



99ER

OUTPUT



VOL. 5
NO. 5

BRAZOS VALLEY 99ERS
P. O. BOX 7053
WACO, TX 76714-7053

NEWS
NEWS

*****DUES ARE DUE*****
At the March Meeting, March 22, please be ready to pay your dues for the coming year. Remember, Membership for an individual is \$17.00, \$18 for a family and only \$9 for an associate member. With Postal rates scheduled to go up this Spring, It is important to get your dues in on time and help support your club. Thank you.....

*****FOR SALE*****
BLACK AND SILVER CONSOLE, PCP WITH 32K, RS232, TI CONTROLLER, AND SS/SD DRIVE. EXT DRIVE 2 W/ CASE, P/S, AND CABLE. STAR GEN. 10X PRINTER W/ CABLE. SPEECH SYN. TAPE RECORDER CABLE, TWIN JOYSTICKS, SUPER SKETCH GRAPHIC PAD. SOFTWARE AVAILABLE - TI LOGO II, TI-WRITER, P/A, SST BASIC COMPILER, 30 SOFTWARE DISKETTES (SOME DBL SIDED). CARTS - THE ATTACK, PRK, DMII, TEII, EARLY LEARN, FUN, ADVENTURE, HOUSEHOLD REC.MANAG., MUNCHMAN, AND EXT. BASIC. TI 99/4A ASSEMBLE FUNDAMENTALS BY MORLEY (BOOK) -- CONTACT CHAD BROWN 917 993-5974, 762 WESTHOOD, MARLIN, TX

NEXT MEETING MARCH 22

The visitor which we was to talk to us has a case of the flu and will have to postpone his visit for one month. Pete Jaden and members of his family will talk to us and demo the TI 99/8 at the April Meeting on the night of April 26. He is bringing a set of 99er Monthly Magazine. He is donating the magazine set to our Brazos Valley 99er's.

Our Meeting for March will consist of election of officers, collection of dues for the coming year, and a demo of a new label-graphic program which is new fairware down-loaded off of Genie. Please try to be there. Your input to the group is greatly needed. If you would like to be one of the officers of the Group, please come

*****FOR SALE*****
PEB WITH ONE DRIVE, 32K, TI DISK CONTROLLER, AND CONSOLE - \$300
SS/SD DISKETTE DRIVE SET UP AS DRIVE 2 WITH CASE, P/S, AND CABLES. \$75
PEB WITH DISK DRIVE, TI CONTROLLER, AND A BLACK/SILVER CONSOLE WITH 32K INSIDE \$250
TI-WRITER OR MULTIPLAN \$35
SMITH CORONA DAISY WHEEL PRINTER WITH CABLE, AND 3 PRINTWHEELS \$75
SEVERAL CARTS, AND JOYSTICKS.....
CALL STEVE ADAMS - 446-7170 OR 442-4361

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING

Meeting was opened by Amy Bates at 8:45 There were eight members present. Brenda Noell reported about a letter she received from John Depriest of the Music City 99er's of Nashville, Tenn.

There was one visitor, Niles Dannels from Ft. Hood.

Dr. Jeff Hull reported for the Education Committee that two things would be covered Education during the Demo for the evening. Lelah Beyer reported the Library Committee would be receiving several peices of Software from Hank Crawley. Two new disks have been added to the library, "MICROPENDI" and "DIAGDOCS".

Frank Cross reported for the Membership Committee that we had one visitor Niles Dannels and a prospective new member, Alan McEltheon. He announced also that new issues of RYTE Data and The Smart Programmer had been received. The Dallas TI Faire has been scheduled for April 30, 1988 (a Sat.) Under Business, Dr. Jeff Hull, seconded by Lelah Beyer, moved that we purchase \$50 in postage stamps from Safeway to save money for the group. All voted for the proposal. Dave Eistfeldt, seconded by Lelah Beyer, moved that because of Spring Break for the week we would have our next Coffee, we should cancel the coffee since many would be traveling. If there was a need, the Building would be open the following Tuesday and we could come then. All voted for the cancellation. Meeting was adjourned and Dr. Jeff Hull gave a great demo on TI-writer and Transliterations. He provided a list of the .TL's and a disk with a file on it that you could copy to your TI-Writer file for great versatility.
F. Cross

***** FOR SALE *****

2nd Drives for your PEB. Cables, drive, power supply, and case.
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adapter for Atari Joysticks to the TI 99/4A console. \$7.50
TI Logo \$20.00
RS232 Y-cables \$10.00
call Frank Cross
848-4589

Modem Noise Killer (alpha version)

With this circuit diagram, some basic tools including a soldering iron, and four or five components from Radio Shack, you should be able to cut the noise/garbage that appears on your computer's screen.

