

# CALL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II NUMBER 7

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1984

Atlanta, Georgia

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## ELECTION

Our club is almost two years old now, and in January we must hold elections as provided for by our charter. To start that process, at the September meeting a nomination committee is to be appointed. The duty of this committee is to select and post the slate or slates of persons who wish to run for office in January. Although Chairmen of the committies are usually appointed, rather than elected they can be elected if someone wishes to run for that office.

Our club has a need for some new blood. I've held my position for two years now and I can feel it. I do not intend to run for any office at these elections, although I will still help with the club it will not be as an officer at this time.

I do beleive that we have excellent people in our club. There are many who can as club officers bring new idears and new plans into operation and bring the club to new heights and success. A good example is the Fair held by the East Side Group. Probably the most sucessful event since he had II down to visit a long while back.

I have talked to several people who I think would make either good officers or good members of the nominating committee. I have not had a chance to talk to everyone I really needed to, and I'm sorry about this. However, weither I've talked to you or not, if you want to be on the nominating committee, or to run for office let me or one of the other officers know. Or just come to the September meeting and stand up and let everyone know.

This club will not run by itself. If you think that the club is worthwile, then you must support the club with your help. By being an officer, being on a committee or working on the newsletter, or at a metting by giving a lecture on something that interests you, because if your interested others will be too.

Plan to come to the meeting and add your two cents.

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## THE A9CUG BBS

As of August 1 the club has opened a Bulletin Board for all computer users, but especially for 99/4A users. Our board makes use of speech and color if you have a 99/4A and the Terminal Emulator II cartridge, and of course a modem.

System SYSOP is our own Bob Willis, his son Troy is the Asst Sysop, give them a call so they won't get lonely.

Call

## 998-7444

to try your new Bulletin Board.

This makes four BBS' in the Atlanta area designed for the 99/4A. The other boards are:

 Name
 Number
 SYSOP

 Micro 99
 768-0990
 Bob Orr

 Super System
 471-1283

 TIBBS #1
 425-5254
 Ralph Fowler

## 

## LIBRARY DELETIONS

Because of the controversy over our Public Bomain Library we have tried to check all the programs in it and based on the best we could determine the following two programs have to be deleted.

At the insistence of Charles LaFara we have removed GMO215 Cacti Kill. He claims to have the copywrite to this program because it was listed in his magazine. You will just have to type this one in yourself if you have a copy of it.

MUO048 KOJO Appears to be a copywrited program of TIGERCUB SOFTWARE and needs to be removed. However if you want to hear one of the best music programs for the 99/4A I'd suggest you invest \$3.00 and buy this from Jim.

TIGERCUB SOFTWARE 156 Collingwood Ave. COLUMBUS, ORIO 43213

### PRESIDENTS CORNER

To those of you who have not attended the last several meetings, I would like to say that you've missed quite a bit.

Buring Mays two part program Jim Hubbard gave one of the best demonstrations of CALL SOUND programming that I've seen in quite a while, and as an added attraction he demonstrated a hand held control device that allowed him to start the next section of his program whenever pressed the control button. This allowed the computer system to run and play the music, while he was at the screen demonstrating the programming that the computer was doing.

The second part of the program was done by Frank Warinner who demonstrated how to build power line surge protection into your computer system. In addition to explaining the wiring and the use of the 'MOV' parts required he brought along a unit that he had completed so that all who were there could see it for themselves. It always makes it a lot easier to do a project like this one when you can see how someone else did it.

We were very pleased to be able to reproduce portions of their program in the June newsletter. However, as well written as their articles were they did not do justice to the details that were covered at the meeting

In June we had a program swap meet. Eighteen people brought in and set up systems. I think that everyone who attended got as many programs as they could handle. If you missed this one you missed out on a lot of programs derived from our members and other public domain sources. P.S. our library contains no TI. Third party, or Copyright material. I do not think that this is what a Users Group is for. More on this at a latter time.

In July the East Side Group had a computer fair, about 200 people attended. There were lectures and demonstrations every half hour almost all day. Three suppliers had tables of 99/4A third party wares to sell and some things went at what I thought were very good prices. There was also a table for members who wanted to trade or sell items, and was that a busy place. We had people show up from as far away as Alabama and Tennessee.

One section of the room was set up as a game room where the children, and quite a few adults could sit and 'preview' some of the games available for the 99/4A. I understand that there were some very high scores. Everyone who attended had a great time, there was something for everyone.

In August we had a picnic barbecue and I,m sorry that more of our members could't attend. For those of us who attended there was plenty to eat, good company and a lot of computer talk. The kids played at the swings area and the women discussed being computer widows. All in all it was a good day.

We have three meetings per month I do not know at this time what the programs will be but considering the last four months programs can you afford to miss them?????????

### CALL NEWSLETTER

Call Newsletter is the voice of the Atlanta 99/4A Computer Users Group.
P.O. Box 19841; Atlanta, Ga. 30325.
It is published ten times a year. The A9CUG is not affiliated with any commercial company or organization.

