

CLEVELAND AREA 99-4A USERS GROUPS

OCTOBER

NEWSLETTER

1985

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GROUPS' NEWSLETTER ED. - MARK WOODWARD ((561-2967)

Some Editorial Comments

NOTES AND NEWS

*Good News and Bad News

The good news is: all memberships have been extended one extra month!
The reason is because there was no September Newsletter.

The bad news is: our Editor has been hospitalized due to a bout with cancer.
Cards and letters may be sent to: Mr. Mark Woodward, 17100 Van Aken Blvd.
Apt. #511, Shaker Hgts., Ohio 44120. Those of us who believe in prayer
please remember Mark in them. Thank you.

This issue has been sent to you through the combined efforts of Frank
Jenkins, Deanna Sheridan and Doris Jablonoski.

Our numbers are dropping considerably! 223 issues will be sent this month.
Next month 40 less will be sent unless some people renew their memberships or
send in the subscription forms. 40 people have given up hope for their
TI-99/4A. 40 people will lose track of what's happening. We're sorry to
lose them. Check your address label. Will you be one of the forty to get
lost?.

Speaking of labels! Is your name and address correct? If not, call Frank
Jenkins at 283-8526 and have it corrected.

Executive Notes - Solon

September

It's hard to believe that summer is winding down and September is already upon us. I hope that all of you have had as good a summer as I've had. If your're like me, you've probably neglected you're keyboard for other activities and matters. As a small business owner, my summers are the busiest time of the year, and finding the time to hack is a big problem.

I usually try to recap the events of our last meeting in my Executive Notes each month, but with last month's meeting having been canceled, I'll have to deviate from the standard format a little this time. I recently purchased a printer (after convincing my wife that it would be an invaluable business aid!) and have been exploring the world of T.I. Writer among other things. Along the way I got a hold of a copy of Danny Michael's SCREEN DUMP program, thanks to Kim Jones. Chuck Mareno mentioned this program in the May newsletter, so this will probably ring a bell to some of you.

As Chuck mentioned, DUMP is an assembly language program that links with an X-BASIC, MINI MEMORY BASIC, or EDITOR/ASSEMBLER BASIC program and can be used with a Gemini or Epson printer. The program allows the user to print the contents of the screen, graphics as well, directly to the printer. A CALL LINK("DUMP") statement can be issued in the program at the point you wish the action to be taken. This statement can be issued as an input statement allowing the user to dump if he wishes, or be a simple command inbedded in th program.

There are several parameters that the user can pass to the printer that make the program more versitile. You may specify a tab setting where you want the screen contents to begin printing. If no tab is given, then it will print in the center of the page. (See command examples below.) If you wish, you can rotote the image 90 degrees to the right in your printout. Or you can make the printer print white characters on a black background if you desire. Finally you can make a double size print out which is useful with the rotated screen option

Here are some examples of the commands available and what they do. CALL LINK("DUMP",10) Standard dump, at tab 10. CALL LINK("DUMP","RI") A rotated and inverted dump, centered on the page. CALL LINK("DUMP","D") A double size printout, centered on the page.

I've played with this program a little bit and have found it most useful in some programs where I am handling numeric data and computations. This program is available in our disk library and I recommend it highly to those of you with printers. One other note, the documentation is very extensive and very easy to understand, and the author has done an excellent job in his explanations. This is, by the way, a public domain program and the author invites the user to pass it along.

EXECUTIVE NOTES - SOLON

october

Our last meeting was held on September 14, with approximately 20 members and visitors in attendance. It is reassuring to know that there are still some folks out there who have taken the time, for one reason or another, to look us up and attend our sessions. Our program for the meeting was given by yours truly concerning the MUSIC MAKER command module. Hopefully, I was able to show the group the versatility and fun that can be had with MUSIC MAKER and the great music that can be made with it.

Our October meeting will conclude with a demonstration given by Walt Ryder regarding the use of relative files. For those of you with disk systems and who are doing any kind of file processing, this is one you will not want to miss. [Even if you don't fit into that category, it should still prove to be a good show!] On top for November will be a presentation on T.I. WRITER given by our resident expert, Mr. Frank Jenkins. This will be a great time to get your questions answered, and solve any mysteries that you may have regarding word processing and the 99/4A.

