #4:"PIO".VARIABLE 255
110 PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(64):CHR$(27)&CHR$(82)&CHR$(15)
120 FOR I=1 TO 2
130 IF I=1 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(14):" GEMINI STANDARD TYPE STYLES":CHR$(18)
140 IF I=2 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(14):CHR$(27)&CHR$(52):" GEMINI ITALIC TYPE STYL
E":CHR$(18)
150 FOR N=1 TO 40 :: PRINT #4:CHR$(231)&CHR$(232):
155 NEXT N :: PRINT #4 :: PRINT #4
160 PRINT #4:" 17 CPI 12 CPI 10 CPI 8.5 CPI 6 CPI 5 CPI"
170 FOR N=1 TO 80 :: PRINT #4:CHR$(241):::: NEXT N :: PRINT #4
180 M1$=" ABC"
190 M2$="Xx"
200 M3$="Yy"
210 FOR J=1 TO 4
220 IF I=2 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(52):
230 IF J=1 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(66)&CHR$(3):"NORMAL ";
240 IF J=2 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(66)&CHR$(3):"DOUBLE STRIKE ":
250 IF J=3 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(66)&CHR$(3):"EMPHASIZED ";
260 IF J=4 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(66)&CHR$(3):"DOUBLE STRIKE ";
270 FOR K=1 TO 6
280 IF K=1 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(66)&CHR$(3):
290 IF K=2 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(66)&CHR$(2);
300 IF K=3 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(66)&CHR$(1):
310 IF K=4 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(66)&CHR$(3):CHR$(14);
320 IF K=5 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(66)&CHR$(2):CHR$(14):
330 IF K=6 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(66)&CHR$(1):CHR$(14);
340 IF J=2 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(71):
350 IF J=3 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(69);
360 IF J=4 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(71):CHR$(27)&CHR$(69):
370 PRINT
#4:M1$:CHR$(27)&CHR$(83)&CHR$(0):M2$:CHR$(27)&CHR$(83)&CHR$(1):M3$; 380
PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(84):CHR$(18);
390 IF K>3 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(18):
400 NEXT K
410 IF J=4 THEN GOSUB 490
420 PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(64)
430 IF J=2 THEN PRINT #4:CHR$(10):
440 NEXT J
450 FOR M=1 TO 5 :: PRINT #4 :: NEXT M
460 NEXT I
```

```
470 CLOSE #4
480 END
490 PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(65)&CHR$(9):CHR$(10):
495 PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(70);CHR$(27)&CHR$(72);
500 PRINT #4:CHR$(27)&CHR$(66)&CHR$(3):
510 PRINT #4:" + EMPHASIZED"
520 RETURN
```

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## CorComp 9900 DISK CONTROLLER CARD
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Review by Chuck Wynne
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About two weeks ago, Barbara Wiederhold from Security Business Machines allowed me
to use CorComp's new disk controller card. Well, at that time I didn't think I
needed to have such a thing for my own.

What a surprise! The card is great. Just one of its new features is
double-density. The rest of the features make the TI perform even greater. Here
is what I mean.

OK, so you can have double-density, but what about the friend who hands you a
single-density disk? Don't worry, just load it as normal, the controller looks at
it and reads it as a single. Now mind you, he can't read your double-density
disks. but that can also be an advantage. You can always give him a copy on his
disk by simply inserting one that is formatted single-density and copying onto it.
No special commands necessary. By just inserting the disks, your manager will
copy from single to double. or double to single-density.

The Disk Manager II module will still work for you, but the disk manager that
comes with the card (on disk, no module) is much better. You don't have to change
modules to get to it, leave your XBASIC or TI WRITER in the slot. Not only that,
with double density you can put your TI WRITER, ASSEMBLER and personal loader
programs right on the same disk as the manager and have all of them at your finger
tips.

The manager has these great features.

   1. You can format in single-density or double. Also single-sided or double.

   2. When transfering files, it pulls the whole menu on screen, then you can
mark which ones you wish to copy, delete, protect or leave the same. You also
have the added feature of a transient protect. This is where you can take a file
or program out of the disk. modify it and save it back once. The saving of it
automatically reprotects it.

   3. You can load and run assembler programs. games and FORTH right from the
card -- no module. This also allows you to peek, poke, and move memory on the TI
without any special module in the slot.

   4. The card also has dip switches to increase your disk head step time. This
technically will allow your disk drive to run smoother and more efficient on a
setting that's right for it.

   5. This card is capable of using 4 disk drives. If your going to use it for a
business, thats a lot of online storage (1440K or 1.44 megabytes).

6.   There is no end to the oossibilities for the Tool Shed utilities that  come
with the card.  The CALL MPEEK. MPOKE, VPEEK, VPOKE, WRTG (Write video registers),
MOVEM (move blocks of memory), EXEC (execute bv address) will allow you  in  basic
or  xbasic  to  do  almost anything.  Future programs with these commands could be
fantastic.

Perhaps I didn't cover everything, but you can see how much this card will improve
your  system.   Even with one disk drive, vou will be further ahead with this one.
The enhancements are worth the price.  I cannot give you the price,  as  you  will
have to find that out for yourself.

I know one thing, though! You can't have my card.  I wouldn't part with it.

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## Best of 99er Vol.I. Orders
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**Notice to People who ordered:**  Orders  must  be oicked up by 8:30 at the September
meeting or thev will be sold on a first come basis.  If vou  ordered  a  copy  and
cannot  make  it  to  the meeting call Ron Stone at 481-1412 before the meeting to
make arrangements.