Call Newsletter is published by and for the members of the A9CUG to enhance their knoweldge of home computers. Call Newsletter is composed of articles written and/or donated by members of our group, and from articles appearing in other Home Computer Users Groups around the World. Opinions expressed by the authors do not necessarily represent those of the officers or members of the A9CUG.

Permission is hereby granted to any group receiving our newsletter to reproduce any article in this newsletter, unless the article is otherwise noted, provided credit is given to the author and to the Call Newsletter.

Membership is open to families and individuals who own or are interested in using and programming home computers. Membership includes copies of this newsletter as they are published, the meetings of the main club and any of the clubs sub-groups, subject to the rules of the sub-group, and the groups fublic Domain library. Annual dues are \$15.00.

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## <u>LAST GIFTS AS</u> T<del>I SAYS GOODBY</del>E

TI's Home Computer Division was finally closed completely. However 800-TI -CARES still works and the exchange center still exchanges 99/4A's and its various components, so life goes on.

Buring its last gasp TI has sent out some new neat things. Remember the Advanced Assembler debugger that they talked about but never got to release prior to their leaving the field of battle. Well its now been released to the USERS-GROUPS for Public Bomain distribution. A new version of multiplan you still need the cartridge, the disk will not work without it. Put this version runs a little faster and has repeating keys. We also received a new version of TI-writter, it doesn't spit out the first page anymore, it has real little letters and in the formatter section you can have the second line preprinted so that only a tap on the enter key is necesary. II gave us an RS232.BA=1200, and an RS232.BA=4800 version. Our own Bob Willis has given us a PIO.LF version. Last but certainly not least we received the Source Code for Forth, it requires 2 disks.

All of these will be available prior to meetings, from 2:30 to 3:00. Either bring your own disks or purchase them at the meetings. You may mail in your request for any or all of these programs. The cost is \$3.00 per disk requested to cover postage, disk mailers, and disks. If you want part or all of the above by mail and are not sure what you need write or phone and I'll discuss it with you.

There will be no charge for the reproduction.

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## APOLOGY

IN THE JUNE '84 NEWSLETTER WE REPRINTED TWO ARTICLES A GPL ROUTINE AND FORTH ARRAYS.

IN OUR HURRY TO GET THE NEWSLETTER OUT WE DID NOT GIVE CREDIT TO THE SOURCE OF THESE ARTICLES.

THEY ARE FROM THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 99'ERS USERS GROUP ASSOCIATION.

COPIES OF THIS GROUPS NEWSLETTER IS AT THE MONTHLY MEETING, ALONG WITH THE NEWSLETTERS OF SOME SEVENTY OTHER GROUPS THAT WE TRADE WITH. THERE IS LOTS OF THE MONTHLY MEETING AND CATCH UP ON WHAT GOING ON.

## GEMINI-10 USERS

If you own a Star Micronics Gemini-10 dot matrix printer, and you have had problems with the printer not completely printing the first character or two after start-up, read on. This problem only seems to occur after the printer has been off for a while. The problem is in the print head and can be corrected by replacing it. Call Star Micronics California Support Group at (714)768-4340 and they will send you a new head (no...for your printer silly!). Installation instructions are in the owners manual. You only have to pay return postage for the old one. Thanks goes to Dick Carraro for the tip. MIKE WALKER

THE ABOVE WAS REPRINTED FROM THE BREVARD FLORIDA USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

I have also heard that two addendums are available from Star Micronics. One is a translation of all the programs in their manual into 99/4A basic. The second one is a listing of programs for the 99/4A using the Genini Frinter.

If you would like a copy write to (or call the number listed above):

Star Micronics Inc. 3 Oldfield Avenue Irvine, Ca 92714

If you do write please let us know the results

*****	#	* * *
**********		
CLUB SALES		( * * * *
	. 4	
Solid State Cartridges Multiplication 1	\$	25.00
Number Magic	\$	20.00
<b>FORTH Language Package</b> (two left	) _	
members non-members	\$ \$	20.00 30.00
Books and Magazines	•	00640
Using and Programming the TI The Best Of 99'er	‡ ±	9.00 18.00
99'er magazine Vol.1 No.6	* * *	3.50
Nov 82-Jan 83	\$	3.50
99'er Home Computer Mag. Feb 83-Nov 83	\$	3.50
Home Computer Mag Vol.4 No.1		3.50 3.00
Home Computer Mag Vol.4 No.2	\$ \$	3.00 3.00
Home Computer Mag Aug 84 Hardware	₹.	3.00
Peripheral Expansion System		
Box, Memory Expansion Card, Disk Controller Card and		
Disk Drive	\$	500.00
(this will be broken up if		
there is enough interest) Disks	\$	25.00
Twelye (12) Disks in a	•	
front door plastic box. ************************************	***	*****

#### IT B S

### "MEMORY FULL"

To an inemperienced programmer these may be two most feared words the computer screen the the two most feared words the computer screen could print. I say inexperienced because expert programmers have the knowledge and expertise to design programs efficiently enough that a "MEMORY FULL" message is only a minor hurdle. To an inexperienced programmer like myself a "MEMORY FULL" message causes an involuntary string of vile words to spout forth with considerable vehemence. forth with considerable vehemence.

way to avoid such infuriating feedback is to understand how much resident memory(RAM) is available and how different software and peripherals affect that memory. If you are in the process of programming and want to know the process of programming and want to know how much memory you have left, there is a simple program to key in to find out. Two examples of the same program are as follows:

start with line #1

### X = X + 7.978747846GOSUB 1

Type RUN, hit enter, and wait for about 15-30 seconds. You will then get a "MEMORY FULL IN LINE 1" message. Now type PRINT X and hit enter. The number you get will be the amount of bytes in memory left. The second and easier version is:

## 

Typing FRINT X will do the same thing as the above program. Using this simple program, one can make the following conclusions.

