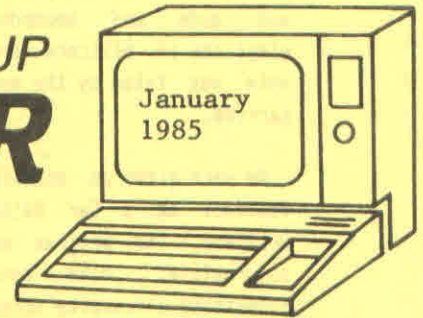


CEDAR VALLEY 99'ER USER GROUP **NEWSLETTER**



NEWSLETTER TOPICS

1. Next Meeting Reminder
2. Minutes From January Meeting
3. The Treasury
4. Call Key Reaction Time
5. Lunar Lander Change
6. Rumors
7. Charset and Charpat
8. Extended Basic Class
9. March Elections
10. Fast File Transfer Without TE II
11. Memberships
12. New Member
13. Home Computer Magazine
14. Best of 99'er
15. Three-Pass Disk Copier
16. TI-Writer Help
17. TI Program Recovery
18. Share Your Knowledge
19. New Publication
20. New P.E.B. Clock Card
21. Buy and Sell
22. CV99'er UG Officers/Chairmen

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

The February meeting will be held on the first Monday, February 4th, at 7:00 p.m. at the JA building, 330 Collins Rd. N.E. This month's program will be on income tax deductions by Gary Fish.

***** MINUTES FROM JANUARY MEETING *****

The January meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by President **Jim Green**. There were 48 members present. Minutes from the December meeting were approved as printed in the December newsletter. The Treasurer's report was also approved as printed in the same newsletter. A comment was made that the new format used to display the treasurer's report was much more readable than the previous ones.

Jim Green reminded everyone that our next meeting will be the first Monday in February. Other general items of comment included a suggestion that if any members received TI products or software for Christmas to demonstrate these items to the rest of the membership.

It was announced that we now have 50 copies of our software library listing available.

A motion was made by **Gary Fish** and seconded by **William Paeth** that the club spend \$1.00 to buy the catalog from TIGERCUB. A vote was taken by the membership and the motion was carried.

Jim Trainor has again asked the membership for any interest in software courses. The highest interest appears to be with extended basic. If anyone wants to attend a course, contact **Jim** at 365-2045. Please do this before our next meeting on February 4th.

It was announced that the Home Computer magazines have come in. Membership price is \$2.50 each.

Our publicity chairman, **Paul Mortensen**, has made a total of 112 name tags for use during our meetings. Please be sure to turn in your name tags at the end of each meeting so that none are lost.

New order of business covered a request by President Jim Green to modify the By-Laws and Constitution. Article B, Section A, describes the month when election of new officers is to take place, which currently is set in February. A motion was made and seconded to move the month for elections of officers from February to March. A vote was taken by the membership and was unanimously carried.

We were given an excellent demonstration by Mike Bonifazi on a Car Maintenance program that he had written. The program menus were extensive and informative. Mike mentioned that he would be submitting a cassette version of the program to the club library. We were also given a demonstration by Gary Bishop on how to disassemble a TI computer in order to clean the command module contacts.

The door prize was won by Ann Schmidt. Unfortunately, we still have not received our products. However, Jim assures us that they will be here by our next meeting.

Dean Helander
Secretary

***** THE TREASURY *****

FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1984

	<u>CURRENT</u> <u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u> <u>TO DATE</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Memberships	\$ 136.00	\$ 528.00
Cassette/Disk Sales	8.00	17.00
Software Sales	0	2.00
Magazine Sales	0	7.50
Programming Classes	0	0
Group Purchases	0	93.50
Dividend Income	0	0
TOTAL	\$ 148.87	\$ 652.87

DISPERSALS

Meeting Rent	\$ 0	\$ 4.00
Postage	51.80	51.80
Bank/Check Charges	1.00	2.00
Cassette/Disk Purchase	0	0

Software Purchase	0	0
Subscriptions	0	0
Class Teacher Salary	0	0
Advertising	7.74	29.34
Group Purchases	0	0
Supplies	0	0
TOTAL	\$ 60.54	\$ 87.14