As we are entering the final quarter of 1985, it is time to begin thinking about the election of officers for the coming year. In the next month, I will be selecting a nominating committee to consider nominations for the various group offices. [This is in accordance to article 3 of the Constitution]. We will be sending out a questionnaire to club members for making their nominations for office holders, to help in the selection process. [Also in accordance with article 3]. If any paid up and active member is interested in serving as an officer or serving on a committee, please stand up and be heard! I will pass on more information on these topics in the coming months.

I am happy to report that things are going smoothly and, again, glad to see new faces at the meetings. Hope all is well with each one of you!

See you on October 12, Solon Public Library.
Steve Weinkamer, President

Receipt of the newsletter in the mail reminds us that our meeting fast approaches. Last month's late arrival of the newsletter and 5 Saturdays brought some confusion about the date. Our next meeting is Saturday September 21st--mark your calendar now.

Freeware and new hardware was the theme of August's meeting with demonstrations of Sprite Builder by Larry Prikockis and Disk Manager 1000 by Ron Minadeo. Martin Smoley showed the load interrupt button and its use with a screen dump program. As promised, the New Horizons Group of Toledo was represented by John Clulow, Dave Romer, and Ron Gries. They impressed us with their super cartridge (the editor/assembler with 8K RAM) and the speed of the RAM disk.

With the response we've had to both projects we will make a group purchase of the RAM chips. We will take orders (via a sign-up sheet) at \$5 per chip prepaid and refund the difference upon delivery.

The bulletin board was shut down over the Labor Day weekend for a software update. The new version dubbed "TICOM II" includes the ability to upload and download via Fastterm or Xmodem (both available from the library as freeware). With this new capability we will expand to around-the-clock operation and a 30 minute time limit. We have also bought a used Gorilla Banana printer from one of our members for use with the club system--especially to help screen bulletin board messages. We will be adding a registered password scheme for the same purpose.

Our new Head Librarian, Deanna Sheridan, has been extremely busy as evidenced by her report at the last meeting. The library now consists of over 800 programs on 63 disks--we will make them floppies to make room for the 40 disks worth of programs that we and another group bought together from the Amion Helpline. Jim Mekeel will transfer entire disks to cassette tape per individual request. In Deanna's report she challenged the membership to think of the library when coming across any non-commercial programs and also solicited original or translated useful programs. These programs need not be "fancy" to be useful to others. She is also willing to key in a program for you--just give her the listing--What a great offer!

Jim Mekeel is working on a demo of Trendline Analysis II (a stock performance program) after which it will be raffled. Elmo Iacobucci and I will demonstrate the new bulletin board and Howard Winkler will show his numeric keypad (adding machine layout) addition to the computer.

I am continually trying to draw upon the membership for demonstrations --do you have anything to show or do you want to see something shown--please call me.

Please don't throw away any of your old computer magazines--bring them to the meeting--someone will want them! Deanna and I exchanged magazines for a month and she has now created a disk of all the programs which have appeared in MICROPENDIUM.

Also, I continue to mention that limited hardware repair help exists within our group (keyboards, power supplies, cables, and now some disk drives) so ask before going elsewhere. Of course many things can still best be handled by the local TI exchange center.

Ken Gladyszewski
President

EXECUTIVE NOTES--NORTHCOAST **October**

We missed the September newsletter which helps remind us of the meeting date, but there was still an excellent turn out.

Jim Mekeel, gave an excellent demonstration of "TOWER", a civilian air traffic controller program from Not-Polyoptics.

We were also treated to two very fine bulletin board demonstrations. Elmo Iacobucci and Ken Gladyszewski showed how to use our own "TICOM II" system. In case you may have forgotten the phone number for the bulletin board is 944-1072.

Joe and Larry Prikockis have been working on a system called "TECHIE" bulletin board which Larry explained to us.

Martin Smoley reported on the "Assembly Language Group" that he is working with. At their next meeting they will go into the "Debugger", and how to use it. The time and date for their next meeting is yet to be determined so those of you who are interested may contact Martin.

The club is seeking volunteers to use and give demonstrations on programs from the Navarone "Highway Program".

For those of you who read the July, 1985 issue of MICROpendum may have been pleased to find that at long last there is a program available for the TI 99/4A users that is a true "Data Base Management".

