

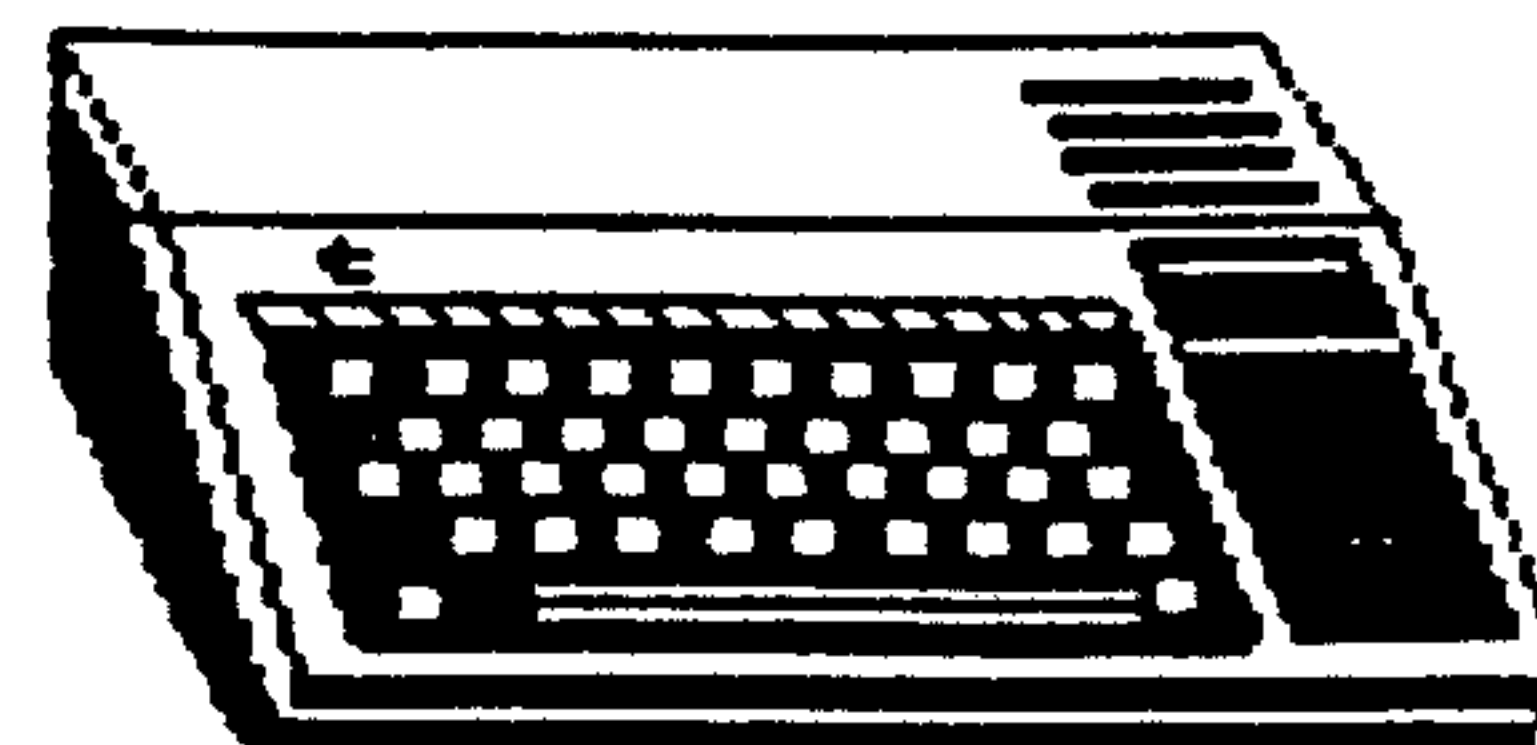


CLEVELAND AREA

TI-99/4A

USER GROUPS

February 1995

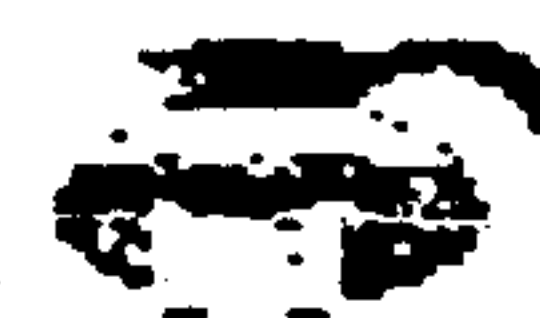


OFFICE	TI-CHIPS	MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Glenn Bernasek 238-6335	10-12:00 A.M.
CO-PRESIDENT	Fred Ialacci 941-9397	N. Royalton
TREASURER	Lin Shav 235-3912	County Library
MEMBERSHIP	John Parken 331-2830	State Rd. SO. of 4172 W. 217th St. Fairview Pk., OH 44126
SECRETARY	Dinny Stockdale 12169943039	Route 82 1/4mi EVERY THIRD SAT.
DISK LIBRARY	Les Kee 238-6938	FEB 18, 1995
TAPE & MODS	John Parken 331-2830	MAR 18, 1995
EDITOR	Harry Hoffman 631-2354	APR 15, 1995

