CEDAR VALLEY 99'ER USER GROUP NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1988
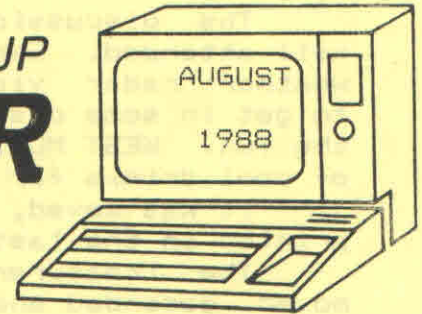
CEDAR RAPIDS/MARION, IOWA

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****NEWSLETTER TOPICS****

1. Future Meeting Dates
2. Next Meeting Notes
3. Minutes from the August Meeting
4. E/A Revisited
5. It's Later Than You Think...
6. New Shareware Available
7. For Sale/Wanted
8. VDP RAM Diagnostics
9. Computerfest 88

****FUTURE MEETING DATES****

Please mark the following dates on
your calendar for future meetings:
SEPTEMBER 12, OCTOBER 10, NOVEM 14.

********NEXT MEETING********

This month's meeting will be held
on September 12 at West Music store,
in the Collins Road Square shopping
center. Opening is at 6:30 PM. We
should have some new software to show
and some new members to meet!

* * MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST MEETING * *

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Canady on August 8, 1988. There were 14 members present.

The discussion period before the official User Group meeting was well attended. Gary Bishop entertained many of us with live action weather radar video from across the street at Rockwell. Others managed to get in some discussion. Come early to the next meeting and join in the fun. WEST MUSIC not only supplied the room but also set out a supply of cool drinks for us. Thanks very much.

It was moved, seconded and passed that the minutes be accepted as printed in the last NEWSLETTER.

The treasurer's report was given by treasurer Bruce Winter. It was moved, seconded and passed that we accept the report as read.

OLD BUSINESS 1.The UG meeting advertisement on cable channel 20 was to be set up next week. Some confussion about service delayed it until then.

2.Bruce announced that the disk order is in. He also announced that labels and write protect tabs were available. It was moved that labels be included with each disk at a cost of 35 cents per disk. The motion died for lack of a second. It was moved, seconded and passed that the labels be made available to members at the club's cost.

3. Gary announced the schedule for SUMMERFEST 88. He also was busy getting volunteers for our table and selling tickets. The User Group's system will be there. Jim was to get some UG flyers ready. Jerry was to supply some catalogs and the extra NEWSLETTERS to hand out.

NEW BUSINESS 1. The Chicago TI User GROUP is starting a library exchange program. The no cost program uses CATLIB disk catalog program. For more information see the MICROpendium/July 1988. It was moved, seconded and passed that the UG participate in the program.

2. Sister Pat reported that she has Funnelweb ver 4.1 which she will be sharing with the UG.

3. On a related subject, Jerry reported that he has sent our donation of $75.00 to the McGovern's in Australia.

4. Gary brought to our attention the letter from Ray Kazmer in the July MICROpendium. Ray describes some of his comunication with Sister Pat. He also asked all 99er's to get right in his act and send a little something to her. It was moved, seconded and passed that the UG extend to Sister Pat full 1988-89 membership in the UG at no cost to her.

DISCUSSION 1. Printers' Apprentice is very complex. Jerry still needs more time before he can demonstrate all its features.

2. The Barry Traver magazine on a disk was discussed. Ed showed what he has received and recommended it to all present. The meeting was closed.

The program was a review of several games recently acquired by Ed Edwards.

Submitted by Bill Faeth, Secretary

The editor wants to recognize and thank Mary and Paul Mortenson for their service to our user group. Each month, these two fold, stamp, and mail out this newsletter. They even take extra measures to insure that you get your newsletter on time after I have delivered it late to them. Every user group could use more volunteers like Mary and Paul! ed.

* * E/A Revisited * *

Having almost finished my first large Editor Assembler program, I feel
that a list of errors, omissions, and explanations of the E/A book would
be useful to others starting such an endeavor. I can only list what I
have found to be true on my system. So please double check these
findings before you take them as true of yours. I found relatively few
errors considering the size of the book.

