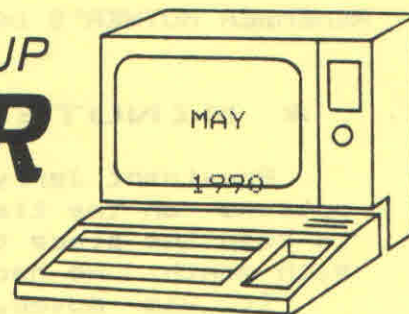


CEDAR VALLEY 99'ER USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER



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****NEWSLETTER TOPICS****

1. Future Meeting Dates
2. Next Meeting Notes
3. Minutes from the April Meeting
4. Modems Revisited
5. The Library Blurb
6. Crazy-XB (Reprint)
7. Dreams Revisited
8. Donations for Oakland U.G.

****FUTURE MEETING DATES****

Please mark the following dates on your calendar for future meetings:
MAY 8, JUNE 12, JULY 10, AUGUST 14.

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

The regular monthly meeting will be TUESDAY, MAY 8, at West Music, Cedar Rapids, with open discussion starting at 6:30 PM. Please note the new meeting night! New night, new officers, new programs, same old group of friendly folks! Join us!

*** MINUTES FROM THE APRIL MEETING ***

President Jerry Canady opened the meeting with a discussion of our options on the time and place of our UG meetings. The result was a vote to keep the place the same and move the time to the second Tuesday of each month. We had thirteen present at this meeting.

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

The treasurer then announced that the bank statement had not arrived this month so he would not have a formal report. The treasury was reported to be about the same as last month. Jerry set up a meeting between the treasurer and the incoming president to sign over the UG account per our by-laws.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. With the aforesaid mention of the UG By-laws, several expressed amazement that any copies were still in existence. Jerry said that he still had not located the "Grave's master disk" but he has a copy and will try to get it on disk and run off a few copies for the new membership. 2. Gary reported that no useful equipment is available at Surplus Sales. It is all IBM stuff. 3. John reported he had turned the "VCR Tape" funds back into the treasury. He would like to use the funds on ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE lessons. John will get the BB phone number to Bruce to use on 2400 Baud. It was moved, seconded and passed that we discontinue trying to purchase the VCR tape on FUNNELWEB configuration. 4. Jerry reported no half height disk drives available yet but he will continue to look for them. 5. John reported that he had talked to the FCC about the phone line surcharge for modem use. They reported there is no basis to the rumor just as there was no basis the first time around. 6. Several members reported help for the Waterville, Maine UG. Bruce, Sr. Pat, Ed, and Jerry all reported a donation is imminent or has been sent. Does anyone else have something to contribute?

NEW BUSINESS: 1. Does any one have the power cord from the UG tape recorder? John reported it missing. Others remember that it has been gone for some time. Several members thought they could donate a cord they are not using and at least one thought he might have a spare. 2. Now that "spring has sprung", John has decided to officially abandon his "disk of the winter". In its place will be the "disk of the summer". Wow, just like that we went from DOW to DOS!

DISCUSSION: 1. A question from the floor on DM 1000 display and printing of DV 80 files brought several responses and suggestions. 2. It was reliably reported that Sr. Pat "has some" health. She is in therapy following her hand operation. She still has only limited use of them. It will take time for them to heal. She is considering expanding her hardware at the infirmary and possibility at an off site location. She sent a large notebook of posters for the UG to see the many posters they have made. Would you believe they were mostly colored? They all have been busy up in Dubuque.

The meeting was adjourned.

The first demo was by Ed of some newer programs in the UG library. They included: CALENDAR, THE MISSING LINK, PAGE FORM, REMIND ME, and TIPS. He also included info on NASA SPACE LINK - An electronic information system for educators.

The second demo was by Jerry. He continued his discussion on FUNNELWEB. This time he focused on the Formatter.

Submitted by Bill Paeth, Secretary

MODEMS REVISITED * *

Having just gotten into working BBS's recently I hope in this article to save you some money and grief by listing some of the terms and tricks I have found on various boards, articles etc. The word modem comes from abbreviating and combining the two words modulator-demodulator by the way. (Which is what a modem does. But that is another subject.) I am now using Telco for software. With its pull down windows and many options I like it the best.

Because most of the BBS's are similar, most of these commands should work. The caret () sign in BBS language means press the control key. Some BBS's want you to press enter when you come up on them so they can read your baud rate. Once again at the prices of 1200 baud modems don't buy a 300 baud unless it is under \$15.