Console alone(no periherals) = 14,536 bytes of RAM available Console + TEII(in basic) = 14,024 bytes Console + P-BOX = 12,488 bytes Console + X-BASIC(in x-basic)= 13,928 bytes Console + F-BOX + X-BASIC = 11,864 bytes = 11,864 bytes = 11,936 bytes Console + P-BOX + TEII

Depending on which memory check program you

TEII(in basic) uses approximately 512 bytes RAH X-BASIC uses approximately 608 bytes of RAM P-BOX uses approximately 2088 bytes of RAM

So how much memory is available? As you can see, we are really starting with 14.5 K rather than the 16 K advertised and that's before we and any periherals! Also you can't use all the 14.5 K and expect a program to run. The resident memory banks need a memory buffer of approximately 1500 bytes in order for the program to execute properly.

Now why is all of this important? Well if you just recently expanded your system and want to transfer all your cassette programs to disks, the above analysis could be crucial. I had written training programs in basic using the

text-to-speech feature of TEII. When I tried to transfer these to disk, I ran into a roadblock. The programs were 12,000 bytes or longer which exceeded the amount of . Memory available using the console and TEII with the P-BOX attached. Remember the P-BOX eats up 2088 bytes of memory.

So what are the options? 1 Rewrite the program or eliminate unessential program lines(not so easy or even possible for a beginner programer)

Write it in extended basic and stack statements. This will save 5 bytes for each program line saved (a good solution but it would entail loosing the text-to-speech feature of the TEII and the resident vocabulary of X-BASIC is too limited)

3 Buy a 32 K memory expansion card(the 32 K card is not accessible from TI basic and therefore doesn't help in using a

basic program)

With the P-BOX turned on, type CALL FILES(1), press enter, and now type In Now load using OLD CSI and save to disk by typing CALL FILES(1), hit enter, type SAVE DSK1.FILENAME(this routine frees up an additional 1048 bytes of RAM which often is enough to to be successful)

As you can see a "MEMORY FULL" is not the end of the world and there are often ways to circumvent the difficulty. The more advanced one becomes in their programming ability, the less fearful one needs to be when those dreadful words appear on the research. dreadful words appear on the screen....MEMORY

STEVE BORDONARO

## ARCHIVA 300/600 Batabase

Distributed by AMNION STONEWARE 116 Carl Street San Francisco, Ca. 94117

A database is a file that contains information to be categorized. A file of names and addresses would be a good example of a There database. are several programs availiable that use information like that, usually to print mailing labels. These programs are specific and therefore rather restricted in how they may be used. This is restricted in now they may be used. This is good for mailing out letters but not very versatile to apply to any other aplication that may come to mind. When it comes to all purpose database programs there are very few out there for the II99/4A. out there for the 1199/4A.
This is a review of one of them; ARCHIVA 300/600 by Guy-Stefan Romano, and in my opinion a very good one. Part of what makes me think so highly of this program is not just the program, but the support that you get after you buy it. Quite a lot for \$24.95. There are two basic versions of the program available; AECHIVA 300 or ARCHIVA 600. The

300 is for single sided single density drives and the 600 is for single sided double density or double sided disk drives. If you purchase the 300 and later upgrade your system, you can contact AMNION and change to the 600 version for little more than the cost of postage. If your disk gets burnt, mangled, spilt upon, or otherwise obliterated; you again can get it replaced for just the cost of a new diskette. AMNION STONEWARE is a company that is very service oriented. So much so that they will contact you after you have purchased the database program to make you aware of updates. Again, all it costs to receive your update is the cost of mailing your original diskette back to them. back to them. happened to me recently. I was informed that some improvements were made to speed up the sort routine and an enhancement had been the sort routine and an enhancement had been added for ease in printing out records. This is the kind of support that you usually only hope for; to know that when you buy version 1.2, you won't be left out in the cold when new and improved version 1.3 is introduced. Sounds good, but as the late night TV counds good, but as the late night TV your comments are actively solicited and considered by the company as you use their program. If you have a problem using ARCHIVA or believe that there is something wrong with it, you can call the HELPLINE number (415-753-5581) manned by Dr. Romano. I can personally youch for the full support that you get from their HELPLINE.