Page# Sect# Item

3 2.1.2.2 The Commmand Mode of the Editor (edit,find,replace, etc.) is
not listed here. It starts on page 26.
9 16.1 The VDP RAM Access Utilities are VMBW,VSBW,VMBR,VSBR, etc.
9 16.2.3 For more information on Floating Point Numbers see page 404.
24 2.1.2.1 This may be trivia but <return> on the TI means enter.
27 2.1.2.2 In the Find mode the computer starts its search at the lines
you have on the screen when you go to that mode. If you
are at the last screen of lines of a source code listing those are the
only ones that will be searched.
33 2.2.1 1. On my system the source code must be in DSK1. 2. If you
want a list file at PIO. include a period after it to give
the progam enough chars to work with.
53 3.7 The $ symbol represents the address in memory of itself.
226 14.3.4 Contrary to what the manual says I can only get about 46
chars on one line of TEXT before I get an error message when
I assemble the program.
252 16.2.2 Most GPLLNK routines need an address placed in VSPTR (>836E)
to tell the routines where to place the stack values it uses. This is a
VDP RAM address. >1000 is usually a good place for it. If you do not do
this you will have mysterious symbols flash across the top of the screen
while the GPLLNK routines are working. (The stack will be at >0000 and
this is the start of the screen image table.) 255 16.2.2.2 Involution
routine- The base numger must go into the VSPTR stack and not the ARG.
Also addresses FAC+12 thru FAC+19 are destroyed per the Mini Memory book.
I found this to be true. 260 16.2.3.1 Floating point compare- Be careful
to compare the status byte the right way. I move it to a workspace
register and COC (compare ones coresponding) to what I am looking for.
261 16.2.3.1 Convert floating point to integer- This conversion rounds
off the number. Examples- 1.4=1, 1.6=2.
348 21.7.3 I think the first line should read LI R0,>71E1
354 22.1.6 A delay of at least >3FFF is required between words if sprites
are moving while the words are spoken. (Also needs LIMI 2, LIMI 0).
378 23.10 The example in the last paragraph is wrong. Addresses in the
>4000 range are peripheral ROMs and can not be changed.

For long programs I used AORG to modify the DEBUG program to load at
>2700, my Disassembler program at >E000 and the program I am working on
at >A000. (Where else?). This allows all three programs to be available
at the same time.

Bye. John Johnson (Cedar Rapids version)

* * CHICAGO TI FEST COMING * *

Make your plans now to attend the largest TI gathering in the country, the 6th annual Chicago TI Faire. This event will be held in conjunction with the Milwaukee TI Faire on Saturday, November 12. The action moves to Milwaukee on Sunday the 13th. The gathering, billed this year as a convention, will be held at the Holiday Inn, 3505 Algonquin Rd., Rolling Meadows, IL. Call the Chicago User Group hotline for full details, 312/755-0051. Admission is only $4.00 for the day Saturday. Let's show some support for this effort from our user group. It's only 4 hours away!

We can all relate to the following, from Sister Pat Taylor.

IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK....

If you remember ages ago when a boot referred to footwear, not a program coming on a computer...

Or the days when a bulletin board was simple school equipment and not electronically sent messages...

Or times when we spoke of animation in reference to a person's enlivened spirit, not a screen imitating life...

Or those eons ago when conversions were political or religious, not binary or Ascii...

Or when utilities were electrical bills, not terrific helpers to aid a floundering computer novice...

Or when default referred a failure to meet an obligation instead of a comfortable choice made for you...

Or another century when alpha and omega were companions in speech instead of alpha and lock...

Or a time in the past when dip referred to a condiment and switches were a tool for chastisement ...

When strings were musical instruments, not a sequence of characters

When terminals were bus and train depots , not input, output devices...

When a buffer shined one's floors, and was not a temporary storage device...

When bugs were insects, not an error in a computer program...

Or when monitors watcheds school halls and lavatories instead of you watching a screen performance...

When emulation was striving to excel, not computer imitating computer...

Or a bus was transportation, not a circuit...

When call meant to phone, not to branch to a subroutine...

When a dump took care of waste materials, and was not a lovely print-out...

When address was where you lived, not an operand portion of a computer instruction...

When memory belonged to people, not computers...

Those belonged to another day, another year, and even at times another century!!! Is it later than we thought, or is it simply a question of the past not quite yet converted to the future!!! Could it be only a year ago when computerese first overwhelmed me!!

