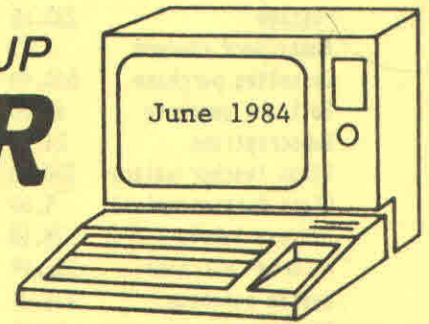


CEDAR VALLEY 99'ER USER GROUP NEWSLETTER



**** MINUTES FROM JUNE MEETING ****

The June meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Jim Green. There were 38 members present for the meeting. Minutes from the May meeting were approved as printed in the May newsletter. Treasurer Ed Hayek made corrections to the treasurer's report as shown in the newsletter. Expenditures of \$12.00 for advertising and \$440.00 for a group software purchase were not shown in the original report.

Most of the old business discussion centered around the Basic course to be instructed by Jim Trainor. Jim reported that only eight members had contacted him about the class although many more members had expressed interest at the April meeting. The class will be taught at the REC building in Marion. Other old business included the lack of a chairman for the technical committee, and the fact we still don't have an education committee.

Jim Trainor reported that the TI disk controller will support an eight inch drive. This would obviously give users much larger storage capability. Jim also reported that the Forth language has the capability of interactive high resolution graphics.

Jim Green reminded club members that several copies of schematics for the TI system were still available from the club.

Gary Fish was introduced as the new program chairman. He will be lining up people to cover some of the topics in which the Executive Committee and membership have expressed an interest.

It was announced that the club will be selling TDK diskettes for \$2.00 for those members who are interested. Delivery is expected in June. The club also has received a new shipment of cassette tapes which are available for \$1.00.

Jim Green presented the program for the evening. The topic was incorporating joysticks routines into a program which was originally written without joystick use considerations. Several individuals found this to be of immediate use to them.

Once again members were asked to bring their computers and TV sets to the meetings for the program. A sign-up sheet is on the front table at each meeting.

The door prize winner was Linda Wahlstrom. Linda will receive four programs of her choice from the club library and a cassette tape.

After a general discussion the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

For the Secretary
Ed Hayek

**** THE TREASURY ****

	THRU APR 1984	MAY 84	TOTAL
INCOME			
Memberships	\$1622.00	\$ 40.00	\$1662.00
Sales of software	638.95	20.00	658.95
Sales of cassettes	483.95	2.00	485.95
Programming classes	130.00	0	130.00
Dividend	8.70	0	8.70
Group S/W purchases	512.25	367.50	879.75
TOTAL	\$3395.85	\$429.50	\$3825.35

DISPERSALS

Receipt book	\$ 6.00	\$ 0	\$ 6.00
Meeting rent	109.00	0	109.00
Postage	223.68	28.00	251.68
Bank/Check charges	6.92	1.00	7.92
Cassettes purchase	500.90	161.04	661.94
Software purchase	64.00	0	64.00
Subscriptions	24.50	10.00	34.50
Class teacher salary	250.00	0	250.00
Class tuition refund	5.00	0	5.00
Address labels	24.18	0	24.18
Recorder purchase	109.19	0	109.19
System purchase	838.21	114.95	953.16
Advertising	66.60	5.20	71.80
Group s/w buy	952.75	0	952.75
TOTAL	\$3180.93	\$ 320.19	\$3501.12

ASSETS

Savings account	\$ 5.00	\$ 147.00	\$ 152.00
Cash on hand	52.30	(28.20)	24.10
Checking account	157.62	(9.49)	148.13
TOTAL	\$ 214.92	\$109.31	\$ 324.23
PROOF	\$ 214.92	\$ 109.31	\$ 324.23
	\$ 214.92		\$ 324.23

Ed Hayek
Treasurer

NEWSLETTER TOPICS

1. Next Meeting Reminder
2. Diagnose Your TI-99/4A
3. Speech Synthesizer
4. Formatter Help
5. New CorComp Peripheral Expansion System
6. New CorComp 9900 Micro-Expansion System Available
7. Welcome Newcomers
8. Multiple Word Statements
9. Extended Basic Commands In Basic?
10. Correspondence Material
11. Wasting Paper?
12. Drifting Stars
13. Buy and Sell

***** NEXT MEETING REMINDER *****

The July meeting will be held on the second Monday, July 9th, at the JA building located at 330 Collins Road, N.E., Cedar Rapids. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. This month's program will address the CorComp RS232 and its interface to printers. If you have any friends, or know of anyone, who has a TI 99/4A----- bring them with you.