One section of ARCHIVA involving Rapair Files' would not work for me. I tried it several times and could not get it to work as Files would not work for me. I tried it several times and could not get it to work as described. Either I was not understanding something and therefore doing it wrong or there was a bug in my program. I called Dr. Romano. He was concerned and promised to get right back with me after investigating the problem. First he tried doing exactly what I described. The program worked fine for him without an error. He next asked several others who had the program to try the same thing. In each case it worked fine for them without any error. At this point if I were he, I might have considered the person who hold me that there was an error of simply not knowing what he was doing. G.-8. Romano however was still intent on checking out possibilities. Through further cross-checking possibilities. Through further cross-checking possibilities. Inrough turther Cross-checking he discovered that the particular Master Disk that my copy was dubbed from did indeed have that problem. He told me how to alter the program to correct that problem over the phone when I spoke to him the next day. That folks, is support! The ARCHIVA database program is menu driver, made to be easy to understand and implement. Data can be entered on up to 8 lines each 28 characters long. Each line can be considered as 2 fields (14 characters each) for further subdivision if you wish. In other words you can place data into 16 separate fields that can prace data into to separate fields that can be considered independently for printing of creating sub-sorted files. These two features: manipulative printing and creating sub-sorted files, are two great features of this program. More on this in a moment.

Your records are available to view sequentially (that is the order that you entered them) or you can sort all the records on what was entered into the first of those lo fields. This means that you can, on a spot check basis, display or print certain records by specifying the record number or search or a partial word comparison of what is in the first field. If you enter peoples last names into field one as is common practice and you want to find someone named "Johannessberg", just entering 'Joh' should be sufficient. Manipulative printing means you can print any field of data on any of 8 possible print lines, repeating a field several times if you wish. The following example illustrates my point. The following example illustrates my point. Here is the data as entered into the record, using only 12 of the 16 fields available. Ignore the periods. I'm just using them to indicate spaces.

Johannessberg.John	Field
147.Brick.Street	Field
Atlanta,	Field
5/l.Field 6 Exp.date.09-84Charter.Member	Field
7.1./Field 8.1 Assembly.GroupLogo.Group	Field
9/Field 10 willing.to.speak.at.meetings	Field
III.Z.T. Field 12.	e e e e i di di di di di

Here for illustration purposes is how the record could be printed out.

Logo Group Logo Group Exp.data09-84 Logo Group John 147 Brick Street 64 Lanta Ga. 30325 Johannessherc

The very next record printed could start on the very next line or it could have as many as 100 lines in between. The program allows you the choice of normal or compressed printing. Imagine that you have a list of 250 names and addresses. Sure you can format address labels to send letters to everybody, but what if you just wanted to send letters to people in the Assembly Group. This is where creating Assembly Group. This is where creating sub-sorted files comes in handy. ARCHIVA will sub-sorted files tomes in handy. AKUHIVA WIII allow you to create a sub-sorted file on any of the 16 fields and allow you to use a relational comparison to 1 or 2 keywords. For my example that would be sort on field 9 all those records that equal 'Assembly Group' in that field. The resultant sort would give me that of those Assembly Group applies sorted a list of those Assembly Group people sorted alphabetically. (Remember, the Master List is siphabetically. (Remember, the master List is sorted alphabetically by last name.) ARCHIVA will allow you to add records or delete records. It will also allow you to insert a record into a particular spot. Imagine that you had 100 records and you deleted record number 27. You can later come back and reinsert that record back into the 27th position if you so desire. This choice in the menu is called 'Repair Files'. The ARCHIVA program Itself is kept on one diskette while all records that you enter are on a separate diskette. It can be used with one or more disk drives without you having to specify which drive has the program or the data. A note to make: the disk that you keep your data on must contain only your data records. Don't put any other files or programs on that disk or your records will not fit. Using all available diskette space is how you are able have have as many as 300 or 600 records.

In the letter I got from AMNION STONEWARE when I received the lastest update; they asked me to comment to them how I thought about their including in the program the ability to do mathematical calculations on one field to another in a future update. This is the kind of company I like buying software from. I know value when I see it. Anybody else out there sharp eyed?

Gary matthews

## \* \* AUTHOR AUTHOR \* \*

We have never tried to cover the programers who are writing for the 99/4A or the organizations who are producing and distributing these items. I think this has been a great oversight on our part and I hope over the next several months to rectify this by attempting to cover several of my favorite authors and discuss some of their work.

This month I would like to cover Jim Peterson of TICERCUB SOFTWARE. He has been sending a newsletter of tips to the Users Groups around the country for almost a year and a half. Although we have mentioned these tips from time to time we have never covered them properly. To remedy this I have had printed up a little extra booklet containing the first eleven newsletters that we received from him.

These programs and tips are unusually good and reflect the programs that you can purchase from him. A copy of his catalogue is in our library and can be reviewed at all meetings. For One dollar you can purchase your own, and since its cost is refunded on your first purchase it's really not that expensive.

Several of the educational games have been written up in other groups newsletters and have been highly rated. As Jim says himself these are basic programs, his game will not run like arcade games but you will get much enjoyment out of them, and I guess the thing I like the best you can win them. Several of his utilities can be incorporated into your own programs, to dress them up and make opening and closing curtains.

Jims programs cost \$3.00 each, try a few, you'll not lose by it.