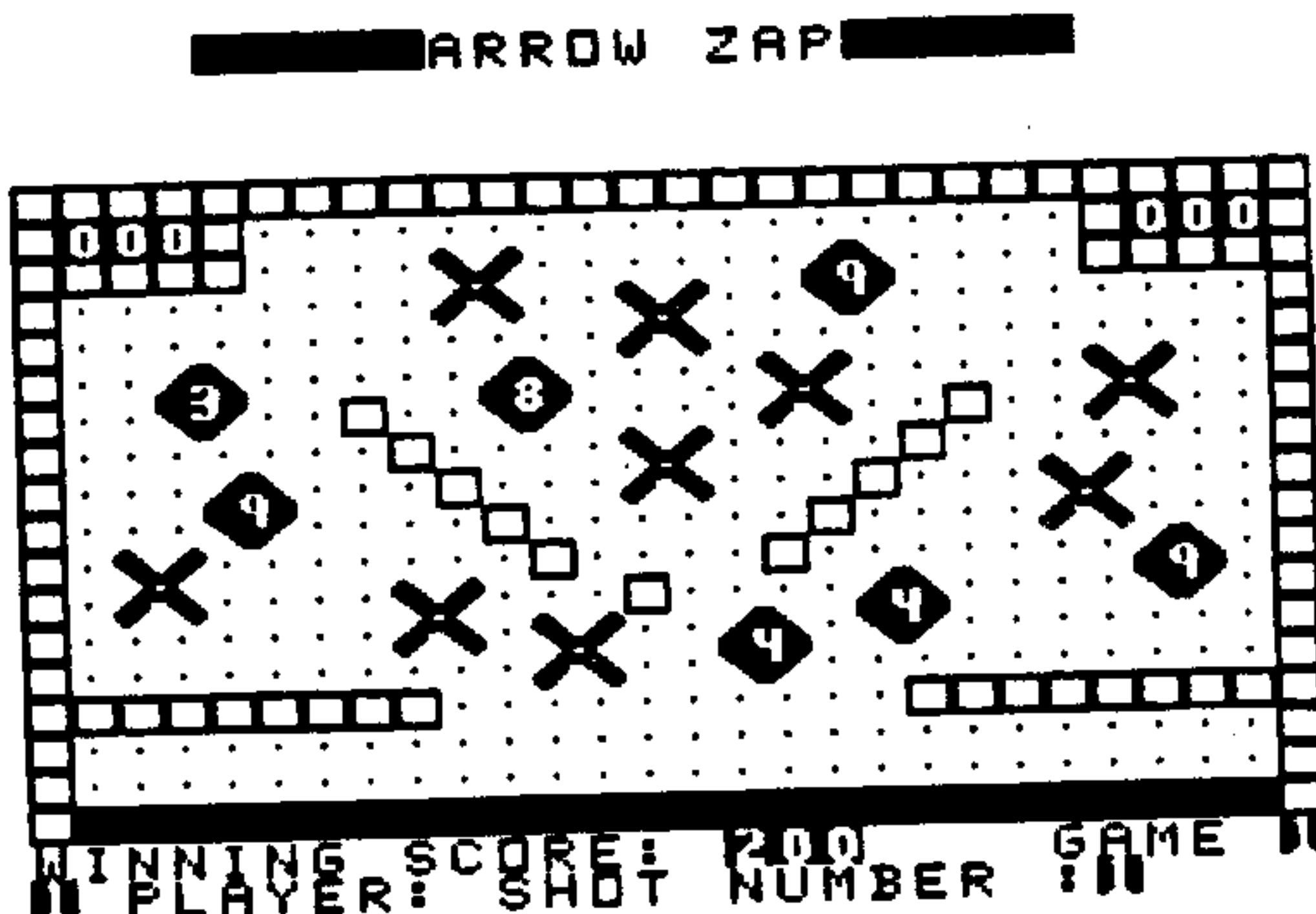
This is a AAAAA rated program put out by OAK TREE SYSTEMS of Whitmore Lake, MI, and is called "ACORN 99", written by Charles L. Davis.