***** DIAGNOSE YOUR TI-99/4A *****

A month or so ago I noticed a short but effective program in the MSP 99 Newsletter used for fault diagnosis of the TI-99/4A. Type the program in Basic, run it, and obey the instructions. (I have not performed this program, so if someone wants to put it in and report back, I sure would appreciate it.)

```

10 RANDOMIZE
20 CALL CLEAR
40 PRINT "THIS IS A"
50 PRINT "COMPUTER DIAGNOSIS!"
60 PRINT
70 PRINT "PRESS (ENTER) AFTER"
80 PRINT "EACH REPLY."
90 PRINT
100 PRINT "WHAT IS YOUR CODE NAME?"
110 INPUT N$
120 IF N$="" THEN 100
130 CALL CLEAR
140 PRINT "ALRIGHT, ";N$;" "
150 PRINT "YOUR CODE NAME IS ACCEPTED."
160 PRINT "NOW, TYPE IN A FOUR DIGIT CODE"
170 PRINT "NUMBER, THEN PRESS (ENTER)."
180 PRINT
190 INPUT "WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?":N
200 IF N>999 THEN 210 ELSE 220
210 IF N<10000 THEN 260
220 PRINT
230 PRINT "INVALID NUMBER! TRY AGAIN."
240 PRINT
250 GOTO 190
260 CALL CLEAR
270 PRINT "YOUR NAME IS: ";N$
280 PRINT
290 PRINT "YOUR NUMBER IS: ";N
300 PRINT
310 PRINT "IS THAT RIGHT? (Y/N)"
320 CALL KEY(0,A,ST)
330 IF ST=0 THEN 320
340 IF A<>"Y" THEN 20
350 CALL CLEAR
360 PRINT "O.K., ";N$;" "
370 PRINT "BEGIN A QUICK"
380 PRINT "HARDWARE CHECK."
390 CALL KEY(0,A,ST)
400 IF A<>"Y" THEN 390

```

```

410 CALL CLEAR
420 FOR T=1 TO INT(8*RND)+5
430 PRINT "LOCATION#";T;"= ACCEPTABLE"
440 FOR D=1 TO 300
450 NEXT D
460 NEXT T
470 PRINT "LOCATION#";T;"= ERROR DETECTED!!!"
480 PRINT
490 PRINT "PRESS (ENTER) FOR HELP"
500 CALL KEY(0,KEY,STATUS)
510 IF KEY<>13 THEN 500
520 CALL CLEAR
530 PRINT N$:"; DIAGNOSTICS SHOW"
540 PRINT "THAT YOUR COMPUTER HAS A"
550 FOR X=1 TO 27
560 READ P
570 PRINT CHR$(P):
580 FOR D=1 TO 200
590 NEXT D
600 NEXT X
610 PRINT
620 PRINT "PLEASE WAIT 15 SECONDS FOR A"
630 PRINT "COMPLETE DIAGNOSIS."
640 FOR D=1 TO 700
650 NEXT D
660 CALL CLEAR
670 FOR T=15 TO 1 STEP -1
680 PRINT "TIME:";T
690 FOR D=1 TO 200
700 NEXT D
710 CALL CLEAR
720 NEXT T
730 CALL CLEAR
740 CALL SCREEN(10)
750 REM **BE SURE YOUR ALPHA LOCK KEY IS DEPRESSED!**
760 A$="FFFFFFFFFFFFFFF"
770 CALL CHAR(128,A$)
780 READ A,B,R
790 IF A=-1 THEN 820
800 CALL HCHAR(A,B,128,R)
810 GOTO 780
820 READ A,B,R
830 IF A=-1 THEN 860
840 CALL VCHAR(A,B,128,R)
850 GOTO 820
860 GOTO 860
870 DATA 83,69,86,69,82,69,32,73,78,84,69,82,78,65,76
880 DATA 32,77,65,76,70,85,78,67,84,73,79,78,2,3,5,2
890 DATA 9,5,2,15,5,2,21,5,6,3,5,6,9,5,6,15,5,8,16,1
900 DATA 9,17,1,10,18,1,11,19,1,11,21,5,11,27,4,14,3
910 DATA 5,14,9,5,14,15,5,14,27,4,18,3,4,18,27,4,23,9
920 DATA 5,23,15,5,23,21,5,23,27,4,-1,-1,-1,2,3,10,2
930 DATA 7,10,2,9,10,2,13,5,2,15,10,2,19,5,2,23,10,2
940 DATA 27,10,14,3,10,14,9,10,14,13,10,14,15,10,14
950 DATA 19,10,14,21,10,14,27,5,18,30,5,-1,-1,-1