Marshall

## DOUBLE DENSITY Disk Controller Card By CorComp

If you have a double sided disk capable of double density then my recommendation to you is BUY the CorComp Double Density Disk Controller Card. If you have a single sided drive capable of double density, then strongly drive capable of double density, then strongly consider buying the card. Before I made up my mind to purchase the Double Density card, I had several questions that worried me. Would the card be capatable with everything that I already had? Would my old II Disk Manager work with it or would it not work at all? I must say that my questions have been answered and I am extremely pleased. The card works just fine with TI's Disk Manager; however you would now have very little reason to ever use TI's Disk Manager again. When you buy the CorComp card, you also receive a Disk Manager program on diskette that I must say it is the finest piece of icing on the cake that I have seen in a long time.

Take the familiar functions of the TI Disk
Manager, jazz them up and throw in a few new
features. This gives you a basic idea of the
program. You can work with single sided or
program. double sided diskettes just the way you always could. nothing is lost or requires special treatment. Just put your disk in the drive like normal and take everything for granted just like you isually do, only now you can do it for a diskette that you have initialized for the doubt. for double density as well. This review will not cover all features but just highlight several to help answer questions for those who were considering buying the card but have not yet seen it. The Disk Controller card fits into the expansion box just like a TI card. It has those edges on the card that help hold it in place. The card will allow you to operate 4 disk drives (as opposed to TI's 3). It will access your disk drives faster than the TI Disk Controller and it has switches inside the for double density as well. Bisk Controller and it has switches inside the card to allow you to set your access time even faster if your drives can handle it.
The Disk Manager program that comes with the card, is a very strong selling point on its own. One of the nicest features is that it own. One of the nicest features is that it operates on Call Key for selecting from the menu, so you do not have to keep making the selections then have to turn around and also hit the Enter key. The program is built to take advantage of all your familiarities with the TI disk manager. It gives you the expected main selections of File Utilities, Disk Utilities, and Disk Tests, as well as another selection called Configure Manager. This last selection allows you to set parameters for using the program such as This last selection allows you to set parameters for using the program such as printer type (PIO or RS232), default choices of which drives to use when copying, and setting individual drives to default settings for a printer type of the control o for intialization of diskettes. Another choice is the Turbo Option which allows you to speed up the copying of diskettes. These default settings can be saved back to the disk that has the disk manager program. They can still be changed at will but can save you time by making your common choices the default ones.

Cataloging and Initializing is faster than you are used to. The best part is when cataloging a diskette or copying individual programs, you get to see an entire screen of listings with the ability to jump forward or back quickly to view the whole directory. As you all know, when listing your programs with the TI Disk Manager, once a program scrolls off the screen, it is gone. To see it again you would have to start over again. When copying individual programs or files with the TI version, only one is shown at a time allowing you to copy it or not. If you choose to copy it then you must wait for it to finish before theing allowed to see the next one in the list. being allowed to see the next one in the list. The CorComp Bisk Manager has this beat hands down and makes this a joy instead of the drudgery that we are used to. If you wish to Copy, Rename, Delete, or change protection on a file; it can be done selectively to any and all files before you start to execute the command. The files and programs are listed on the screen the same as when they are cataloged. You can zip through the entire selection choosing just what you want to do. Once all choices are made, just press the button to execute the command and it will all be done. This is fartastic when you have a disk of say 25 programs but you only want to copy say 16 of them; and at the same time you would like to change the name of a three of them. This ability saves an enormous amount of time and effort.

In all fairness I must mention three things that the TI Bisk Manager [will do that the CorComp Disk Manager still be accomplished with being allowed to see the next one in the list. that the II Disk Manager [Will do that the CorComp Disk Manager program will not. Each of these things can still be accomplished with the CorComp Manager but must be done in a roundabout way. 1) In some rare cases a specifically protected disk or program can have the protection modified with the II version but not with CorComp's. 2) A disk or file cannot be copied until it has been unprotected. 3) A file cannot be copied onto the same disk under a different name without first copying it to another disk programum it first copying it to another disk, renaming it and then copying it back. and then copying it back. Those three things mentioned might keep me from throwing away my II Disk Manager but I must admit I hardly ever use it anymore. The CorComp Disk Controller Card will not work with the 128K Foundation Memory Card. When I called CorComp, they said it would work if I took out the PSR chip in the Foundation card that allows access to the beyond 32K of memory. The person I spoke to at CorComp also indicated that they are working on that. I have not verified whether the Foundation card would work if I removed that chip, instead I would work if I removed that chip, instead I switched to a TI 32K card. This gives you a hint of where my priorities lie. This brings up the nice point of noting that CorComp gives you a number that you may call for information and assistance. When using speech with Basic on the Terminal Emulator II, note that you must select II Basic after hitting the space bar twice instead of choosing it directly from the Main screen. This and the eccentricities mentioned above are the only things that I know about concerning the CorComp card.

All in all I consider this a 'MUST' upgrade for the computer. I have over 150 diskettes and in one felled swoop I have doubled my disk capacity. Considering the cost of diskettes, this has more than paid for the cost of the Disk Controller card, which retails right at or under \$200.00 or under \$200.00.