The Northcoast Group is happy to announce that the Oct. 19th meeting will be devoted to the use of this program. Mr Charles L Davis will be the principal speaker and will demonstrate "ACORN 99" and the OAK TREE SYSTEMS Display Enhancement Package, which provides a 40 column text mode.

Get your note books and pencils and come on out to the next meeting, Oct, 19th, 1:30 PM, in the Euclidian Room of the Euclid Square Mall.

Daniel W. Davenport
Vice President

Example of Screen Dump



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

Hardware: TI-99/4A (beige)
-P.E. Box (new); -32K Memory Card (new); -TI Disk
Controller; -Disk Manager II; -Interface Card (new); -SS/SD
Disk Drive (1); -TI Cassette Recorder; -Dual Cassette Cable;
-Speech Synthesizer; -All Cables, Manuals & original boxes.

Software: Productive:
-Editor/Assembler; -TI Extended Basic; -TI Writer;
-Multiplan; -Household Budget Manager; -Personal Record
Keeping; -TI LOGO II; -Terminal Emulator II; -Personal Real
Estate; -FORTH

Software: Entertainment
-Tomstone City; -Star Trek; -Parsec; -Alpinar; -Adventure
Series; -Boccor; -TI Invaders; -MunchMan; -Chishole Trail;
-Car Wars; -Video Chess; -Moon Mine; -BurgerTime; -**\$\$\$PLUS**
over 50 disks filled with miscellaneous programs.

Books: -Terrific Games for the TI99/4A; -Sprites, A Turtle
& TI LOGO; -Computer's Guide to Ex-Basic -Home Applications
on the TI99/4A; -Starting FORTH; -Programmers Reference
Guide to the TI99/4A; -Learning TI99/4A Home Computer
Assembly Language Programming; -Fundamentals of the TI99/4A
Assembly Language; -Using & Programming the TI99/4A; -Data &
File Management for the TI9/4A; -Best of 99'er; -Last Word
on the TI99/4A:

Miscellaneous: -All MicroPondium Magazines (except 2);
-All 99'er Magazines (except issue 5); -All Home Computer
Magazines; -Newsletters from across the U.S.; -Printout
material from various Bulletin Boards.

all material well maintained and in excellent condition.

**\$\$\$ Selling as a package.
\$\$\$ Asking \$800.00**

Contact: Ken Vargo, 1111 Middle Ave., Elyria, OH 44035.
Telephone: 1-322-6633 (Formerly Golden Crescent Newsletter
Editor)

For Sale: Boxcar stand alone interface unit for the TI
99 computer. Has one serial RS 232 and one eight bit
parallel I/O ports. Supports 110 to 9600 baud. Works
with all TI hardware and software.

Excellent condition.....\$90

Call 486-7848 or see Jim Mekeel at the NORTHCOAST 99'er's
meeting.

Brand name disks for sale!

BASF 5.25 inch SSDD blank diskettes with jackets,
labels, and manufacturer's lifetime guarantee.

\$10.75 for a box of ten.

Call 486-7848 or see Jim Mekeel at the NORTHCOAST 99'er's
meeting.

NOTES

MODIFY EARLY MODULES

Kent Maxwell found a way to be able to print the Weight Control & Nutrition Module and the Tax Investment Record Keeping Module to a parallel printer. *(Editor's Note: TI produced these modules prior to the availability of an RS232 card with a PIO output, so the menus did not provide for same.)*

The procedure is as follows:

1. When setting up your files, tell the computer that you will not be using a printer, then create your data files accordingly.
2. When reviewing the files, put in any fictitious printer call up (i.e., RS232/8) and the computer will indicate **DEVICE NOT FOUND**. At this time, enter in PIO, and the computer will allow access to a parallel printer.

The procedure may vary slightly between the various early modules, but the key is to avoid a printer identification in the data unit, process, then put it in later when recalling and reviewing the previously entered data.

Kent Maxwell is an avid TI enthusiast who is employed with the VA Hospital in Sepulveda, California on the security force, and is also a member of Tex-Comp's technical consulting group.