I started this project out of frustration at using a US Robotics 2400 baud modem and getting a fair amount of junk when connecting at that speed. Knowing that capacitors make good noise filters, I threw this together.

This is very easy to build, however conditions may be different due to modem type, amount of line noise, old or new switching equipment (Bell's equipment), and on and on. So it may not work as well for you in every case. If it does work, or if you've managed to tweek it to your computer/modem setup I'd like to hear from you.

I'd also appreciate any of you electronic wizzards out there wanting to offer any improvements. Let's make this work for everyone!

Please read this entire message and see if you understand it before you begin.

OK, what you'll need from Radio Shack:

1 #279-374 Modular line cord if you don't already have one. You won't need one if your phone has a modular plug in its base. \$4.95

1 #279-420 Modular surface mount jack (4 or 6 conductor) \$4.49

1 #271-1720 Potentiometer. This is a 5k audio taper variable resistor. \$1.09

1 #272-1055 Capacitor. Any non-polarized 1.0 to 1.5 uf cap should do. Paper,

Mylar, or metal film caps should be used, although #272-996 may work as well.

(#272-996 is a non-polarized electrolytic cap) \$.79

1 100 ohm resistor - quarter or half watt. \$.19

1 #279-357 Y-type or duplex modular connector. Don't buy this until you've read the section on connecting the Noise Killer below. (A, B, or C) \$4.95

First off, open the modular block. You normally just pry them open with a screwdriver. Inside you'll find up to 6 wires. Very carefully cut out all but the green and red wires. The ones you'll be removing should be black, yellow, white, and blue. These wires won't be needed and may be in the way. So cut them as close to where they enter the plug as possible. The other end of these wires have a spade lug connector that is screwed into the plastic. Unscrew and remove that end of the wires as well. Now, you should have two wires left. Green and red. Solder one end of the capacitor to the green wire. Solder the other end of

the capacitor to the center lug of the potentiometer (there are three lugs on this critter). Solder one end of the resistor to the red wire. You may want to

shorten the leads of the resistor first. Solder the other end of the resistor to either one of the remaining outside lugs of the potentiometer. Doesn't

matter which. Now to wrap it up, make a hole in the lid of the mod block to stick the shaft of the potentiometer through. Don't make this hole dead center

as the other parts may not fit into the body of the mod block if you do. See

how things will fit in order to find where the hole will go. Well, now that

you've got it built you'll need to test it. First twist the shaft on the

potentiometer until it stops. You won't know which way to turn it until later. It doesn't matter which way now. You also need to determine where to plug the

Noise Killer onto the telephone line. It can be done by one of several ways:

A. If your modem has two modular plugs in back, connect the Noise Killer into one of them using a line cord. (a line cord is a straight cord that connects a

phone to the wall outlet. Usually silver in color)

B. If your phone is modular, you can unplug the cord from the back of it after you're on-line and plug the cord into the Noise Killer.

C. You may have to buy a Y-type modular adaptor. Plug the adaptor into a wall

outlet, plug the modem into one side and the Noise Killer into the other. Call

a BBS that has known noise problems. After you've connected and garbage begins

to appear, plug the Noise Killer into the phone line as described above. If you

have turned the shaft on the potentiometer the wrong way you'll find out now. You may get a lot of garbage or even disconnected. If this happens, turn the