```

**** SPEECH SYNTHESIZER ****

From the Rocky Mountain 99'ers TIC TALK comes a neat little hint for those lucky enough to have a speech synthesizer and a Terminal Emulator Module. While in Basic, and with the TE module inserted, enter:

```
LIST "SPEECH";sssss-eeeeee
```

Where sssss = Starting line number
 eeeee = Ending line number

This will allow your 99/4A to speak an entire Basic listing out for you. (Someone check this out and see if it really works!)

**** FORMATTER HELP ****

Also from the TIC TALK is another helpful hint on using the TI WRITER.

Next time you prepare to run the formatter to print your document, 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.

**** NEW CORCOMP PERIPHERAL EXPANSION SYSTEM ****

CorComp, a third party manufacturer, has provided RS232 and 32K memory cards for the past few months. What we all have been waiting for is their new 99000 peripheral expansion system (PES) which was due out in March or April. Well, it looks like the PES will not be available until approximately July.

The PES will include: the main frame, built-in RS232 (2 serial and 1 parallel ports), 32K expansion RAM, and a disk controller (capable of handling up to 4 double-sided double-density drives). The flex cable interface will be a small round cable that will hook to the side of the 99/4A via a small L-type connector. The power supply is specifically designed for low heat and high power. (The power supply can easily handle the system motherboard, 2 slim line disk drives, and the future auxiliary cards that can be added to the motherboard. The size of the PES size is approximately 3/4 the size of TI's PES.

The formatted disk will store 360K bytes of information. With 4 double-sided double-density drives, the storage power adds up to 1.4 megabytes of on-line storage! The disk controller will load files 2 to 4 times faster than TI's PES. The disk controller also has provisions for setting the head seek (step) times for all four disk drives. This will allow you to use some of the faster disk drives available.

The CorComp peripheral expansion system, without the disk drives, will sell for approximately \$549.95. Start saving your pennies!!

**** NEW CORCOMP MICRO-EXPANSION SYSTEM AVAILABLE ****

The new CorComp 9900 micro-expansion system is now available. The system consists of: RS232, 32K memory, and disk controller. These units plug directly into the right side of the computer. Each unit measures approximately 5 1/2 X 5 X 3 inches, or about the size of 2 speech synthesizers. The RS232 sells for \$149.95. The 32K memory and disk controller will sell for approximately \$299.95 each.

The disk controller will provide the same features as described for the 9900 system above. The RS232 will allow one serial and one parallel port. An optional chip can be added for the second serial port if needed. There is no power supply and no place for a disk drive to be placed internally. The micro-expansion system will handle 4 external drives (external power supplies for disk drive use required).

**** SPECIAL SOFTWARE SALE ****

We understand that Drug Town, located at Oakland Road and 32nd St. NE, will be having a special TI software sale in approximately a month. Look for ads concerning their tent sale in July!!!

**** WELCOME NEWCOMERS ****

We would like to welcome those new members who just joined us in June:

J. C. Kucera Louis Parsons

**** MULTIPLE WORD STATEMENTS ****

Dave Dalton, a club member, has provided us with some new word capabilities for the speech synthesizer that hasn't been used in the past. The next time you are using extended basic, try typing in these commands:

```
CALL SAY("#TEXAS INSTRUMENTS#")
CALL SAY("#.#")
CALL SAY("#+#")
CALL SAY("#-#")
```

The speech synthesizer should say the multiple word statements that are placed inside the number signs.

**** EXTENDED BASIC COMMANDS IN BASIC? ****

Dave Dalton also found some information pertaining to the use of some extended basic commands that can be used in basic.

The next time you write a program that requires an item to be displayed at a certain position, try using these commands:

```
10 FOR Z=0 TO LEN(A$)-1
20 CALL HCHAR(Y,X+Z,ASC(SEG$(A$,Z+1,1)))
30 NEXT Z
```

Use X, Y and Z to designate the beginning row and column of the displayed message.

**** CORRESPONDENCE MATERIAL ****

The club has been getting a publication from the 99'ERS USERS GROUP ASSOCIATION for the past few months. These publications will be placed on the table at the rear of the meeting room for all to read.