MINI-MAG 99 April, 1985

REPRINT

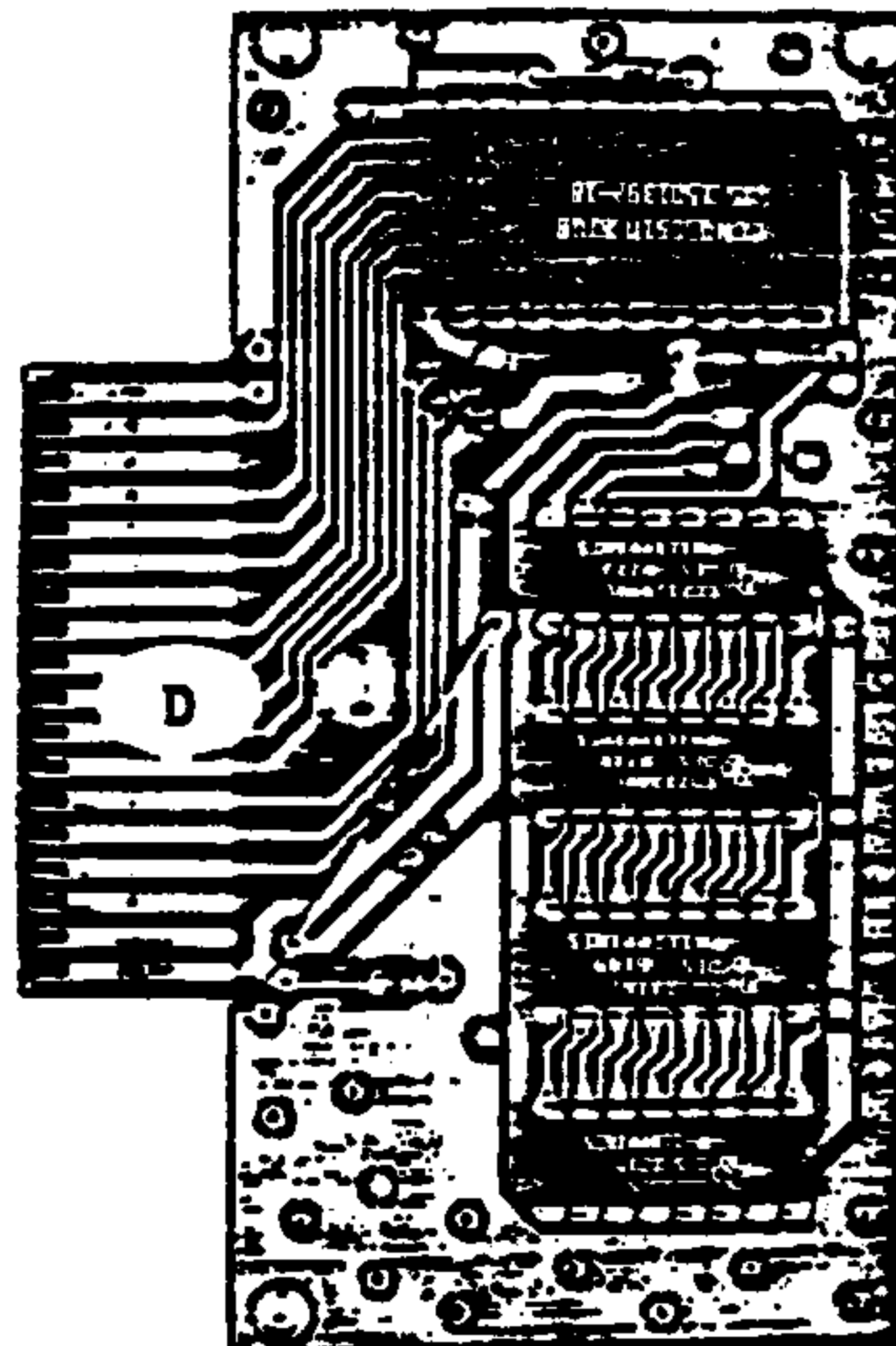