shaft the other way until it stops and try again. If you don't notice much

difference when you plug the Noise Killer in, that may be a good sign. Type in

a few commands and look for garbage characters on the screen. If there still

is, turn the shaft slowly until most of it is gone. If nothing seems to happen

at all, turn the shaft slowly from one side to the other. You should get plenty

of garbage or disconnected at some point. If you don't, reread this message to

11 39744 DRAWING PACKAGES - COMPARISON CHART

FUNCTION	JOYPAINT JoyPaint Pal	BITNAC	ARTIST Artist Extras	GRAPHN	GRAM 'N PLOT	PAINT 'N + disk	SUPER SKETCH Skmate	MASTER PAINTER	DRAW A BIT Print-bit	NORTON GRAPHIC PACK
Program Focus	E.T	E.T	T.E.U	E.T	U.T.E	E	E.T	E	E.U	U
Requirements	Any	1B EM MM	Any	1B EA MM	1B	StdA111	StdA111	1B EM MM	1B	1B
Ease of Use	6	3	5	5	1	4	6	2	2	1
Method of Operation	Icons, Menus	Icons, Fcnkeys	Menus, Icons	Menus, Keys	Menu, Keys	Keys	Menus	Icons, Fnc Keys	Menu, Fnc keys	Menu, Keys
Mouse Control	Required	Required	Optional	Required	Optional	Required	No	No	Optional	No
Cursor Speed Cnt	No	5 speeds	2 speeds	5 speeds	2 speeds	No	No	No	No	
Brush Styles	7	9	8	1	1	32	9	4	1-pixel	3
Automatic Draw Functions	Lines, rectangles, ellipses	Lines, Circles, Rectangles	Line, Ray, Circles, Rectangles	Lines, Ellipses	Lines	Line, Ray, Circles, Squares	Line, Ray, Rectangles	Lines, Rays	Lines, Rays, Arc	Lines, Parabola, ellipses
Fill	AutoFill, 24 Patrn	Manual Color	AutoFill, Col/Pat	SemiAuto, Color	SemiAuto, Solid	SemiAuto, Solid	AutoFill, Col/Pat	No	Manual	No
Shade, Depth	AirBrush	Life	yes	No	No	yes	yes	No	No	No
Reflections	No	No	yes	No	No	yes	No	No	No	No
Move, Copy	yes	yes	yes	yes	No	yes	No	No	No	No
Flip, Hor/vert	yes	H only	yes	No	No	yes	No	No	No	No
Rotate	90 deg.	90 deg.	Slides	No	No	Roll	No	No	No	No
Invert	Swapbits	yes	yes	No	No	yes	No	No	No	No
Magnify, Reduce	yes	yes	None full	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Text handling	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	No	No	No	No
Special fonts	yes	No	yes	yes	No	yes	No	No	No	No
"Zoom" Mode	Fatpixel	No	yes	yes	No	Magnify	No	No	No	No
Scratchpad Mem ("Clipboard")	Cut and Paste	Store B. input	Instance, Slides	Clipboard	No	yes	No	Symbols, Store	Palette	No
Use of Color	No	Full Use	Full Use	Full Use	Limited	20 colors	Full Use	Full Use	Full Use	No
Slide Show	No	yes	Roll	Roll	yes	No	No	No	yes	No
Undo	yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Spec. Features	Large, 1/4 Spct, Pat Edit	CoProc, Crs, Rpt, Pic, Scri	Instance, customize	Animate, fro Clpb, Griefool	? Addl, Commands, for 1B	PatrnEd, Rainbow, Colors	Touch, Tablet		Redraw, Connect-Dots	Cassette, version, tool
Printer	Epson, Axion	Epson, 11 850/S	Most, Printers	Epson	Epson	11 Most, Printers	Epson	Epson	Epson	11 Most, Printers
Screen Dumps	2 sizes, 2 dnsty	Small, 5B, Med., OD	Wide, Ch, Size, Den	2 Sizes, 2 Dnsty	1 Med	1 Large, NormDnst	1 Large, NormDnst	1 Large, NormDnst	2 sizes, 2 dnst	No
Disk Catalog	yes	No	yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
File Conv's Ftr	yes	No	yes	Roll	Roll	Roll	Roll	No	Roll	--
F-Portability	Not at Present	Limited	Easily	Prog Ski, in Assem	Prog Ski, in 1B	No	No	No	Prog Ski, in Assem	Easily, to 1B
Mail Support	Some	No	Lots	Lots	Some	No	No	No	No	No

* Starred features are found on the companion disk listed under the main package

†† See chart notes

TIWRITER FORMATTER OVERVIEW

by Tom Kennedy

Now I want to cover the Text Formatter, which prints out the document. Most importantly, the special symbols, called Format Commands, that the formatter uses to alter the print-out of the document, which are installed in the Text Editor.