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Savings Account	\$ 2.25	\$ 157.79
Cash On Hand	0.00	20.50
Checking Account	86.08	656.87
TOTAL	\$ 88.33	\$ 835.16

Ed Hayek
Treasurer

***** CALL KEY REACTION TIME *****

Call key reaction time can be a problem if the loop is long. The following program is an example:

```

90 CALL CLEAR
100 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
110 CALL SOUND(500,163,5,138,5)
120 CALL SOUND(500,138,5,110,5)
130 IF S=0 THEN 100
140 IF K=13 THEN 150 ELSE 100
150 PRINT "THE END"

```

This program will loop from lines 100 to 130 until the <ENTER> key is pressed. The length of time between pressing the <ENTER> key and executing line 150 may be as long as 2 seconds.

If you press <ENTER> just as line 110 is starting, it will take 1/2 second for line 110 plus 1/2 second for line 120 to execute. Line 130 will loop back to line 100 since the <ENTER> key had not been pressed when line 100 was last read. Now, finally line 100 reads the <ENTER> key but lines 110 and 120 still put another 1-second delay before line 140 sends the computer on to line 150. A total of 2-seconds delay in all!!

To improve the reaction time of this program, add:

```

105 IF K=13 THEN 150
115 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
117 IF K=13 THEN 150

```

Now the maximum delay time is 1/2-second because CALL KEY is read between every CALL SOUND statement.

A program with a FOR-NEXT statement can also benefit greatly from this technique since the reaction time will improve directly as the number of times the statement loops.

John Johnson

**** LUNAR LANDER CHANGE ****

The software listing of 1-9-85 has a remark at the end of program #9043 (Lunar Lander-ext basic) ..."not as many features were converted to ext basic as could have been. Any volunteers?" Please note that this has already been done, and, according to Bryan Hawkins, the new program should be available by our next TI club meeting.

John Johnson

**** RUMORS ****

From the January 1985 issue of the MSP 99 Newsletter comes a new rumor as follows:

"There is a persistent rumor making the rounds that there will be a successor to the TI 99/4A. This new successor is expected to see the light of day around February, 1985. This new machine is rumored to be coming from Myarc, Inc. instead of CorComp, who was supposed to be laboring in that direction. In the past, I would have been reluctant to lend any credibility to such rumors, but there have been a few developments lately which make it possible that there might be some shred of truth to it. Myarc is a company which has not exactly been a household word in the micro world, but which did and does build the only (so far as I know) hard disk unit for the TI 99. They also came out with an expansion system and double density disk controller and other peripheral items after TI's folding act. And, they did this all without a lot of advance fanfare---they didn't talk about it, they just went ahead and did it. Frankly, I don't know whether to believe this rumor or not, but it has my hopes up a bit higher."

Ed.

**** CHARSET AND CHARPAT ****

Extended Basic users may use the capital letters and numbers for graphics characters 32 through 95. While the lower case letters and spare characters (128-143) are adequate in most cases, detailed pictures, or a large number of sprites used in the magnify X3 or X4 mode, may need more. The X3 and X4 magnify sprites require 4 characters for each sprite. Also, getting color sets correct for your needs can require characters that are widely spaced.

Help is on the way in the form of CHARSET. Use characters 32 through 95. Change their characters and colors, then, if you need to return to print statements, use CALL CHARSET. Characters 32 through 95 will return to their original character and colors. Also, if you want to use some letters in the graphics, simply don't change those particular characters. They may have their colors changed, but - if you make your background colors transparent, the letters will still show anywhere on the screen (except where the screen color is used). Or, you can use CHARPAT to get the patterns of the particular letters you need and put them wherever you wish.

A third alternative is to save the small letters and use them. Since they are just a capital letter made smaller, the change probably won't be noticed.

John Johnson

**** EXTENDED BASIC CLASS ****

The Extended Basic class will begin Monday, March 4, for ten consecutive weeks. Jim Trainor will teach the class from 7 - 9 p.m. at the R.E.C. Building in east Marion. Cost will be \$20.00 (only one dollar per hour!). Five members have already signed up for the class, and there's room for more. Call Jim, or sign up at the February 4th meeting. Take advantage of this User Group benefit while you can.