OFFICE	NORTHCOAST 99'ers	MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Ken Gladyszewski 12163577274	1-4 P.M.
CO-PRESIDENT	Walt Ryder 921-8223	Euclidian Room
Treasurer	Frank Jenkins 283-8526	Euclid SQ. Mall
MEMBERSHIP	Martin Smoley 12162571661	E.260th off I-90 (South)
SECRETARY	Deanna Sheridan 333-5986	EVERY THIRD SAT.
DISK LIBRARY	Martin Smoley 12162571661	FEB 18, 1995
TAPE & MODS	Frank Jenkins 283-8526	MAR 18, 1995
HARD COPY	Dick Alden 12162571661	APR 15, 1995



From the Editor's Desk:



Well, here it is another month and a day late on the newsletter! Because of the cold weather, I'll be working all weekend with not much time left over for editing! Of course I could have started the day after the last meeting but most editors (I'm sure?) wait until they have something to EDIT! Dinny, Chips new/old member, sent the minutes to me a few days after the meeting. Thanks. Dinny! Martin Smoley gave me his article at the meeting, newsletter ready, along with several back TI Base articles that he updated or added to, that will be more helpful in understanding TI Base! Marty always comes through for the clubs. Thanks again to Marty!! But, where are the members that are using the TI for other purposes!!! HOW COME WE DO NOT EVER HEAR THEIR VOICES! This newsletter belongs to all members/Tiers, and it is being cheated out of some great information that we ALL would like to hear! Come on Tiers, let us in on how you use that fine machine!!! Tell us about your favorite program and what makes it so special. PLEASE!!!

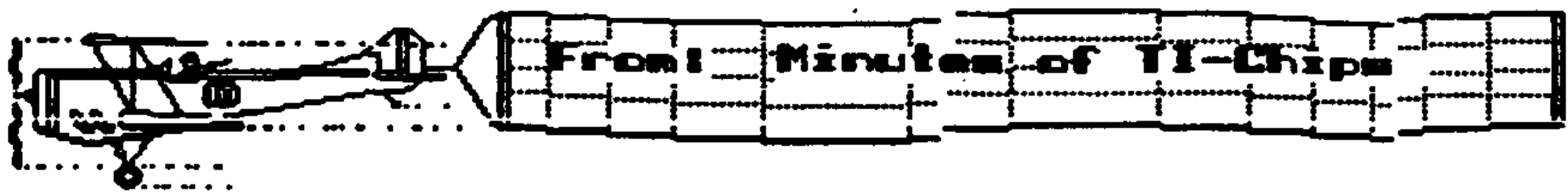
a list of TI'ers that want to talk to other TI'ers. He has quite a list and a couple of Clevelanders are on it. I will bring the list to the meeting and Tom's address, so anyone wanting to add their name to this list can do so. It is a little too long to put in the newsletter this month, but if enough members want it done I will list it later. I guess mentioning that you have to have a modem and a Freenet, Genie, or other address would be important!!! Sometimes, there is a lack of proper communication from your editor! Using freenet has been one of my nightly joys, reading news of the TI and writing letters to my daughter Cathy, who lives in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. There are so many areas to explore that it is impossible to find them ALL! You have to experience it to see what I mean!!!

Well, I have to apologize for being so late, but there may be time to get it out by meeting time!

Keep on Tling.

Tom Wills, of the Southwest 99'ers, has started collecting





The TI-Chips meeting opened by Co-President Glenn Bernasek, at 10:00 AM, in the meeting room of the North Royalton Library. Glenn reminded us about the real possibilities of the various Emails. If your family is scattered all over the USA, this is a very good and inexpensive way to keep in closer touch! Written messages provide a more accurate means of communicating because you can ponder some little quip that you "just heard", too.

Virgil Thomason was presented with a 'certificate of appreciation' for his Co-Leadership of TI-Chips the last three years. Thank you, Virg! (Is this why he won the drawing?):)

John Parken received an interesting letter from a TI-Chips person in Texas. Steve Eggers also sent in his dues for 1995. Others that renewed their dues were John Parken, Virgil Thomason, & Dinsmore Stockdale (Who took over as Secretary!). Thank you guys!

