



Atlanta
99/4A
Computer
Users
Group

CALL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME I

NUMBER 9

OCTOBER 1983

Atlanta, Georgia

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It hardly seems that a year has gone by, but it sure has. Before I get to the upcoming elections I get to do something that I really enjoy, and that's to say thanks to three people who are leaving the Executive Board. Mike Studwell, Education chairman, George Hayne Program Chairman, Freeman Wilkerson III, Membership Chairman. To each one of you my thanks for a job well done, my special thanks to Mike for the extra effort he has put into making the education programs really outstanding. I know that I speak for the entire membership in expressing thanks to these people.

Back to business, Election Time has arrived. I'm running for President, Gary Mathews is running for Vice-Pres, Elise Gordon is running for Treasurer, Tom Boisseau is running for Newspaper Editor. We need other people to run for the open positions and even for those that are currently held. We need a Secretary desperately; we have yet to have any meeting notes in the newspaper. If you've gotten something out of the club, If you'd like to see something done differently, PLEASE, PLEASE run for an office. If you'd like to help but don't want to hold a chairmanship take a position on one of the committees and add your knowledge and ideas.

Finally I have two beefs with several members, and since I don't know all of them personally I'm taking this time to sound off. Beef one - both Gary and I bring our equipment to the meetings so that they can be used for demonstrations and for hands on training and assistance of the members and their children. But they are not there for anyone to make improper and detrimental use of. The disks, firmware, and hardware are mine and Gary's I do not wish to see anything damaged. To those who use the equipment with permission and know what they're doing Please continue, to the few, hands off....

The second beef is with members who are trying to run a business from the floor of the meeting -- NO WAY -- the meeting and the newsletter are open to all members for trading, selling, buying, or bartering personally owned equipment. We even accept equipment and firmware at the front table for this purpose. But I will not allow anyone to turn the meeting into an extension of his business.

The only exception to this is club sales, since all profits from these sales belong to the club, and therefore benefit all of the members. I think that these transactions should continue.

To those of you who are not involved in the above beefs, my apologies for sounding off, but I believe that it had to be said.

Marshall

DISK DRIVES

I have tried several times to get a group together to purchase disk drives. To date I have been unsuccessful, so I'm going to drop the project. however just in passing I spoke to one of the people at:

SOFTWARE SUPPORT, INC.
Framingham, Ma. 01701
(617) 872-9090

They have TI computable disk systems at very good prices, at the time we were talking a DS/DD drive cost \$239.00 including case and power supply. Several members have purchased from this firm with excellent results. The person I talked to really knew the TI and what its drive needs are. If you're contemplating pruchasing a disk drive, I'd suggest you talk to them, it may be well worth your time and money.

Marshall

ELECTIONS The election of officers of the A9CUG will be held at the November 20th meeting. The ballots will be in the November Newsletter and voting may be done either at the November meeting or by mail postmarked no later than November 20th.

Self nominations are required, and may be made by calling 926-6308 with a follow up letter to the club address. Nominations may also be made at the October 16th meeting at which time the nominations will be closed.

The elections will be for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Three chairman positions also are open. They are Education, Program, and Recruitment.

Following is a summary of the officer's duties as taken from the club's constitution.

President-Shall preside at all meetings and be an ex-officio member of all committees;

Vice-President-In the absence of the President shall exercise his functions and is an ex-officio member of the Newsletter Committee;

Secretary-Shall have charge of all papers, keep such records, and make such reports as are incidental to the office;

Treasurer-Shall have charge of all funds, conduct its banking business, and audit all accounts.

DID YOU EVER WANT TO?????

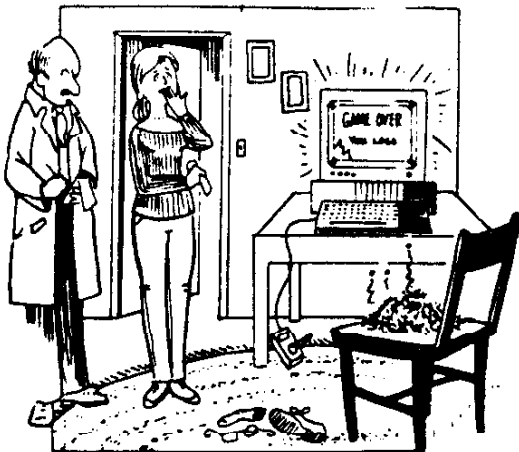
Last months column had a bug in it. Please correct the first data set on line 10030, from 00038484834; to 000038484834.