Jim Green

**** MARCH ELECTIONS ****

Elections for new officers will be held at the March 11th meeting. Officers assume their office on May 1st. Elected positions include:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

Appointed offices include:

1. Newsletter Editor
2. Publicity Chairman
3. Program Chairman
4. Education Chairman
5. Technical Chairman

We need YOU to help keep the Cedar Valley 99er User's Group running for another year. Please consider volunteering to run for one of the elected offices. Contact me (377-4073) or the nomination committee and let us know you care enough to get involved!!! Thanks.

Jim Green

**** FAST FILE TRANSFER WITHOUT TE II ****

The January '85 issue of the Rocky Mountain 99'ers TIC TALK newsletter contained an interesting article pertaining to the transferring of files. The article is as follows:

"When transferring files over the phone, the easiest and most reliable method is to use the Terminal Emulator. The price for this ease of use and error checking is that the process is very slow. Fortunately, there is a way to transfer Basic and Extended Basic programs at five times the speed of the TE II.

First, both the sender and receiver must select TI Basic. Then, load the program to be sent into memory and type "SAVE RS232". When you are ready, switch over to the modems and press <ENTER>. The receiver should wait about five seconds and then press <ENTER> also. Both users should see a number, corresponding to the number of blocks of the program, at the top of the screen. This number will slowly count down to zero (at which point the transfer is complete). Since the program is loaded directly into memory, the receiver must remember to save the program to disk or cassette.

Obviously, this method is limited to programs which can run in Basic or Extended Basic. The procedure for transferring assembly programs or text files is a little more complicated, but still faster than the TE II.

To transfer assembly programs or text files, both the sender and receiver must have an editor assembler module. First, the sender and receiver should select the editor assembler and press "1" for edit. Then, the sender should select option "4" for

print. When you are asked for a file name, enter "RS232.BA=300.CRLF". The receiver selects option "1" for load (make sure disk A is in the drive) and uses "RS232.BA=300" as a file name. When both sides are ready, switch over to the modems and press <ENTER>. With this method, there is no way of telling how much more of the file is left to be sent, so just sit back and wait until it is finished. The file can be saved to disk by using option "3".

Ed.

**** MEMBERSHIPS ****

We continue to receive membership renewals for the 1985 year. Since the last newsletter, we have added seven members to our roster - bringing our membership to over 70 members!!! Not bad for an orphan user group. If you haven't renewed, please see one of the officers or mail your check to Ed Hayek.

Ed Hayek

**** NEW MEMBER ****

Please offer a hearty welcome to our newest member:

Dave McCormick

Ed Hayek

**** HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE ****

We have four copies of Vol.4, No.5 of Home Computer Magazine left. Not all members who are on the sign-up list claimed their issues. Therefore, these issues will be available on a first-come first-served basis.

Ed Hayek

**** BEST OF 99'ER ****

We have placed a group offer for "The Best of 99'er". Assuming that the publisher honors the published price list, and we can find buyers for the three extra copies, we should be able to sell them for \$12.00. This is a 40% savings over the price list. Let's continue to take advantage of our group buying power!!!

Ed Hayek

**** THREE-PASS DISK COPIER ****

The following article, found in the 1984 issue of the Atlanta 99/4A Computer Users Group newsletter CALL NEWSLETTER, may be of interest for those of you who have the 32K memory expansion and the editor assembler.

"The three-pass disk copier runs in TI Forth and will copy any disk in only three passes. This really eliminates the constant disk shuffling that you must do with Disk Manager 2, saving a lot of wear and tear on you and the hardware. The program, not capable of initializing disks, was given to the public domain by Doug Smith of Waldorg, MD."

I also have a Forth clone copier from Sundisk Software which is in public domain, but this is for a two drive system - therefore I've been unable to test it. Does anyone have a two-disk system? Both programs should be available in our software library shortly. You don't need Forth to run them since all the necessary screens are already on the disk.

Ed Hayek

**** TI-WRITER HELP ****

Those of you who have copied the enhancements of TI-Writer (furnished by Texas Instruments) and are running with parallel printers, probably get as tired as I do deleting the "RS232.BA=1200.LF" (which is now a default setting for the formatter).