When you come up on a BBS they will ask you your name and location. Then most issue you a password for future use. Next will be a header telling about the BBS and possibly who runs it. Before this gets started turn on your log file so you can dump all this information to disk. If they have files called info or help go to them next and dump them to your log. Now leave the BBS and read all the info you have gotten. Also if your are looking for new programs to download go to their section called files. There will probably be a separate help file in that section that you can dump. This way you can get in and out quickly. Even if you aren't calling long distance most boards limit the amount of time you have.

The most common file trasfer method is Xmodem. To get a file you down load it. Sending a file is called uploading. I remember this by thinking about the BBS being bigger than you. So it has to look down at you. eg..downloads to you. Most files are archived and you will need a program like Barry Boones Archiver 3.03 to extract them. Archiving is the process of combining and compressing a program and docs etc. into one file. This makes it easy to get everthing you need in one file and it saves time.

To start with you will probably want to pause at the end of each page but if you have a long info file to dump to your log you can go to the utilities section of the BBS main menu and turn off the pause at end of page. (You can still stop with P.) Now dump the info file to your log in one continuous stream of ASCII characters whizzing by on your screen. it will stop the BBS while it dumps to your disk log file. This is why you DO NOT want to dump to your printer now. It is too slow. You can do that later at your leisure if you wish. Most of the stuff I have I read from the monitor screen.

So it all ends up somewhat like amateur radio or really a big adventure game. I downloaded a file from Texaments BBS that won't unarchive for me. When I looked at it with a sector editor all the ASCII I saw was in French. This game has some real rewards too. If you take too long your phone bill goes up or the BBS timer runs out on you. If you do well you get your program without going broke. And you have it right now. There is a file on the Texaments BBS that lists 142 active TI BBS's as of 1988.

Here is a list of the most common commands I use to bail out when I am really lost.

S = Stop listing this section and go to the next one. Also try A for abort or just press enter.

P = Pause while I try to make some sense out of all this. Also try the space bar.

! or H = Help files.

G = Goodbye. This has always meant exit this whole BBS.

Q = Quit. This can be quit this section or the whole BBS. If the whole BBS then you should get an "Are you sure?" message before you are dumped completely. Also try - (Minus sign)

S = Stop listing (immediately). " " means press the control key first, remember.

Q = Start the listing again. Someone explain the logic of this one to me.

X = Abort this file tranfer.

D = End of file transfer.

All of the control commands are executed the moment you issue them. Some of the others may not work until you are at the end of a page. None of the BBS's I have seen use the standard "Funtion 9 = Escape" type commands. I suspect they are leaving these alone so that the terminal software can have them. All will accept full duplex and 8N1 parity.

So good luck, good hunting, and tell your spouse you called your relatives. Ha!....EOF

J Johnson CR

THE LIBRARY BLURB

There are a lot of new programs in the library. So lets get right to them.

Form- A formatter for TI-Writer? 413
 TML- Fonts. Runs from XB. 413
 Print Routine- A print routine by Mark Wacholtz. 417
 Tshell- A disk manager. 421
 Checker- Resequence and check XB prgs. 421 robs
 Term- Loads Fast Term. 421 robs
 Funnelweb 4.21- The latest and greatest version of this utility.

Billiards- Billiards game. Snooker? Good graphics. EA-5 413
 Sctrpt- Space game. Load DSK1.GAME Slow XB 413

Pbank- Update your bank statements. XB 413
 Big ben- Chimes like Big Ben in England. 421 robs
 Calc- A calculator. What else? 421 robs
 No bats- Noise gets rid of bats. 421 robs
 Tone- A tone generator. 421 robs
 Token Exper- Assembly access to XB tokens, addresses, etc. in XB 414

GIF- Pictures in TI-Artist format. 413
 TIPS- New updated version of TIPS programs. Vers 1.3? 416
 Graphic Grabber- New Graphics by Bud Wright. 417
 Print Routine- A print routine by Mark Wacholtz. 417
 Madonna- Picture by Jom Luque on Grabber and TI-Artist format. 418
 Fonts- Screen fonts by Jim Peterson. 419
 Borders- Tigercub. By Jim Peterson. 420

Assem- An assembly tutorial from the Chicago Club.

Also available to club members are numerous articles in the newsletters we exchange with other clubs. I am keeping a personal list of the location of any article that interests me. If you want info on a subject, let me know and I will see if I have a reference to an article on it. I also have a TI shoppers list on disk. And finally please note that am now using Catlib and a TI-Writer list for the library. This should allow me to keep two lists up to date on a monthly basis. The one list can circulate and is now in the hands of our newest club member Betty Hobel.