Use letters instead of numbers on a menu choice and then an ON GOTO, or an ON GOSUB when the letter has been accepted? Well then try this:

```

10 REM MENU USING LETTERS
20 CALL CLEAR
30 PRINT "A)FIRST CHOICE":"B
)SECOND CHOICE":"C)THIRD CHO
ICE":"D)FOURTH CHOICE"
40 PRINT "E)FIFTH CHOICE":"F
)SIXTH CHOICE":"G)SEVENTH CH
OICE":"H)EIGHTH CHOICE"
50 PRINT "ENTER YOUR CHOICE
60 INPUT "":CH$
70 P=POS("ABCDEFGH",CH$,1)
80 IF P>0 THEN 110
90 PRINT CH$;" IS NOT ON THE
MENU":"PLEASE TRY AGAIN"
100 GOTO 20
110 CALL CLEAR
120 ON P GOTO 200,250,300,35
0,400,450,500,550
200 PRINT "FIRST CHOICE":::
210 GOTO 600
250 PRINT "SECOND CHOICE":::
260 GOTO 600
300 PRINT "THIRD CHOICE":::
310 GOTO 600
350 PRINT "FORIH CHOICE":::
360 GOTO 600
400 PRINT "FIFTH CHOICE":::
410 GOTO 600
450 PRINT "SIXTH CHOICE":::
460 GOTO 600
500 PRINT "SEVENTH CHOICE":::
510 GOTO 600
550 PRINT "EIGHTH CHOICE":::
560 GOTO 600
600 PRINT "PRESS ANY KEY TO
CONTINUE"
610 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
620 IF S=0 THEN 610
630 GOTO 20
640 END

```



IT WAS JUST TERRIBLE.... I WARNED HIM
NOT TO GET SO INVOLVED....!

SORRY FOLKS:

TI'S TI-WRITER and I have just not come to an understanding. Or rather I don't understand it. Anyway in my article DID YOU I did two short programs about decimal points and the TI-WRITER refused to take the program as I wrote them, so here's a corrected program listing.

```
10 A=256.34567
20 B=256.34234
30 PRINT A,B
40 PRINT A*100,B*100
50 PRINT A*100+.5,B*100+.5
60 PRINT INT(A*100+.5),INT(B
*100+.5)
70 PRINT INT(A*100+.5)/100,
80 PRINT INT(B*100+.5)/100
```

SECOND PROGRAM: lines 40 and 50 should read as follows;

```
40 PRINT INT(A*10^N+.5)/10^N
50 PRINT INT(B*10^N+.5)/10^N
```

That's the correction, hope you enjoy the programs.

Marshall

One other change you can make is to set the letters you're looking for into a string variable, (25 A\$="ABCDEFGH"). Then change line 70 P=POS(A\$,CH\$,1).

Do a division or multiplication, and print the answer with a controlled number of decimal points. Here's how to do it.

```
10 A=256.34567
20 B=256.34234
30 PRINT A,B
40 PRINT A0,B0
50 PRINT A0+.5,B0+.5
60 PRINT INT(A0+.5),INT(B
  0+.5)
70 PRINT INT(A0+.5)/100,
80 PRINT INT(B0+.5)/100
```

All you need is line 80 or 90 to get the decimal places to work. Also 10 will get you one place, 100 will get you 2, 1000 will get you 3 etc. If you're working with only one set of decimal places this is the answer, if you need several different decimal places, then try this;

```
10 A=256.34567
20 B=256.34234
30 INPUT "NUMBER OF PLACES? ":N
40 PRINT INT(A N+.5)/10 N,
50 PRINT INT(B N+.5)/10 N
60 GOTO 30
```

Clear the screen and not use CALL CLEAR? Try: 100 CALL VCHAR(1,1,32,768)

For a border effect try;

```
100 CALL SCREEN(5)
110 FOR A=1 TO 12
120 CALL COLOR(A,2,8)
130 NEXT A
140 CALL CHAR(130,"")
150 CALL COLOR(13,5,5)
160 CALL VCHAR(1,31,130,96)
170 CALL VCHAR(1,1,32,672)
```

If you have something that you would like to see the TI do and you don't know how to do it, write in and lets see if we can get you an answer.

If you have solved a problem that others could use write it up and let us print it for others to use, you'll get the credit for it.

Until next month,

Marshall

FOUNDATIONS 128K CARD

I would like to thank Cathy Hunter and Bill Henderson of Foundation. Miss Hunter arranged for Bill to call me back after his work day just to plain answer some questions about Foundation's Memeory card. I will pass on what I learned from Bill Henderson and claim any mistakes printed here as resulting from my misunderstanding.