**** WASTING PAPER? ****

How many times have you switched on your printer (while using the TI-Writer) and watched your printer feed a full sheet of paper through the carriage before it starts typing? If you want to prevent this try using the following hints provided by the June 1984 MSP 99 Newsletter from St. Paul, Minnesota:

1. Save any information that you have typed into the text editor by pressing "FCTN 9" to get into the command mode, and then by typing in "SF" to save your file.

2. Once again enter the command mode (FCTN 9) and type the letter Q (ENTER), then E (ENTER).

3. Make sure the program diskette is inserted in the drive. Press the number 2 to enter the text formatter and then immediately turn off the printer.

4. The screen will appear as follows:

* TEXT FORMATTER *

```

ENTER INPUT FILENAME:
DSK1,-----
ENTER PRINT DEVICE NAME:
RS232.BA=-----,LF OR CR
OR PIO.LF OR CR
USE MAILING LIST? N
WHAT PAGE(S)? (ALL)
ALL
NUMBER OF COPIES? 1
PAUSE AT END OF PAGE? Y
  
```

5. Make sure that the letter "Y" is pressed for the "pause at end of page" command and then press "ENTER". (Also make sure that the printer is still off.)

6. The "PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE" message should appear after a few seconds.

7. Turn on the printer and then press "ENTER". The printer should start printing on that page.

**** DRIFTING STARS ****

Again from the June 1984 MSP 99 Newsletter comes and interesting article on how to program stars into your space games:

For all you space jockeys out there, here is a program that creates a moving star field for backgrounds in your space games. The apparently smooth motion, even in TI Basic, is caused by constantly redefining characters. The following program does this in lines 360 to 430. Each character is redefined eight times, then the character next to it is redefined, and so on.

If you want to move the stars slowly, insert a delay loop such as:

```

375 FOR DELAY=1 TO 50
376 NEXT DELAY
  
```

If you want them to move faster, change the STEP value in line 370 to -2 or -3. This program runs in either Basic or Extended Basic, but will probably be more useful in Extended Basic (which allows Sprites).

```

100 REM *****
110 REM * DRIFTING STARS *
120 REM *****
130 REM BY JON TODD
  
```

```

140 REM
150 REM MSP 99 USERS GROUP
160 REM P.O.BOX 12351
170 REM ST.PAUL MN. 55112
180 REM
190 CALL CLEAR
200 CALL SCREEN(2)
210 FOR I=9 TO 12
220 CALL COLOR(I,16,1)
230 NEXT I
240 FOR I=96 TO 123
250 CALL CHAR(I,"0")
260 A%=A%&CHR$(I)
270 NEXT I
280 FOR I=1 TO 24
290 X=RND*28+1
300 PRINT SEG$(A%,X+1,28-X)&SEG$(
      (A%,1,X)
310 NEXT I
320 FOR I=8 TO 1 STEP -1
330 READ B$(I)
340 NEXT I
350 DATA 0001,0002,0004,0008,001,002,
      004,008
360 FOR C=123 TO 96 STEP -1
370 FOR I=8 TO 1 STEP -1
380 CALL CHAR(C,B$(I))
390 IF C<123 THEN 410
400 CALL CHAR(96,"0")
410 CALL CHAR(C+1,"0")
420 NEXT I
430 NEXT C
440 GOTO 360
  
```

**** BUY AND SELL ****

For Sale: Atari Soft Donkey Kong - \$30.00
Contact: Dave Dalton at 377-1715

For Sale:

ITEM	QTY
1. TI-99/4A (one inoperative)	2
2. Peripheral Expansion Box (Includes 32K memory and and disk drive)	1
3. TI Writer/Word Processor Command Module	1
4. TI Extended Basic Command Module	1
5. Mini Memory Command Module	1
6. Household Budget Manage- ment Command Module	1
7. Tunnels of Doom Command Module	1
8. Parsec Command Module	1
9. Tombstone City Command Module	1

- 10. Number Magic Command Module 1
- 11. Computer Math Games II
Command Module 1
- 12. Touch Typing Tutor Command
Module 1

The price requested for the above items is \$550.00 and does not include a printer or monitor. Contact Dean Helander at 393-3029 (home) or 395-3897 (work).

***** REM *****

The CEDAR VALLEY 99'er USER GROUP NEWSLETTER is published by the Cedar Valley 99'er User's Group in the Cedar Rapids/Marion area. Members are encouraged to contribute articles. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and are not necessarily those of the Cedar Valley 99'er User's Group, its Officers, editor, or members.

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