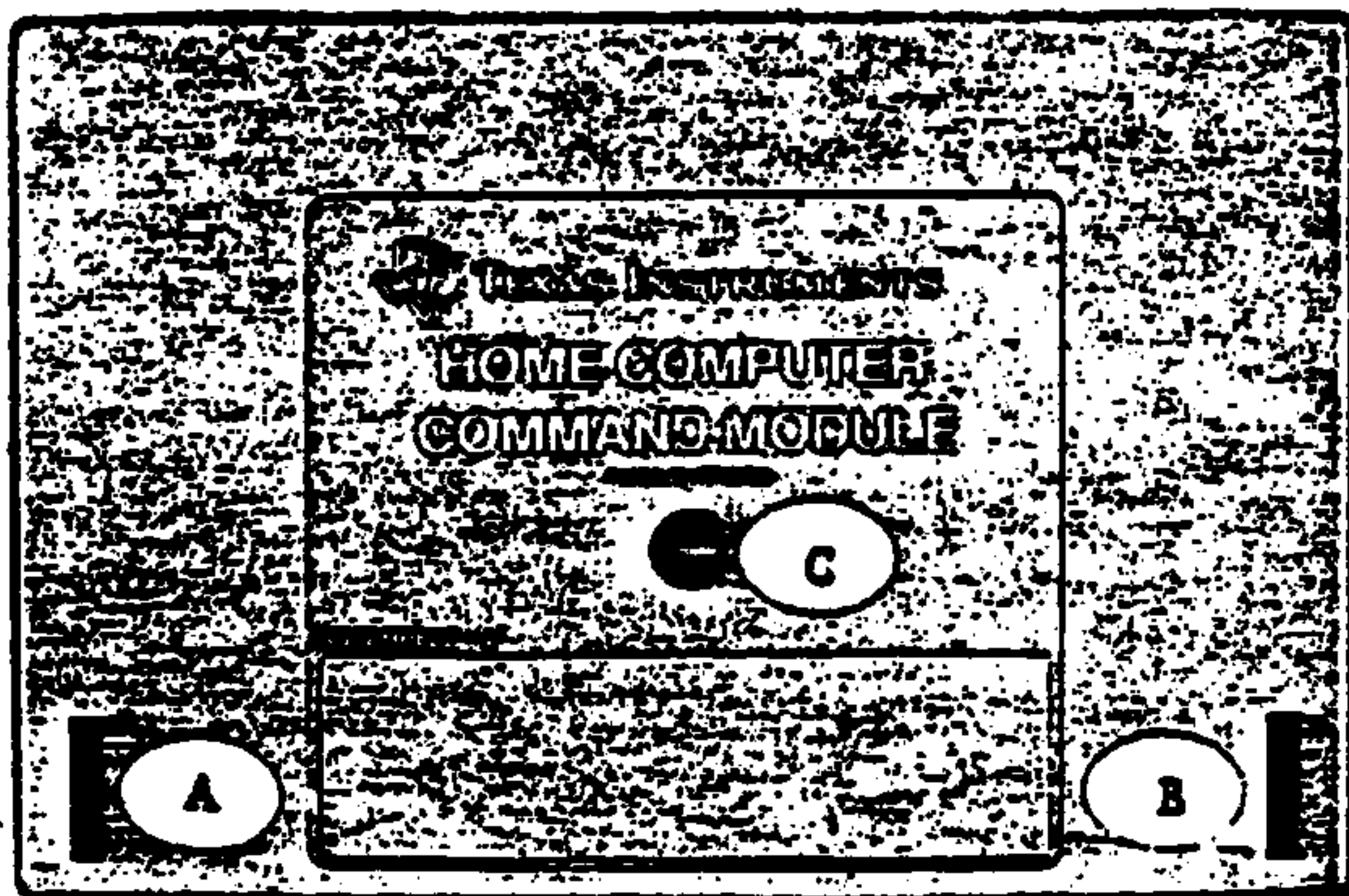
*CIUG:0485 CARTRIDGE CLEANING - by Ron Rutledge *