* * * FOR SALE / WANTED * * *

FOR SALE: Computer compatible cassette data recorder with TI cable and four cassettes with programs. $20.00
300 baud direct connect Volksmodem with TI cable. $30.00
Early Learning Fun module. $2.00

Call Bruce Winter, 393-0610; these items will be available at the next mtg.

FOR SALE: The club has 3 new data cassettes for sale, 50 cents each. Also, we are selling DSDD disks with jackets for 30 cents each. See the treasurer.

FOR SALE: Two TI consoles, FEB with disk drive controller only, cassette, speech, disk software, Donkey Kong, Yatzee, Parsec, Alpiner, etc. Books, magazines. Scott Bay, North Liberty, IA (319) 626-6440 after 6 PM. Prefers a package sale, but will entertain individual offers.

WANTED: I'm trying to locate an AC line stabilizing transformer or a constant voltage transformer for Sister Pat Taylor. Sola is a big name in these. It needs to be rated about 500 watts. The voltage level in her room fluctuates wildly, mainly on the low side. This is due to age and additional air conditioning loads in her building. Her computer system won't even boot at times. I will accept and deliver any contribution of a transformer. Gary Bishop, 377-9574 (H); 395-8267 (O).

* * VDP RAM Diagnostics * *

I have run across several consoles recently that have bits stuck in VDP RAM. This shows up as vertical bars or streaks on the screen, but everything else acts normally. It is difficult to isolate this problem, but due to the hook up of the ram chips, there is some hope.

First thing, try swapping the 9918 VDP with a known good one. It is socketed, so this is easy. The 9918 runs quite warm, and on some consoles, is not heat sunk to the cover. Anywhere there is heat, there is a reduced lifetime for an electronic part. In my experiences, I have only found one 9918 that went flakey after it warmed up. That problem doesn't look the same as a ram stuck.

After that, here's a trick: ground one end of a small test probe, and very briefly touch the other end of the probe to pin 14 on a ram chip. Start at one end, and move through all 8 ram chips, one at a time. You will quickly see the vertical pixels that the shorted ram controls. If you see some changes, this chip is probably good. Now if the problem is a bad ram chip, grounding its pin 14 will have no effect, or will cause some different effect upon the same pixels that were bad to start with. This imediately identifies the defective ram.

Now, shorting out a chip like this isn't exactly according to Hoyle, but this will do no damage if done quickly. This technique can save many hours of soldering and unsoldering, trying to find a bad chip.

If you just can't bring yourself to short an output, I have an alternate approach: remove the 9918, and carefully bend out pin 25. Now re-install it, and power up the system. You must now notice if the problem got worse, or stayed the same. There is almost no possibility it

will get better. If the problem got worse, you now have 2 non-working rams, so the one you just disconnected is probably OK. Turn off power, remove the 9918, carefully bend pin 25 back in line, and bend pin 26 out.

Repeat the above procedure until you findone pin that didn't cause the problem to get worse. This pin connects to the bad ram chip. This table identifies which ram chip is controlled by each pin on the 9918.

9918 pin ram chip 9918 pin ram chip

25	U102	29	U105
26	U104	30	U106
27	U108	31	U107
28	U103	32	U109

U102 is near the edgeof the main board, between the joystick connector and the modulator connector. U109 is near the 9901 and above the keyboard connector.

After replacing the defective ram chip, be sure to bend back all the pins on the 9918, and BE CAREFUL!

Gary Bishop

* * HAMFEST/COMPUTERFEST '88 * *

Well, the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club Computer and Hamfest/flea market has come and gone. I want to thank John Johnson, Bill Paeth, Jerry Canady family, Bob Wahlstrom, Jim and Jonathan Green, Ed Edwards, Larry Guhl, and Wayne Betts for staffing our demonstration table. We are all thankful that the air conditioning did a good job, with it being 100 degrees outside! Our presence was made known, and we re-enforced the fact that the TI is not dead yet!

It was a profitable sale for me, also. I sold ~~tons of junk~~ ~~several hundred pounds~~ lots of good stuff! Mostly old radio parts, boxes of tubes (what are they?), and all my Byte and Popular Computing magazines.