Trivia quiz time! This came from another news letter but I wasn't smart enough to note it at the time. So I hope they won't sue because I can't give them credit. It is too good to pass up though. QUESTION- What will a modem do to your phone bill? Multiple choice answers are- 1. Double your bill. 2. Triple your bill. 3. Quadruple you bill. Personally all of the above are correct for me on various months. Enjoy.

EOF..J Johnson CR

CRAZY-XB

by WESLEY R. RICHARDSON
NORTHCOAST 99ER'S, CLEVELAND, OH

The purpose of this article is to describe how an Extended BASIC (XB) program is stored on disk and how a program can have line numbers out of sequence, or even have hidden lines, yet still run properly. The intent is inform programmers so they can attempt to restore programs which have been altered. I recommend the use of formats in any programming language which conform to the specified protocols.

The program CRAZY-XB1 is a very simple program which prints 'LINE 40' 'LINE 50' and so on to the screen. The listing for CRAZY-XB2 shows how the program can be altered to have descending line numbers. Note that line number 7 is for two different instructions. The listing for CRAZY-XB3 would appear that only line 10 is in the program, yet when CRAZY-XB3 is run, it will function exactly like -XB1 and -XB2.

```
10 REM CRAZY-XB1
20 REM WESLEY R. RICHARDSON, FEB 1990
30 REM NORTHCOAST 99ER'S, CLEVELAND, OH
40 PRINT "LINE 40"
50 PRINT "LINE 50"
60 PRINT "LINE 60"
70 PRINT "LINE 70"
80 PRINT "LINE 80"
90 PRINT "LINE 90"
100 END
```

```
10 REM CRAZY-XB2
20 REM WESLEY R. RICHARDSON, FEB 1990
30 REM NORTHCOAST 99ER'S, CLEVELAND, OH
9 PRINT "LINE 40"
8 PRINT "LINE 50"
7 PRINT "LINE 60"
7 PRINT "LINE 70"
6 PRINT "LINE 80"
5 PRINT "LINE 90"
100 END
```

```
10 REM CRAZY-XB3
```

To understand how these programs work, we must first look at the Extended BASIC representation for the program. If you refer to the CRAZY-XB1 ASCII code sector listing, you will see that the lines are listed in reverse order. The listing has line 90, then 80 and so on, ending with the CRAZY-XB1 statement. Note that if you edit a line or add a line, then that line gets moved to the

beginning of the file. If line 40 is edited, then it will be in the file before line 90. If you edit a program and simply save the program, the lines as listed on the screen will be in proper order, but internally they will be quite mixed. If you have a program, for example PROGNAME1, in which you have made several changes, the lines can be re-ordered by the following steps:

- 1) SAVE "DSK1.PROGNAME2",MERGE
- 2) NEW
- 3) MERGE "DSK1.PROGNAME2"
- 4)SAVE "DSK1.PROGNAME3"

I suggest using different filenames in case you make an error, then you can recover using the original file. When creating a program, do all of you debugging and modifications and when your program is finished, then use the MERGE routine to organize the internal program lines.

Now that we understand the BASIC lines can be out of order in the file, how do we modify the line numbers? If you refer to the CRAZY-XB1 hex code sector listing, we will see how XB keeps track of the line numbers. In the first row, locate the 0064, that is line 100. Also in the first row is 005A, that is line 90. We can see the old line numbers in hexadecimal and decimal.

OLD LINE #		NEW LINE #	
HEX	DEC	HEX	DEC
0064	= 100		
005A	= 90	0005	= 5
0050	= 80	0006	= 6
0046	= 70	0007	= 7
003C	= 60	0007	= 7
0032	= 50	0008	= 8
0028	= 40	0009	= 9
001E	= 30		
0014	= 20		
000A	= 10		

Using a sector editor, I changed the old line number hex values to those indicated under new. If you examine rows one, two and three in the CRAZY-XB2 hex code sector listing, you will see these changes. But wait, how can the program still work? Extended BASIC executes instructions according to memory location, not to line numbers. When we list the CRAZY-XB2 program, it appears on the screen as I listed it previously. If you try to edit the program by typing 10 then FCTN X, you will be able to see lines 10, 20 and 30, but when you go to line 9, the old line 40, XB will tell you "LINE NOT FOUND." The program will still run correctly.

If we make one more change, we can hide some lines. By changing the sector row one value of

...CRAZY-XB

0064 for line 100 to a value like 0001, you will produce CRAZY-XB3. Now only line 10 can be viewed when listed, but the program still works fine.

Line numbers in XB range from 1 to 32767, or hex 0001 to 7FFF. If we change the line number to a value in the range of 8000 to FFFF, it will cause a BREAK in the program when that line is executed. For example, if the program reached the line number 83E8, the line number would then have the value of 8000 subtracted, leaving 03E8 and the message "BREAKPOINT IN 1000" would be displayed.