Gary Matthews

## MAGAZINES

Has another source of written material for the 99/4A dried up and blown away?

Just as we were getting all the books one could hope for, it appears that the magazines are deserting us. Compute who for the last year or so had good articles and good programs for the 99/4A has this month seemed to drop us. Only one article from Regena and no programs.

Home Computer Magazine (formerly 99'er) has just released a newsbulletin that they are no longer going to have advertising in their magazine, just articles and programs. I don't know of any publication that can do that — no magazine, no newspaper, circulation is just never enough. But, HCM says that they have studdied the idea, and they can do it. In the future a seperate flyer containing the advertising will be distributed nine times a year. Well that's better then they've done so far this year on the magazine. To date I've only counted three issues of the "new expanded" HCM, and it's already September. I'd be very wary three issues of the "new expanded non, and it's already September. I'd be very wary about renewing. Sorry to lose my usual optimism about this magazine but under current conditions it's hard to be optimistic.

There are two Newsletters that are still out that I can recommend. The first is from Millers Graphics. It's called the SMART PROGRAMMER and if you want to program its tips and hints are absolutely essential.
Cost \$12.50 per year. Order from;
MILLERS GRAPHICS
1475 W. Cypress Ave.
San Dimas, CA 91773

The other is MICROPENDIUM it covers news, reviews, and profiles of people and issues relavent to the 99/4A. An execellent example of what a newsletter should be. Cost \$12.00 per year. Order from;

MICROpendium

F.O. Box 1343

Round Rock, Tx 78680

Although neither of these two are magazines. They need our support if they are to continue to succeed and supply us with reliable information, reviews, and programing tips.

Marshall

### BBS PROGRAM MUSINGS INFORMATION BY DARRYL HIRSCHLER

Have you ever wondered just how those BBS programs work? How do folks like Ralph Fowler, Sam Pincus, and Briand Sanderson get these TI machines to actually run a BBS system? I must confess that until Darryl Hirschler started calling me up one night to show off what he had been tinkering with, anything that had to do with how a BBS was actually programmed was all a black box to me. Now that I have had the chance to see Me. Now that I have had the chance to see how they get started, I can appreciate them even more. It is still a box to me, full of many hidden things. The box is now not so black; still a box, still quite gray, but at least not totally black.

Darryl told me that the information that makes up the core of how a BBS works, can be found in the back section of the RS232 Manual. Well. I looked at the RS232 Manual. Manual. Well, I looked at the RS232 Manual, and he has a point. It is true. In the same manner that the works of Shakespeare are in Well, the dictionary, the information that you need to, write a BBS program is indeed in the back of the RS232 Manual. Through second and third hand mutterings I remember hearing how Ralph would puzzle for hours (or weeks) how to implement a new feature or accomplish a particular task in his program. So, presented here with little pieces of explanations is information that Barryl Hirschler has experimented with and managed to show how you too can spend long hours understanding how a BBS can be written. Remember that Barryl is at the stage that all those writers of BBS's have to pass through: the stage where everything is learned through trial and error, luck and skill. There is not one out there ready to teach this to you. I am happy to say that while Darryl is passing through this stage, he was excited enough to show it to me. Now it is my turn to pass it on. explanations is information that Darryl to pass it on.
There are 3 separate programs included here:
BBSLOAD...BBSMENU...and BBSCHAT. Before
each listing will be a tumbnail sketch of
what it is for.

The first program 'BBSLOAD' represents the kind of opening screen that you see when you first connect to a BBS. OPEN #1 and OPEN #2 refers to your computer using EXTENDED BASIC to address and control another TI which is using the TE II with a modem. I cannot explain just what the "RS232.CR.LF.EC", VARIABLE 255 does exactly because I don't really follow it. That is why it is being printed here so you can experiment to understand it. You can see that the PRINT #2 causes the words to be printed to the other computer's screen and also that the INPUT #2 allows the computer that is running this program deal with what the other computer types in.

There are two Control characters in the program listings in a total of 6 spots. Since a Control character is not printable, they will be marked in the listings as 'Ctrl J' and 'Ctrl L'. Ctrl J causes a line feed and Ctrl L will clear the screen. This is just a note to remind you to hit the right