Dirty contacts can screw-up any electrical device and the 4A is not an exception. The only place you are fairly likely to run into this problem is in using command modules. Both the module contacts and the port itself can become dirty but cleaning the port itself is a big job as you have to disassemble the console. The good news is that cleaning the cartridge will almost always suffice and can be done quickly without any special tools or cleaners. All you need is a regular screwdriver, some sort of rag, a standard pencil eraser, and in some cases a medium phillips screwdriver.

Remove the screw from "C" if there is one. Then pry the clips in slots "A" and "B" outward to pop open the cartridge. If there is a clip in "C" pry it back after "A" and "B" are loose. If it should bend off don't worry, it won't affect the performance of your module.

The module board can now be removed. Do this carefully and note how the spring-loaded "door" is assembled if there is one so that you can put it back together if it pops out. Once you have the board removed take your rag (a kleenex will work but something cloth is much better) and rub off any residue from the contacts, shown as "D". Remember to do the contacts on both sides if that particular module has them. Once the worst is removed take any soft rubber eraser and "erase" the contacts until they become dry, clean and shiny. You need to do only about the outer half of the contacts as that is more than ever gets used (you can see the scratch marks in the picture below). Once this is done simply put the cartridge back together and go. Some symptoms of dirty contacts are the console locking-up, strange errors where no occurred before, etc (my XB cartridge giving me a syntax error when there was non for example). Don't jump to clean a cartridge on your first error, it could be alot of things like static, not having the module in tight, or a number of other things. But if you find you have a continuing problem cleaning the contacts is quick and free and may correct what was wrong.

Cartridge Cleaning was reprinted from the April, 1985 issue of The 4A Forum, Newsletter of the Central Iowa Users Group, P.O. Box 3843, Des Moines, Iowa 50316.



**** LIBRARY POLICY ****

In a concern for providing the best possible usage of the Library for all paid members of this group, the Library Committee feels that certain rules and policies are necessary. We wish to insure fairness and availability of materials. The following policies will take effect as of January 1984:

1. All materials are to be returned before the start of the meeting. The Library Representative will be present 30 minutes before each meeting.
2. Library transactions will not occur during the meeting to allow the Library Representative to participate in the meeting.
3. All loans of materials will occur after the formal meeting. The Library Representative will stay 30 minutes after the meeting.
4. Loans will be made to paid members only.
5. There will be a limit of 1 tape and 1 magazine or book to each member.
6. Loans are for 1 month only and materials must be returned prior to the meeting. If you are not able to attend, it is expected that the material will be mailed or delivered to a Committee member before the meeting.
7. Security deposits will be required to borrow materials as follows:

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| \$2 per Tape | \$3 per Magazine | \$5 per Book |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|

Deposits can be in the form of cash or personal checks. Personal checks will be held (not cashed) and returned when the material is returned on time. Late returns of materials will result in the following fines:

 - ⌘ 1/2 the deposit if material borrowed is not returned prior to the next meeting
 - ⌘ Entire deposit if the material is not returned prior to the second meeting.
8. Mail exchanges of material is available if postage is prepaid by the member requesting the material.

GUIDELINES FOR OBTAINING PROGRAMS FROM THE DISK LIBRARY

1. Disks requested and supplied by the group will cost \$3.00 per disk in advance of the creation of the disk.
2. Disks supplied by the member will be copied at a \$1.00 charge if the following rules are followed:

⌘ Disks should be initialized whenever possible.

⌘ Written information accompanying the request must state the names of the programs, the Cleveland Group Master Disk upon which the program resides, whether drive is single or double sided, name and phone number of the member.

⌘ If mailers are supplied in order to receive completed disks in the mail rather than waiting for the next meeting, postage must be supplied.

⌘ No more than 2 master source disks should be requested per disk.

3. If you request programs from more than 2 Cleveland master disks, the following additional charges will be made:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| 3 source disks per disk | \$0.50 |
| 4 source disks per disk | \$0.75 |
| 5 source disks per disk | \$1.00 |
| Each additional source disk | \$0.25 |

4. Individuals should try to request no more than 2 output disks per month, unless an unusual situation arises.

5. Any questions or situations not covered by these guidelines should be directed to the Library Committee.

NOTE: All funds collected will be contributed to the Group Treasury earmarked for purchases of library materials.

Thank you for your cooperation!



REPLACING YOUR MINI-MEMORY BATTERY FOR UNDER \$2.00

People who have checked with TI have found the cost to replace the battery in the Mini-Memory to be \$35. If you are a brave soul, it can be done for \$1.79.

The battery is a Radio Shack CR2032 (CAT#23-162). These cells have a shelf life of between 5 & 10 years and should last almost that long in the circuit. The case is the positive terminal just like the original, but unlike the original, the CR2032 does not have leads and these must be carefully soldered on.