In other words, you put these commands into the text when you write it and as the formatter comes across them it changes the text accordingly but doesn't actually print the symbols.

There are six groups of formatter commands that are all applied in a similar manner. All commands must be in caps and must be on a line that starts with a period.

The use of these commands in your text is what separates the word processor from a typewriter. They allow you to get the most out of your printer.

So, now you've written your document, and inserted all the format commands, now how do you print it out? First, save the document and exit the Text Editor. At the title menu, select Text formatter, (make sure the program disk is in the drive) and the screen will blank with the prompt "ENTER INPUT FILENAME". Enter the name of the file you just saved, (ex. DSK1.MYFILE) and hit enter.

Next, the prompt "ENTER PRINT DEVICENAME" appears after the file is loaded. If you use a serial printer, the device name would be RS232.BA-xxx with xxx being the baud rate. If you're using a parallel printer, the device name is PIO. Also, you must add either .CR or .LF to the end of the device name. This tells TI-Writer whether your printer will handle the carriage return or the line feed. Check your printer manual and the TI-Writer manual in detail to find out which you use.

The next prompt is "USE MAILING LIST". If you aren't printing "form letters" just hit enter to accept the default of N (NO).

Next is "WHAT PAGE(S)? <ALL>". If you want to print the whole document, accept the default for all pages. Otherwise, you can print any of the pages or groups of pages.

The prompt "NUMBER OF COPIES: 1" tells how many copies of each page are to be printed.

The last prompt is "PAUSE AT END OF PAGE? N". The main purpose of this function is if you are using separate sheets of paper it will stop and wait for you to align the next sheet.

Now, about the Mailing List Option. Let's say you've written a form letter to send out to various individuals, maybe a resume'. You write the letter like normal, but when you come to a name or address or something that will change with each letter, you put in its place a variable in the form of *n*, where n is a number to identify the order. So instead of starting off with "Dear Mr. Smith" you would have "Dear Mr. *1*" and so on. when you're all through with your letter, save it and purge the memory. Now you must create what is called a Value File, which is your mailing list where TI-Writer will draw the variables from. A value file consists of a list values to be inserted into the letter, listed one to a line, preceded by the number of the variable and ending with a carriage return symbol. Groups of values must be separated by a line with just an asterisk and a carriage return. For example:

```
1 John Smith
2 123 STREET
3 Seattle, WA
*
1 Jane Doe
2 456 STREET
3 Seattle, VA
```

At the top of your letter you insert the .ML f command where f equals the filename of your value file. After selecting the mailing list option the computer will use this command to fill in the variables. If there is no .ML command in the letter then when you are prompted for "MAILING LIST NAME:" you supply the filename. This allows you to call on a number of files for different groups.

Text Dimension commands, as the name implies, move or shape the words in the document (margins, linespacing, right justify, etc.)

.FI : FILL : PUTS AS MANY WORDS ON A LINE AS WILL FIT.
 .NF : NO FILL : CANCELS FILL.
 .AD : ADJUST : ALIGNS THE TEXT TO THE LEFT AND RIGHT MARGINS. (RT. JUSTIFY)
 .NA : NO ADJUST: CANCELS ADJUST.
 .LM n : LF MARGIN: SETS LEFT MARGIN TO "n".
 .RN n : RT MARGIN: SETS RIGHT MARGIN TO "n".
 .IN n : INDENT : CREATES AN AUTO-INDENT FROM LEFT MARGIN.
 .LS n : LINE SP : SETS LINE SPACING TO "n" LINES.
 .PL n : PG LENGTH: DEFINES NUMBER OF LINES TO A PAGE.
 .BP : BEGIN PG : DEFINES FIRST LINE OF NEW PAGE.

Internal Format commands control the spacing of characters on a line.

.SP n : SPACE : SIMILAR TO THE TAB FUNCTION.
 .CE n : CENTER : CENTERS NEXT "n" LINES BETWEEN MARGINS.

Highlighting commands control functions such as underline or bold and allow you to redefine characters to use them to send CTRL codes to the printer.