keys, not just type in what you see. Darryl experimented with a number of Control keys but I would go crazy trying to include a listing here that was understandable enough to be typed in correctly. One nifty Control character (not included below) is Ctrl H. That causes the cursor to backspace on the other person's screen. Another is Control G which will cause the other computer to go 'beep'.

```
90 REM BBSLOAD
100 CALL CLEAR
110 FOR Z=1 TO 14
120 CALL COLOR(Z, 16, 1)
130 NEXT Z
140 CALL COLOR(0,5,1)
150 CALL SCREEN(2)
160 CALL SOUND(-100,1397,0)
170 PRINT " *******
180 PRINT " * HERSH
                                       ********
                                       * HERSH *"
190 PRINT "
                                      * CONN. *"
200 PRINT
210 PRINT
                                      *******
220 OPEN #1:"RS232.CR.LF.EC", VARIABLE 255
230 OPEN #2:"RS232"
240 PRINT #2:" 'Ctrl L' "
250 PRINT #2:"123456789012345678901234567890
1234567890"
300 PRINT #2:""
310 PRINT #2:" The SYSOP is Darryl Hirschler"
320 PRINT #2:" 330 PRINT #2:"Are you using a
320 FRINT #2: 330 FRINT #2: HTE YOU USIN
TI-99/4A (Y/N) ?";
340 PRINT "==========="
350 INPUT #2:Q$
360 IF Q$="N" OR Q$="n" THEN 370 ELSE 410
370 PRINT #2:"Enter kind of computer you have
រួនសំ
380 INPUT #2:A$
390 PRINT A$;
400 GOTO 440
410 IF Q$="Y" OR Q$="y" THEN 420 ELSE 330
420 PRINT #2:"ALL RIGHT!"
430 PRINT "TI-99/4A";
440 PRINT #2:" 'Ctrl L' "
450 PRINT #2:"Enter your first and last name"
460 PRINT #2: "(No handles):";
470 INPUT #2:N$
480 PRINT N$
490 RUN "DSK1.MENU"
```

Despite the fact that you see "RUN DSK1.INFO" written below in the program, be aware that the listing is not included here. You see how the beginnings of a 'CHAT' mode is initiated. The next listing after this will be what actually makes the the 'CHAT' work.

```
90 REM BBSMENU
100 REM ****MAIN MENU****
110 OPEN #1:"R$232.CR.LF.EC"
120 OPEN #2:"R$232", VARIABLE 255
130 CALL $SOUND(-100,698,0)
140 PRINT #2:" Main Menu"
150 CALL CLEAR
160 PRINT "******* MAIN MENU *********
170 PRINT "NAME :":N$
180 PRINT #2:" 'Ctrl J' 'Ctrl J' "
190 PRINT #2:" 'Ctrl J' 'Ctrl '"
200 PRINT #2:" 'Ctrl J' 'Ctrl '"
```

```
210 INPUT #2:A$
220 IF A$="C" DR A$="C" THEN 290
230 IF A$="I" DR A$="i" THEN RUN "DSK1.INFO"
240 IF A$="?" THEN 250 ELSE 190
250 PRINT #2:"C-HAT WITH DARRYL"
260 PRINT #2:"I-FORMATION"
 270 PRINT #2:"?-THIS MENU"
 280 GOTO 140
290 PRINT #2:" 'Ctrl L' "
300 CALL CLEAR
310 PRINT N$;" WANTS TO CHAT"
  320 PRINT #2:"PAGING DARRYL":
320 PRINT #2:"PAGING BARRYL";

330 FOR A=1 TO 10

340 PRINT #2:""

350 FOR Z=0 TO 30 STEP 1 :: CALL SOUND(

-200, 262, 1):: NEXT Z

360 CALL KEY(0, K, S):: IF S=0 THEN 370 ELSE

RUN "DSK1.CHAT"
370 NEXT A
```

```
90 REM BBSCHAT
170 CALL SCREEN(2)

180 CALL COLOR(0,5,1)

190 FOR Z=1 TO 14

200 CALL COLOR(1,16,1)

210 NEXT Z
    PRINT
            #2:" ****ATTENTION, SYSOP IS
HERE****
240 PRINT " ENTERING CHAT MODE"
320 PRÎNT #2:A$
                         PRINT
#2:"----
340 IF C$="Y" OR C$="y" THEN 260 ELSE 350
350 PRINT #2:"YOUR TURN: ";
360 INPUT #2:B$
370 PRINT
#2:"-
380 PRINT #2:"SYSOP IS TYPING"
390 CALL SOUND(-100,698,0)
400 PRINT B$
410 PRINT "-----
460 PRINT #2:" EXITING CHAT MODE"
470 RUN "DSK1.HENU"
```

You will notice that besides all the "PRINT #2:" statements that you see in the listings, there are quite a number of the ordinary "PRINT"s there too, so the computer that is running this program has a good indication what is happenning to the other computer. In other words, thisse new terms are the computer. other words, things are kept from getting too messy. The best part about these listings is that Barryl kept them straightforward enough so you can see just how they work by looking at them. Now all you need to do a find someone willing to spend time on the phone with you and go to

Gary Matthews

## REVIEW ON PROSTICK II

Is it possible for an adult(perhaps adult in number of years only) to out-score kids in video pames? With the Prostick II and a little video: games? With the Prostick II and a little luck, it IS possible. Normally I am a skeptic when it comes plunking down my hard earned money, I tended not to believe the advertising copy about the Prostick II being the finest joystick available. What strengthened my skepticism was my trial of the WICO RED BALL. Although I understand that the current models are superior to those earlier models. I was unimpressed by the red ball's performance. The verticle movement of the Parset ship was inconsistent and contributed to being destroyed prematurely. I returned the red ball for a replacement and found it was not a defect but an unfortunate characteristic of that joystick.