In the hex code sector listing for CRAZY-XB1, in lines 1 to 3, there are 2 byte or four digit numbers such as 373B, 373E, 374A, and 3756, after each line number. These refer to the memory location for the XB instruction. The difference between adjacent values is the number of bytes used for the XB instruction. The format for each instruction is XYYYY..YYY00. The XX is the number of bytes used for the instruction, not including the 00. Since the maximum value which can be represented is FF, the longest line length in XB is 255 bytes. Depending upon the statements which you use, this 255 byte length can have different ASCII lengths which you see when entering an XB program. The XB statements are stored in token format, for example PRINT is 9CC7. The word PRINT takes 5 ASCII bytes, but to XB, only requires 2 bytes to store 9CC7.

Some information such as the text contained in print statements is in the same format when saved to disk. For example the characters LINE 50 are stored on disk in the readable form as shown in line 7 of the ASCII code sector listing for CRAZY-XB1.

The third format which XB uses on disk for program files is for CALL statements. Memory must be reserved for variables and CALL statements. One way to find the tokens for each of the XB commands is to write a program using each of the commands on a separate line, and then look at the hex codes using a sector editor. Be sure to use the MERGE technique listed above if you wish to keep the sequence of lines in order when the program is saved to disk.

As I indicated earlier, I do not agree with using hidden instructions or hidden machine language code in XB programs. If you encounter one of the modified programs, perhaps now you will have some idea about how they were modified and the meaning of the values of an XB program stored on disk.

CRAZY-XB1 - ASCII CODE SECTOR LISTING

```

=====
. + 7 9 7 . 7 . . d 7 ; . Z 7 >
. P 7 J . F 7 V . < 7 b . 2 7 n
. ( 7 z . . 7 . . . 7 . . . 7 .
. . . . . . L I N E 9 0 . .
. . . L I N E 8 0 . . . . L
I N E 7 0 . . . . L I N E
6 0 . . . . L I N E 5 0 . .
. . . L I N E 4 0 . # . N O
R T H C O A S T 9 9 E R ' S ,
C L E V E L A N D , O H . !
. W E S L E Y R . R I C H
A R D S O N , F E B 1 9 9 0
. . . C R A Z Y - X B 1 . . ?
. . . . . . . R A Z Y - X
B 1 . . . . . . . . . .
. . . . ( . . . . . . . .
  
```

CRAZY-XB1 - HEX CODE SECTOR LISTING

```

=====
002B 3739 3712 3707 0064 373B 005A 373E
0050 374A 0046 3756 003C 3762 0032 376E
0028 377A 001E 3786 0014 37AA 000A 37CC
028B 000B 9CC7 074C 494E 4520 3930 000B
9CC7 074C 494E 4520 3830 000B 9CC7 074C
494E 4520 3730 000B 9CC7 074C 494E 4520
3630 000B 9CC7 074C 494E 4520 3530 000B
9CC7 074C 494E 4520 3430 0023 9A20 4E4F
5254 4843 4F41 5354 2039 3945 5227 532C
2043 4C45 5645 4C41 4E44 2C20 4F48 0021
9A20 5745 534C 4559 2052 2E20 5249 4348
4152 4453 4F4E 2C20 4645 4220 3139 3930
000C 9A20 4352 415A 5920 5842 3100 AA3F
FF11 0300 0000 0600 01C3 5241 5A59 2058
4231 2000 0000 0000 0100 0000 0000 0000
0000 0000 0028 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
  
```

CRAZY-XB2 - HEX CODE SECTOR LISTING

```

=====
002B 3739 3712 3707 0064 373B 0005 373E
0006 374A 0007 3756 0007 3762 0008 376E
0009 377A 001E 3786 0014 37AA 000A 37CC
028B 000B 9CC7 074C 494E 4520 3930 000B
9CC7 074C 494E 4520 3830 000B 9CC7 074C
494E 4520 3730 000B 9CC7 074C 494E 4520
3630 000B 9CC7 074C 494E 4520 3530 000B
9CC7 074C 494E 4520 3430 0023 9A20 4E4F
5254 4843 4F41 5354 2039 3945 5227 532C
2043 4C45 5645 4C41 4E44 2C20 4F48 0021
9A20 5745 534C 4559 2052 2E20 5249 4348
4152 4453 4F4E 2C20 4645 4220 3139 3930
000C 9A20 4352 415A 5920 5842 3200 AA3F
FF11 0300 0000 0600 01C3 5241 5A59 2058
4232 2000 0000 0000 0100 0000 0000 0000
0000 0000 0028 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
  
```

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*** DREAMS REVISITED ***

Sister Pat Taylor

When I wrote of my dreams to MICROPENDIUM, and they were published, I was sharing ideas for widespread use of TI's in households that involved elderly, diseased, and handicapped. My Marian Hall dreams are more specific. I dream of a day when ...