The MSP Newsletter had an article by Ed Neu which had the solution. It utilizes the TI-Forth to read the disk screen-by-screen and substitute "PIO.LF" in the Edit mode. According to Ed Neu, you need to change two screens either 19 and 22, or 55 and 57, depending on how your system was loaded. In my case, the screens were 19 and 22, but I found that doing both of them caused the formatter to ignore the Indent command. Changing only the screen 22 default appears to work. Anyone who doesn't have Forth, or just doesn't want to mess with their disk, can get a copy of the modified disk from me. Although I don't know much programming, particularly forth programming, I'm certainly starting to appreciate it's usefulness.

Other TI-Writer hints I have found in various newsletters over time, and adopted, might be of interest to others. Keep your program and data files on the same disk. Once you delete the practice programs, TI-Writer occupies only 1/3 of the disk space. This eliminates the need for shuffling the disks from the program to the file

disk every time you want to save or print through the formatter. In addition, you can put a short program for printer control on the same disk which you can enter in basic while the TI-Writer module is left in. And, again no disk swapping is necessary!

Get in the habit of using the formatter for printing. This allows you to set the Editor margin at 32, eliminating the need to scroll sideways to read 80-columns (which I find confusing to follow). Your control codes then determine how the document prints. TI-Writer, when used this way, is really a very good word processing program for a home system.

Ed Hayek

**** TI PROGRAM RECOVERY ****

Last month I gave a solution for accidental <QUITS>, as published in the Home Computer Magazine letters section, without testing it first. I think we've been misled! This doesn't work. You can recover after a <QUIT>, but only if you knew you were going to <QUIT> and did your Call Peek in advance. How do I know in advance I'm accidentally going to <QUIT>? Once you have <QUIT> the Call Peek will give different points for the line number table. Am I overlooking something obvious? Can this really be useful? Help!!!

Ed Hayek

**** SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE ****

Last month Mike Bonifozi provided a very interesting program he created pertaining to auto maintenance. It took him time to write the program, and probably even a longer amount of time to muster enough courage to stand up in front of the membership and share his knowledge. However, this is what it is all about - sharing.

The Executive Committee is asking everyone to share something with the rest of the club. This can pertain to programs you have written, hardware you have purchased, books you have read, etc. Please, we need your help. If you determine you can find the courage to do this, contact Gary Fish at the next meeting, or phone 377-7650.

Chuck Moats

**** NEW PUBLICATION ****

From the January 1985 issue of the Central Iowa 99/4A Users Group newsletter C.I.U.G. NEWS comes an interesting article pertaining to a new publication.

"A new mini-magazine called 'Mini-Mag' will make its debut this month. It will be exclusively for the TI 99/4A users and will include articles, new product reviews, book reviews, items of interest, etc. If you hurry, you can get the first issue free. If you are interested, write S.O.S. Publishers, 21777 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills, CA., 91364; or call (818) 704-0145.

Ed.

**** NEW P.E.B. CLOCK CARD ****

Also in the C.I.U.G. NEWS was an article pertaining to a new card for the P.E.B. box as follows:

"A real-time clock card is now available for the 99/4A. Besides the time of day (in 12 or 24-hour modes) it also keeps track of the day of the week and date. Battery backup is included so you don't have to set it every time you turn on your system. It comes on a board (not enclosed) with batteries for \$85.00. Order from: G. Angelcyk, 6920 South Creek Road, Girard, PA 16417. You must have either Extended Basic or Editor/Assembler to access the data!!!"

Ed.

**** BUY AND SELL ****

For sale: TI 99/4A console with tape player and speech synthesizer (16 months old) **Best offer.**

- Black Jack & Poker.....\$10.00
- Car Wars.....\$5.00
- MicroSurgeon.....\$15.00
- Munchman.....\$5.00
- Jaw Breaker II.....\$5.00
- Othello.....\$5.00
- Parsec.....\$10.00
- TI Invaders.....\$5.00
- Video Chess.....\$15.00

Contact Tim Mussman at 396-4150 after 5:00 p.m.

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