The Major criteria I use in judging the value of a jevstick is simple. In this order: 1)will it increase My scores? 2)is it responsive? 3)is it comfortable after long playing periods? 4)will it last or have to be replaced soon? The frostick II meets these objectives and, in my opinion, it does deliver what the adventising convergence. replaced soon? The frostick II meets these objectives and, in my opinion, it does deliver what the advertising copy promises. Because the screen graphics are highly responsive to slight movements of the solid feeling steel joystick shaft, increased game scores result. While the Prostick II is difficult to hold in the palm of the hand like one would hold the II joystick, it can be held comfortably by the side, even by small hands. Also since the fire button is activated by the index finger rather than the thumb, the player's hand and wrist do not tire as quickly during fast and furious action. All of these benefits combined with the five(5) year limited warranty makes the Prostick II an excellent addition for the serious gamester. List price for one joystick and a II sdapter which will accomadate two Prosticks is \$ 29.95 although local computer merchants offer a better price.

If you are classified an adult by the number of years you possess, the Prostick II may be your last chance to "beat the kids" at their own game. ohu dawa.

STEVE BORDONARO

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I own a TI99/4A and am acquiring my novice license soon. My nephew (NB7F) lives in the Seattle area and I would like to set up a keyboard CW to interface into a pair of Drakes (R4B & T4XB).

If anyone knows of software and interface to implement the TI instead of purchasing a separate keyboard, I'd appreciate the info and connections.

Thanks sincerely,

Joyce Hale (Future Ham) 14155 Magnolia Bd #41 Sherman Oaks, Ca. 91423

Dear Elise,

Just a few days ago while shopping I came across a stash of TI Command Cartridges, as you can imagine I bought them all up. I have taken the ones I want and thought that I might offer the rest to your group. I am just charging the price I paid on these as as I want to see people who want these cartridges get a chance at them.

I noticed in your club newsletter that you sell cartridges so I thought you might want these. I have also found a disk drive for th TI that needs no other periphererals everything is enclosed. It is single-sided single-density disk drive. Please contact me soon.

Thank you.

Chris Stockton Rt. 2, Box 19 Wessington Springs, SD. 57382

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there is enough interest)		
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Twelve (12) Disks in a		
front door plastic box. ************************************		
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## THE COMPUTER OPERATOR

Fleet winging, heart singing, he trots through the door, so happy to be amidst the clatter and roar. Computer and printer, the job as a whole, is heaven to him, provides food for his soul.

No other, his mother, his kids nor his wife, receives such devotion, gives meaning to life. To enter the center is life's greatest joy, providing a pleasure that surely won't cloy.

Pulsating, awaiting his gentle commands, the rig seems to recognize capable hands. Confidant, competant, he flits here and there, getting things ready to go on the air.

Brives counted, tapes mounted already to go, he pauses a moment, his features aglow, serenely, routinely, he pushes the start, and its just about then things fly apart.

One tape, then another, gives out whistles and screams, the printer goes mad, spewing paper in reams, the lights on the console give a fireworks display, and in a momentary panic his feet turn to clay.

His heart begins pounding and surely must burst, as the whole crazy rig acts like something accursed for what seems an eternity but is only a flash, his feet bogged down in a glutinous mass, he's unable to move and unable to speak as the computer goes dead with a pitiful squeak.

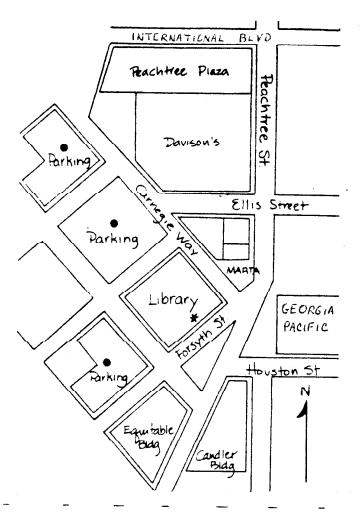
Head ringing, eyes stinging, he goes for the switch, knocking down the power on his beautiful witch, benumbed, feeling stunned, not yet able to guess the calamitous cause of this horrible mess.

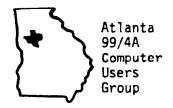
Traumatic, dramatic, the shock is profound for fully a minute, he utters no sound, then walking, hands shaking, his temper gives way and the curses start flying, I'm sorry to say.

He curses the mainframe, the tape drives as well, he curses the card reader, consigns it to hell, he curses the printer, he curses the punch, he curses the console, and then on a hunch, he curses the program, and while still untiring, he curses the diodes, transistors and wiring, he curses the present, he curses the future, he curses the day he saw a computer. At last, quite exhausted, he falls to the floor unable to utter one little curse more.

Bedeviled, disheveled, his face chalky white, eyes bloodshot, tonque lolloing, a pitiful sight. It's over, all over, the battle is done twixt man and machine, the computer has won.

THE POEM ABOVE WAS COPIED FROM THE CIN-DAY USERS GROUP MAY, 1984 NEWSLETTER. ED YORK STATED THE POEM WAS FROM THE FEBRUARY, 1984 ISSUE OF THE "MELBOURNE TIMES", NEWSLETTER OF THE MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA TI-994A USERS GROUP.





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SUNDAY, OCT 21<sup>ST</sup>

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