1. Residents are responsible for the signs, notices, banners in their home, re-enforcing their value and involvement in the practical as well as decorative aspects of everyday life where they live.

2. The therapeutic value of total mind focus and absorption is recognized for its potential in reducing consciousness of pain and computer use is seen as a tool capable of adding quality to lives that cannot be freed from pain.

3. The computer may be utilized by volunteers who write for our residents to create electronic address books, mailing lists, labels and used as a word processor, freeing volunteer hours for other tasks.

4. Computer music is recognized as an effective, non-threatening tool for adding quality to life, visual, mental, and emotional stimulation for our confused and restless at certain stages of dementia. It has been observed here that once you get a resident involved by relating the music to them and early experiences through comments and questions, they can lose all sense of time and relax for well beyond an hour, but physical comfort such as feet up in a recliner seems to give added incentive to enter into the moment.

5. The potential for games for all types of residents, alone or with others. The involvement is more personal and direct than T.V. It is an opportunity to have fun, recreation, and memory stimulation. Games like Bingo call out the numbers independent of staff via the speech synthesizer.

6. The potential for the speech impaired who would only need a console with speech synthesizer, RF modulator attached to their TV to give them pertinent choices to connect their ideas and communicate needs or to assist in communicating with friends.

7. Recognition of the sense of worth, dignity, and freedom added to residents' lives when they see daily, in the practical aspects of life, things they made that save energy, time, and money as well as strengthen the sense of belonging and being able to modify their environment, practically or aesthetically, and the freedom to exert more direct control over their letters, cards, etc. despite impairments. (This is being written with several fingers of one hand as the writing hand is suspended from an IV pole in a sling and the left is in a wrist brace). The re-enforcement of their sense of worth comes back from the world beyond walls as relatives and friends receive their work and give more affirmation to their effort, success, and even attest to the professional quality. It then broadens their desire to communicate and brings friends and relatives a bit closer.

8. A final dream is using the computer to save the wisdom of our

Sisters. As one progresses into the various stages of aging and disease, there is often more time to reflect, pray, and remember. Letters and articles can be stored and saved easily.

Perhaps the dreams here seem unrealistic to those who have not had the opportunity to see and use an elderly computer retired by its makers, but those of us who have seen and used the TI-99/4A recognize a tool and friend that can do all of this and much more. We have begun many of the aspects dreamed. Our TI comes from another era of technology, but we recognize the advantage there, the larger print, the sturdier technology made for the military, and its limited memory and slower pace, all are within the bounds of our needs and experience now. The capacity for more memory and speed is available if the dreams of those who follow need it.

We all enjoy being a part of that which will go beyond us. As religious, we leave to the future a spiritual legacy. Those of us involved in pursuing these dreams now, leave this dream also. It is open-ended and just beginning. It is our hope that our dreams will enrich the future as richly as developing them is enriching our lives now.

[Editor's note: Sister Pat has a marvelous style for putting on paper the feelings of most of us who continue to enjoy the TI-99/4A. I hope that her words will find their way into many newsletters across the country.]

* DONATIONS FOR OAKLAND U.G. *

The members of the Cedar Valley 99ers have (as predicted) opened their hearts and their musty storage cabinets to provide donations of software and hardware to the Oakland Computer User Group of Waterville, Maine. We have donations from John Johnson, Sister Pat Taylor, and others who shall be named in a future NEWSLETTER. If you have some cartridges that you no longer use, or any other TI related item that you want to donate, please bring it to the next meeting. We will fill a box as best we can and ship the lot to Mrs. Eunice Spooner.

How about you other user groups? Can we count on you to help support this worthwhile group? We're talking about getting some elementary students started on the right track with computers! Send donations to Mrs. Spooner at Webb Road, Box 3720 RFD #1, Waterville, ME 04901.

...in the process into the various stages of aging and disease... there is often more time to reflect, pray, and remember... articles can be stored and saved easily.

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 8

6:30 PM --- WEST MUSIC COMPANY

NOTE THE NEW DAY--TUESDAY!

WHAT WILL THE NEW PREZ BE LIKE?

WILL WE HAVE A NEW D.O.M.?

Editor's note: Sister Pat has a marvelous reply for cutting on paper... the younger we get of us who continue to enjoy the D.O.M. I hope... that the words will find their way into many newsletters across the... country.

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