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## McDONALD'S COMPUTERS
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Come to the next meeting and see FINGERPRINT, SUPER SKETCH, and  the  new  CorComp
DISK  CONTROLLER  CARD  in  action! Also vou can order these items from McDonald's
Computers at the meeting or phone 525-1991.  The crices are as follows:

FINGERPRINT----------------------------$ 50.00

SUPERSKETCH-----------------------------$ 50.00

DISK CONTROLLER CARD--------------$180.00

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## FOR SALE
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Peripheral  Expansion  System(includes  Disk  Drive  &  Controller.   32K   Memory
Expansion, and Microsoft Multiplan) -- $400

Speech Svnthesizer and Terminal Emulator -- $60; Logo I -- $60

Munch Man, Parsec, Hangman and Jovsticks -- $40; Contact Mark Merlino 232-0840.

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Your  newsletter  editor  wishes  to  apologize  for  the  delay  in  getting  the
newsletters out .  Mailing was delaved due to circumstances bevond his control.

[ This is a repeat of the item that appeared in May PS 99er Newsletter ]

## Computer Day Camp on the Eastside

The following announcement has appeared in the Eastside Family YMCA Summer Programs Bulletin:

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COMPUTER DAY CAMP

Entering grades 2-7

In cooperation with the Texas Instruments Learning Center, this camp will provide hands-on computer training, present Logo and Basic programming languages, promote the development of logic and problem solving. Campers will be instructed 10 hours on the TI 99/4A Color Module Computer and will participate in other activities: swimming, games and arts/crafts.

Sessions:
    1. August 6 - August 10
    2. August 13 - August 17

Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Location: YMCA

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Contact the Eastside Family YMCA in Bellevue (tel: 746-9900), for fees and registration.

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## BOOKS ON TI-99/4A

We thank Chris Beeks for sending a very long list of books on the TI-99/4A. The list is now, in the process of being put into a file and will appear in either the July or the August newsletter.

Thanks Chris !!!

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## === McDONALD COMPUTERS===

FOR ALL YOUR TI NEEDS
for free Price Sheet call McDonald Computers at 525-1981
or write
8055, 38th Avenue NE, Seattle WA 98115

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## FOR SALE !!!

Mini-memory and Editor-Assembler Manual -- $65.00
contact
Theron Hunter at 365-4337

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## HELP !!! HELP !!! HELP !!!

Your Newsletter needs your Literary BITS & BYTES to stay healthy and keep on growing. Please either mail your contributions to the users' group, or better yet, put them on a floppy disk and contact your newsletter editor at the monthly meetings. A copy of your contribution will be made immediately and your disk will be returned on the spot. Please don't forget to include your name with your contribution.

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The previous procedure is from TI's 'tip sheet' and is successful with serial printers and some parallel printers. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem to work with the Pro-Writer (parallel) printer. So try using this slightly different procedure to suppress the automatic first page advance.

Steps:

1. Turn your printer on, but keep it in the deselect mode. (This is the default selection for the Pro-Writer when the printer power is turned on.)

2. Put the TI-WRITER program into the "Text Formatter" option.

3. Respond to the questions that follow, making sure the letter "Y" is pressed for the "PAUSE AT END OF PAGE" command. Press <ENTER>. (Your printer should still be ON.)

4. At this point, go to your printer and SIMULTANEOUSLY press the SEL (select) button on the Pro-Writer, while turning the printer off.

5. Now, turn the printer back on, then press the SEL button.

6. Press <ENTER> to continue.

This method works, but is cumbersome and requires quick hands!

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TI-WRITER -- Jane McAshan, Houston User's Group, June 84

I've been doing a great deal of work with TI-WRITER recently, and have discovered how to make it do several things which are not mentioned in the manual.

For example, in order to get an output of 120 characters across, set the following Format Commands .FI;AD;LM 6;RM 126 (page 100-103). Then use the Special Character Mode (page 98, 146) ASCII Code 15 to send the compressed character code to the printer. After you have entered all the text, save the file and then run it through the Text Formatter. Your text will be printed out the full width of the paper (in this example with 6 character margins). The one drawback to this is that you can not use any tabular data since the above format commands will reformat all your text and data.

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" U.N.C.H. TI TIP #1

If you have been frustrated by the fact that your printer is capable of printing more than the 80 characters/line which the 99/4A outputs, there is a very simple solution: When you OPEN the output to the printer, simply add the file-specification VARIABLE 132(maximum). The default value for this file spec. is 80, which explains why you get an automatic carriage return and line feed after eighty characters, ie -

        100 OPEN #1: "PIO". VARIABLE 132

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TI-WRITER TIP -- Milwaukee Area 99/4 User Group to run the "Formatter"

Next time you prepare to run the "Formatter" to print your docment, try entering a disk device and file name (e.g. DSK1.ANYTHING) when prompted for the "PRINT DEVICE NAME". This little "trick" will cause the output from the Formatter to be directed to disk, rather than to your printer. By using the Text Editor facility of TI-WRITER, you can then Edit your "Print File" to see how it will look when printed, or to remove undesired page and/or line feeds. To print your document, use the "Print File" option. All of the printer control characters that were imbedded in the text will be passed on to, and recognized by, your printer.

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WEIGHT CONTROL MODULE AND PRINTER -- Ozark 99'ers User's Group

To use a parallel printer with the Weight Control and Nutrition Module, when asked at the beginning of the program "WILL YOU BE USING A PRINTER? Y/N", answer "N". Later in the program, on one of the menus, you have the option to print records. Upon making this selection you are asked to enter the device name. This time enter "PIO". You will be given the choice of printing either Personal Information or Menus.

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