WARNING!! LITHIUM BATTERIES CAN BE DESTROYED BY HEATING THEM AND CERTAIN TYPES CAN EXPLODE!!!

If you don't think you're competent to make this modification, don't try, you might destroy your Mini-Memory, or worse.

Scrape the center of the case where you are going to solder a solid #20 (or thereabouts) wire. A lead from a 1 or 2 watt resistor is ideal

(from MM 99 USER GROUP) IN A RECENT MICROPENDIUM ARTICLE, A READER HAD HIS BATTERY REPLACED WITH A NI-CAD)

Melt a small glob of solder onto the end of the wire and quickly solder it to the battery case. This is best done with a 100 watt soldering gun. Make sure the gun is hot before you try to solder the wire on. Soldering should take 1 second. Have a helper with a wet paper towel ready to press on the battery as soon as you remove the soldering gun. The insulation between terminals may be thermal plastic and could deform allowing the battery to short if you are not quick. Cut the soldered lead close to the resistor body and flip the battery over and solder a lead on the other side, making sure that it doesn't touch the positive terminal. Make sure that this lead points 180 degrees away from the other lead so the battery will mount the same way as the original battery. Bend the leads so they will fit into the slots for the original battery. Before you remove the original, note that the positive lead is connected toward the outside of the board. Quickly solder the replacement in the same way. Check the voltage across the battery. If it reads 3 volts, you're all set.

SOFCASTING - Free Software For Your Computer

The August & September issues of Computer Shopper contained intriguing articles on the broadcasting of software over the radio and the possibility of feeding Sofcasting to the 6,000 cable systems in the US. This would open up a new field for the transmission of newspapers, electronic mail and schedules in addition to computer software.

This distribution method is already available in Portland, Me; Morgantown, WV; Burlington, NC; Philadelphia, PA; Seattle, WA; Dallas, TX; Minneapolis, MN; Santa Rosa, CA; and Boston, MA. through a 30-minute weekly computer oriented talk show devoted to topics of interest to personal computer users.

The costs of the software and talk show are met by advertising on the local station.

The programs are transmitted via a #70 modem called The Shuttle Communicator.

This method is much faster than downloading from a BBS in that Sofcasts take place at 4800 baud. Transmissions can be recorded on a tape recorder and played later through the Shuttle.

As fascinating as this sounds for only a \$70 investment, it raises several questions also. With the proliferation of variations of computer languages, just how much of the software broadcast would be usable for a particular computer.... in our case the TI.

The Softcast Corporation is located at 2565-152nd Ave. N.E., Redmond WA 98052 (206) 881-9537. Perhaps we should start making some effort to bring Sofcasting to this area and make sure that it has TI support.

TIPS FROM THE TIGERCUB

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Copyright 1985

TIGERCUB SOFTWARE
156 Collingwood Ave
Columbus, OH 43213



In Tips #21, I said that the special characters available on the Gemini printer could not be accessed from TI-Writer. I have since learned that Star Micronics hid a valuable feature of their printer in a paragraph of gobbledegook computerese in the manual. See "Other Function Codes", ESC ">", ESC "=" and ESC "0". In plain English, you can access these codes by CTRL U, FCTN R, CTRL U, SHIFT >, then type the character with an ASCII 128 less than the character you want. In other words, if you want CHR\$(168), hit the space bar (ASCII 32), etc. To get back to the normal character mode, use CTRL U, FCTN R, CTRL U, SHIFT 0. Many thanks to David Aragon (San Antonio Area 99ers newsletter, Aug. 1985), who described how to do the same by transliteration.

****NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION ONLY****

____ Send me the next 12 issues of the CLEVELAND AREA 99/4 USER GROUPS NEWSLETTER. I am enclosing a check or money order for \$6.00.

PLEASE PRINT.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ ZIP _____

Mail to: TI USER GROUPS NEWSLETTER
c/o Frank Jenkins, 19809 Gladstone Rd., Cleveland, OH 44122

*This subscription not necessary for fully paid members of the User Groups.

____ Send me a membership form for the following group:

___ Solon: ___ TI Chips: ___ Golden Crescent: ___ Northcoast.

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CLEVELAND, OHIO 44120

**CHECK YOUR EXPIRATION DATE.
THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST ISSUE!**

!! TIME DATED MATERIAL !!