. : REQUIRED : JOINS WORDS TOGETHER WHEN REQUIRED TO PREVENT SPLITTING IN
 : SPACE : REFORMATING, UNDERLINE, ETC.
 & : UNDERLINE: (UNDERScore) UNDERLINES ALL TEXT FOLLOWING UNTIL NEXT PAGE.
 @ : BOLD : (OVERSTRIKE) RETYPES FOLLOWING TEXT FOUR TIMES.
 .TL xx: TRANS- : ALLOWS REASSIGNMENT OF ONE CHARACTER TO REPRESENT A NUMBER.
 : LITERATE : OF CHARACTER VALUES TO SEND CODES TO THE PRINTER.
 .CO t : COMMENT : SIMILAR TO REM IN BASIC--ALLOWS NOTES THAT DONT PRINT.

Page identification commands print notes in the upper or lower corner of each page, either headers or footers.

.HE t : HEADER : PRINTS TEXT (t) AND PAGE NUMBER AT TOP OF EACH PAGE.
 .FO t : FOOTER : PRINTS TEXT (t) AND PAGE NUMBER AT BOTTOM OF EACH PAGE.
 .PA : PAGE # : RESETS PAGE NUMBER IN .HE AND .FO

File management commands

.IF f : INCLUDE : MERGES A FILE TO PRINT A DOCUMENT TOO LARGE FOR ONE FILE.
 : FILE :

Mail Merge option commands are used to supply values to the variables in a letter that has been set up for the mail merge option

.ML f :MAIL LIST: IDENTIFIES VALUE FILE (f) FOR MAIL LIST.
 n :VARIABLE : INSERTED IN TEXT AS VARIABLE FOR ASSIGNMENT FROM VALUE FILE.
 .DP n:t:DISPLAY : PROMPTS YOU USING TEXT "t" TO ASSIGN TO VARIABLE (*n*).
 : PROMPT :

 Another way to insert values is to use the Define Prompt command. With this command you do not insert a .ML comand calling a value file and instead you insert lines containing the format: .DP n:t - where n is the number of the variable and t is the prompt text. Now, when you come to the prompt "USE MAILING LIST?" you select "N" for NO and as the document is printed when a variable is encountered the printing stops and the text you chose appears on the screen asking you for the appropriate value. If you don't include a ".DP n:t" command in your text, the computer responds with "ENTER DATA FOR VARIABLE *n*" and it can get confusing trying to remember which item you're on. This method is handy for letters which you only want to print one copy at different times to different people.

Let me tell you, this is why I bought a computer. I'm sure we all went through that period of time before buying a computer when we would ask: "what am I going to use a computer for, anyway?". Well I decided there were two things I wanted to do: 1) Store files of data (recipes, albums, etc.) and 2) Use my computer as a typewriter. I didn't know about TI-WRITER when I bought the 99/4A, but now I know that I made the best choice possible. I hope you will all find TI-WRITER as easy to use and as powerful as I have.

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE 1ST ANNUAL



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FOR UP TO THE MINUTE INFORMATION, CALL 214-328-3257, OR
214-231-2168.

Let's keep the TI community strong!



PRINTER CONTROL FROM TI-WRITER...

By: Robert Hood

I've had several members ask me how they could access various functions of their printer from TI-writer, such as DOUBLE STRIKE PRINT. They have seen how I've used various fonts in the newsletter, and all printed in a single pass no cut and paste other than the graphics. I'm passed on some of this information to them, but figure there are probably several others out there who may benefit from this information.

First, you need to enter the following chart into a TI-writer file. You may ignore the lines that begin with a .CD as these are my comment lines. You can also ignore the information that follows the comments made after the .TL XXXX,XX,XX statement, but for reference, you'll probably want to key this in as well.

The '.' commands must be flush against the left-hand margin.