Foundation's memory expansion was designed to work just as the T.I. card. There are some structural differences though. The Foundation card uses fewer chips and is designed for a longer period of reliability. The Foundation card does indeed work like the T.I. card. It runs assembly language programs and increases available memory. I have used it with assembly language games, programs that are as big as they come for T.I. and on assembly language utility programs such as the Display Enhancement software that allows your screen to have a forty column display. There is one program that does not work on the card and that is the new Texas Instruments Text to Speech program. The Foundation people are also aware of this and their engineers trying to reconcile the difference. Bill Henderson did not know whether a software or hardware would be necessary, but he feels that a hardware fix will probably be the way to go. At any rate they are committed to solving the problem because they intend for their card to be completely compatible to T.I.'s.

There is another difference that is beneficial to the user. The Texas Instrument Memory Expansion does not allow you to store strings in extended memory. In other words even with T.I.'s extra memory you can't handle any more files than you could before since those files will not go into the T.I. card.

The Foundation card will handle data strings in its extra memory.

As you may know Foundation is working on a disk emulator program that will give instant access to the four banks that make up the 128K card. As it stands now the user addresses each bank as used in the program. To date that disk emulator

assembly language has not been completed. I asked Bill to give me a casual answer as to when it would be finished. As to before or after Christmas, he indicated that it would probably be ready before.

If you wish to order a 128K or 32K card be aware that a parts shortage that is apparently nationwide (that is affecting other companies beside Foundation) has caused delays in orders. Foundation back-orders have been caught up but they will tell you if you will have to wait overlong for your card.

You can contact Foundation at 415/388-3840, or write for their brochure: 74 Claire Way, Tiburon, CA. 94920.



"BIG DEAL— YOU STILL HAVE TO BUY ALL THOSE PERIPHERALS!"

Reprinted from the Birmingham T.I. U.G.

RANDOMIZED RUMINATIONS

To paraphrase an old saying "Fall has fell". Which means that it is getting time for A9CUG to elect a new slate of officers. My view from the sidelines shows that the present officers have done a really outstanding job in getting the club started and keeping the ball rolling through its first year, which is always the most difficult for any new organization. I have seen some of the many long hours they have spent on club

work and think that they have earned a pat on the back from the membership. Some of them are now looking forward to a well-deserved "break in the action", which brings us to the point of this little blurb: Hey folks! We need some help now that things are moving along, so let's have some candidates for the election next month, and we need some voters, too."

On to the lighter side of things. A new computer magazine called Family Computing has just hit the stands, and from the looks of the first issue, it should have something for just about everyone. There are articles for youngsters, teen-age whizzes and for Mom and Pop, with programming abilities ranging from beginning BASIC to more advanced levels. Also, they are looking for user-written programs and articles, so here's a great opportunity to get your name into print nation-wide, without being a big-time author. The September issue, still on sale, has several interesting programs for the 99/4A, including one for computing home fuel cost savings when insulation is added, and one to translate every-day English into "pig Latin". Remember that from when you were a kid? Your youngsters might find it amusing now. The October issue of Creative Computing has an article which reviews four TI educational games, telling just how educational they are. They have several articles on educational use of computers in general, and a nice article on graphics for the TI and other computers. Compute! for October has a great article about programming music for the TI, and the continuation of a series on creation of a data filing system, plus a neat article on the use of Sprites, which includes the program for an airplane-landing game. It's really nice to see the better computer magazines finally picking up on the popularity and capabilities of the TI!

Speaking about computers, which all too many people are reluctant to do, have you noticed how many people are afraid of them, or at least afraid to have anything to do with them? A good parallel would be the introduction of the automobile - many people were afraid of "that machine" for a long time, too. Fortunately, many forward-thinking people

disregarded such popular myths as the auto being "a devil's machine" or "those break-neck speeds of 25 and 30 miles per hour will cause you to stop breathing", so today the auto is a useful tool of everyday life. Have you heard some of the similar myths that have sprung up about computers? Send in some of your favorites, and they'll be published (with proper credit, of course). To help "slay the dragons" of other

people's fears or dislikes, here is a list of things to keep in mind (call them Computer Corollaries, if you like):

1. Computers are fun, and it's never too late (or too early) to start learning about them.

2. Computers frighten people because they're still fairly new, and most people have mistaken ideas about them. Someday, they will be just as every-day as cars and phones.

3. Computers are simply electronic machines - designed, built and controlled by humans - which represent a new step in communications between humans.

4. Computers are not super-intelligent ogres. They know only what they are told, and forget everything they have ever been told the instant you hit the switch.

5. The decisions that computers make, the criteria they use in making those decisions, and the actions they take on those decisions depend entirely on the instructions given to them by humans.