I found several people that had TI's, but weren't actively using them, and didn't want to join our group. Well, we can't get them all! Maybe we will have better luck next year....

Gary Bishop

>>PUZZLED<<

WORD LIST
ALIGNMENT
CARTRIDGE
CHARACTER FONT
DEVICE
DIP SWITCHES
DISK DRIVE
DOWNLOAD
EDITOR
EXPANSION
FORMATTER
GRAPHICS
ICON
MEMORY
MODULE
MONITOR
PITCH
REFORMAT
STORE
TOGGLE
WORDWRAP

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V X F O R M A T T E R N O I S N A P X E
R L S C A R T R I D G E S C I H P A R G
E L N H U O X G O L Q G C F T N L L Y W
R W O J S S G M F N J K D O T T C T L V
I T S B P F G C R W D I F N P E J D G U
G M O F I J T T K O P W O J M X H Z A B
X A K S J A A F W   G F M O W B P Q R C
N A R R V M F N S D   D N S M A E J C B
J B R P R Q L W E R E I B M R L U R I I
Y D P O I O I L E V T B W W G I O P A J
B S F P A T U T I O W J D G T T E P Q R
D E H D C D C C R M Q R O W I C A D D X
R L D H O A E H K G O T Z D C C U W J N
I M E M R N E L B W I M E N P U E G A X
P S O A J M I E L K L Y W M V C A S M U
I F H L S T O R E A R E H A Q C Z S Q C
N C C Q I X S M B O K J I L M U I N F O
W I M M B T N E M N G I L A Q J H E A M
Q H I C O N H E E V I R D   K S I D N H
P T R B U U M I X W P D P J Q Y U L Z J
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FAIRWARE:

We will have copies available to members, please check with Bruce..

SUPER-MAIL QUIK-PRINT are two label programs from HENRY J. BECK. Super- Mail consists of four programs to create a data list that can be used to print a phone directory or print labels

JOKERPOKER: is a one player version of the popular barroom classic..bet double or nothing.

BLACKJACK game was written for the player who likes his game fast and furious, (uses joysticks)

WHEEL OF FORTUNE: This was programed to play as close to the popular TV game show as possible.

GRAPHIC LABELER VER.3.0: by Steven McWatty Ontario,Canada. This program let you add graphic characters to your labels.

DISK MANAGER 99: by Mike Dodd ...It is a resident disk manager program for use with Extended Basic.It can unprotect, write-protect, rename files, test a disk, cataloge a disk to screen or printer.

TASS ...TRI-ARTIST-SLIDE-SHOW: by Gary Bowser...TASS is for makeing a slideshow of your TI ARTIST or GRAPHX or DRAW-A-BIT II pictures...includes a very fast graphis demo.

132PRINT-3: Program was designed to read two (2) column-type files and print then side by side.

MS/LABELS MS/MAILERS...A program to create labels and return address and create a label jacket to mail disk.

MAC-LABELS: by ED Mike Machonis...a disk of several label, printatags, banner, letterheads.

IDENTIDATA: by Allen Cox...is used to record identification data of articals, tols, business equipment etc...

FUNNELWEB VN.4.1.....MAY 130 188...by Our friends 'DOWN UNDER'. This copy is really hot I under-stand just off the press with some really great and easy to use config, routines,Thanks-Guys and Ga- Day-Mates .

THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL LIST OF NEW FAIRWARE WE HAVE BEEN "BLESSED" WITH.....

REMEMBER THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF SHAREWARE,FAIRWARE ETC...IS THE PROGRAMERS WHO HAVE PUT SO MUCH INTO KEEPING OUR (YOUR) T I 9 9 / A ALIVE.
DON'T JUST TAKE "BE FAIR AND DIG IN TO POCKETS THEY DON'T ASK MUCH COMPARED TO WHAT 'THOSE OTHER TYPES OF COMPUTERS' HAVE TO PAV FOR THERE SOFTWARE......

Ed Edwards

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

6:30 PM --- WEST MUSIC COMPANY

COLLINS ROAD SQUARE SHOPPING CTR

NEW SHAREWARE WILL BE AVAILABLE

BRING AN INITIALIZED DISK!

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Send To:

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GARY BISHOP
124-222
860 WESTVIEW DR
MARION IA 52302