.CD				
.TL	3x27,69	emphasized print	SHIFT E	CEmphasized
.TL	2x27,70	cancel above	SHIFT X	
.CD				
.TL	9x27,32	italic	SHIFT I	CIitalic
.TL	11x27,33	cancel above	SHIFT K	
.CD				
.TL	18x27,43,1	underline	SHIFT R	CUunderline
.TL	4x27,43,0	cancel above	SHIFT P	
.CD				
.TL	3:18	condensed print	SHIFT C	CCCondensed
.TL	22:18	cancel above	SHIFT V	
.CD				
.TL	22:14	double wide print	SHIFT M	CMWide
.CD				
.TL	4x27,71	double strike	SHIFT S	CDouble strike
.TL	19x27,72	cancel	SHIFT B	
.CD				
.TL	14x27,83,0	superscript	SHIFT F	
.TL	2x27,83,1	subscript	SHIFT H	
.TL	14x27,84	cancel 2 above	SHIFT N	
.CD				
.TL	1x27,84,1	size -10 char	SHIFT A	
.TL	20x27,84,2	elite-12 char	SHIFT Y	CTwelve char/line
.CD				
.TL	26x27,84	reset printer	SHIFT Z	
.CD				
.TL	23x27,37	enable paper detection	SHIFT T	
.TL	13x27,36	disable paper detection	SHIFT D	
.CD				
.TL	21x7	sound buzzer	SHIFT 8	
.CD				
.TL	30x27,30	1/4 line space	SHIFT 6	
.TL	7x27,48	1/8 line space	SHIFT 8	
.TL	0x27,49	7/72 line space	SHIFT 2	
.CD				
.TL	28x27,33,0	USA characters	FCTN I	
.TL	11x27,33,2	GERMAN characters	FCTN U	
.TL	27x27,33,4	FRENCH characters	FCTN R	
.TL	28x27,33,6	ITALY character	FCTN Y	



Now save off this file to disk, such as DEMO.PRINTCODES. To use these new commands, you can either merge this entire file with your letter you are writing, or simpler yet, use the .IF (include file) by entering .IF DEMO.PRINTCODES as the first line of your letter. The 'x' denotes the disk number that PRINTCODES resides. Now each time you write a letter you can make use of the functions of your printer, quickly and easily.

Let me explain how you would enter these commands. These commands are all entered using the CTRL U function of TI-writer. You first press CTRL U, both together, the screen should go from a solid black to a underline. Then press the keys shown to the right of the transliterate command and finally return to the editor mode by pressing CTRL U again. For example, say you want to go into condensed print, first press CTRL U, then SHIFT C, and then CTRL U. With the character set by TI-writer used, a 3 with a dot appears on the screen. From this point in the document all printing will be done in condensed print until you change it. To turn off the condensed print, press CTRL U, SHIFT V and CTRL U again, a 4 with a slash mark should appear on the screen. You have now toggled the condensed print on and off with in the middle of your document.

These commands at first may appear awkward, but I have attempted to use keys that can be easy to remember wherever possible such as SHIFT E for Emphasized and SHIFT C for condensed and SHIFT S for Double strike. After referring to this chart a couple times, you'll soon remember these commands which you use on a regular basis.

I should point out that the commands listed are for the GENVIEW 108 printer. These should work for most of the Epson compatible machines. If you have a different printer some of these commands may or may not work. You can easily modify the commands by replacing the control codes I've used with those that work with your printer. As an example say that the Emphasized code of your printer was instead of being 27,69 it used a 27,33. Find the line that has .TL 3x27,69 and change it to .TL 3x27,33. The 'S' in this example is the ASCII value of the 'SHIFT E' when in the CTRL U mode. The information that follows the 'c' is the control codes in decimal for the printer as outlined in your printers manual.

Hopefully this I've been able to present this information in a somewhat easy to understand fashion. Using these commands is simple, and takes just a little trial and error in getting it right. Let us end this article with a sample text using the functions in this article.

This is elite print (12 char/line)
 This is condensed print (17 char/line)
 This prints double wide while still in condensed print mode.
 And this resets to 10 char/line.

And let's not forget the superscript and subscript character font.

You can get EMPHASIZED PRINT and also DOUBLE STRIKE PRINT quickly and easily with the use of the TRANSLITERATE COMMAND SET. Oh you see how easily the ITALIC character set was to handle and easy? And also how the UNDERLINE FUNCTION WORKS USING A SOLID UNDERLINE and without the need of using the CTRL U as the source of underline?

Using the transliterate, EVERY ASPECT of your printers capabilities can be accessed.