6. Computers can do many things quickly, which can mean more free time for you. However, remember the old adage about money - "you gotta invest it to earn it", meaning that it takes time to learn how to properly use a computer in order to save time.

7. Modern computers are like modern calculators - much smaller, cheaper and more versatile than their forerunners. How well I remember thinking that my \$85.00 battery-eating four-function calculator was a great bargain at the time. Today, a solar-powered calculator with far more capabilities can be bought for about \$5.00. The point here is that sure, next year's models will be more powerful and maybe cheaper, but then ten years from now, the same thing will

still be true. If you keep waiting, you may NEVER get one, and will miss out on being part of the leading edge of a new Industrial Revolution.

8. Instruction manuals for any product are never written in plain, everyday English. You gotta learn some of the slang and then do some hands-on work before you can understand them. This is especially true for computers.

9. Time-honored principle: If you don't understand, ask someone who does. If you can't find anyone local, write or call the manufacturer.

10. Some people profess to a fear of damaging the computer by making an incorrect entry. Sure, you can easily send a program into nowhere, but it can always be re-entered. For all practical purposes there is nothing you can enter from the keyboard which would damage the computer. In fact, I know of only one instance - a specific POKE into an obscure memory location on one of the older Commodore machines. Even that would take considerable time, and can be forestalled by simply flipping the switch.

11. Computers are fun!

So long for this month.

K. BITZER

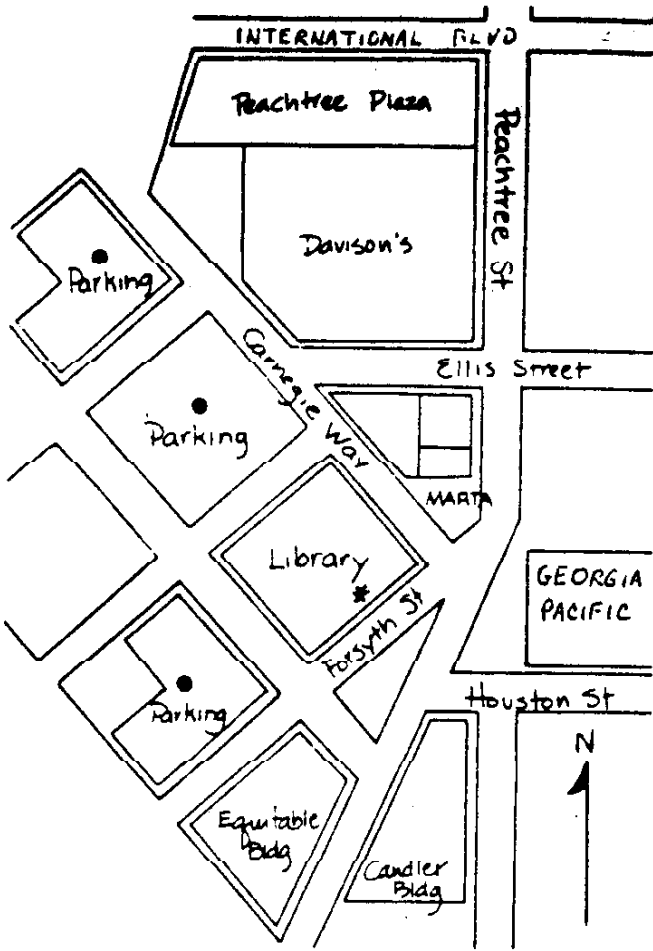
WANTED - old 32K stand-alone memory for The Children's School. Needed so we can use LOGO. Call 873-6985 Dennis Jones or Pat Schneider at the School. Thanks.

FOR SALE - new-in-box P/Box, RS-232, 32K memory - \$300.00. George Hayne, 982-2433

***** CLUB SALES *****

Speech Synthesizer (only 5 left)	\$75.00
Diskettes, box of 10	\$25.00
Cassette Tapes (each)	
C-10	\$.90
C-20	\$ 1.00
C-30	\$ 1.10
Printers:	
Gemini 10 (parallel)	\$350.00
Gemini 15 (parallel)	\$525.00
NCR Recond. Thermal (serial)	\$115.00
Printer Paper 9-1/2x11, 540 sheets	\$8.00
PAP-4000 (Includes P-Box, 32K memory, Disk Controller and Disk Drive	\$400.00

PROFITS FROM CLUB SALES GO TO THE CLUB.



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NEXT MEETING:
SUNDAY, OCT 16 1983
ATLANTA PUBLIC LIBRARY
3:00 P.M.
FOR MORE DETAILS, CALL 926-6308
(A DONATION WILL BE REQUESTED -
MEMBERS - 50¢, NONMEMBERS - \$1.00)

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