Harry presented a game called "COLORS", which drops balls of various colors and you try to match 3 in a row to make them disappear. It is much like "TRIS" by Jim Reiss, only this program was written by William Reiss (relation?). The speed, height of the balls dropping, and the starting level of the base can be operator changed. You also get to change the default keys to press in controlling the balls as they drop. This is a very user friendly game which Harry says "Only one I can feel I'm doing well at!". Ron Markus happens to have a couple at his table, in case anyone is interested!

Les Kee gave a demo of a mathematical XBasic program. Once you set up the program, put in a logarithmic problem, and input the DEF (DEFinition) command, you can get the solution (Antilog) of any number you wish. (Right???)

The meeting closed at 12:00 Noon and some hightailed it to NorthCoast 99ers, which starts at 1:30 at some distance away, while others hung around to see what Ron Markus had to offer for their TI's.

P.S. Dinny left for California to see his son and couldn't finish these minutes, so Harry helped out. Pray for Dinny's safe return!



St. Patrick's Day Mar.17

Ash Wednesday - Mar.1st

Have a happy & safe

A time for ALL to

Green Holiday!

atone for past sins!



NORTHCOAST 99ERS

January 1995 meeting

Deanna Sheridan, Secretary



The January meeting was called to order by Ken Gladyszewski.

Frank Jenkins presented the treasurer's report. We are holding our own even without charging for membership dues.

Frank read a letter from Tony McGovern stating he appreciated our recent contribution, but if it would be OK with us, he asked that we send him the equivalent in chips for his ram disk. We agreed to send a check to Bud Mills and ask him to provide as many chips as possible for that amount.

The subject of the dreaded election of officers came up. Of course we were overwhelmed with volunteers for all positions. Ken and Walt felt they were wearing out as co-presidents and needed some relief. Mainly, the problem is getting volunteers to give demos at the meetings.

Walt suggested that perhaps we only meet every other month. We all felt that we wanted to get together monthly and it really didn't matter if it included a demo or not. We asked that if we scheduled demos for the whole year and relieved Ken and Walt of that burden if they would agree to carry on.

All in attendance agreed to take a month for a demo and are as follows:

Feb - Ken will tell of his experience in looking for a dreaded IBM compatible.

Mar - Swap meet

Apr - Les Kee

May - Bernie Zuckerman and
Harry Hoffman

June - Deanna

July - Marty

Aug - Bruce

Sep - Norb

Oct - Walt

Nov - Frank

Dec - Dick Alden

If something comes up, you can't keep the date aforementioned, please trade with another person, or get a substitute. If you want the club to survive, participation is essential.

All other officers agreed to stay on. We didn't have an official election, but believe that with the demos taken care of, we would all serve again.

Last year on a cold, wintery day with few in attendance, Ken gave a fascinating demonstration of his stepper motor controlled by his TI. So, he decided to try again with some enhancements.

Unfortunately, this was also a cold wintery day with not too many in attendance. Ken went through the process of explaining the types of motors and how they work and how he was able to get his TI to control the motor. (I think he should write a complete article for the newsletter with charts.) Last year we were able to see how the motor rotated by watching a piece of paper rotate on the end of the motor. This year he dazzled us by having two motors respond to the music of Dueling Banjos.

See You on February 18!

VALENTINE FOR TI-99'ERS



St. Patrick is dancing because:
In four days after his day it will be



S P R I N G I I



This is Harry's fill-in page. Hope some day to give some nice TI enthusiast this page for his/her article on any subject, as long as it may relate to the TI-99/4A or our TI community. Thanks for your patience with this mixed up guy!



OHIO North Coast 99'ers T199/4A Users Group

By Martin A. Smoley © Jan. 2, 1995

6149 Bryson Drive, Mentor, Ohio 44060-2324

The printout on the right side of the same page is that of a Database (Db) I created to substitute for LOCAL space. If you recall from last month, I needed to increase the LSPACE to 500 in order to accomodate the number of items I needed to save and display on the screen. This is the same type of a CF, but I actually reduced the LSPACE to 64 bytes. "Reducing the LSPACE is for demonstration only. It has no real value in normal programming." I managed this reduction through the use of the Db displayed on the right side of that page. The STRUCTURE is at the top of the column and the contents of certain fields is at the bottom of that column. I printed the record numbers, the headings and everything, so you could cross check the way I used these fields in the CF. Near the top of the CF I USE DATATEMP in slot 5. DATATEMP only has one record but it could have many, provided you could remember where everything is located. Next I USE AACOLIST in slot 1. AACOLIST holds our customer information. Next I copy whatever is stored in 5.NEWDATE over whatever is stored in 5.OLDDATE, and REPLACE whatever is in 5.NEWDATE with the current date from .DATE. I zero COUNT because it

is a field and the number from your last run would still be in that location. I then use the pretyped messages in the Db to fill the screen with instructions etc. After you press a key to continue, the CF uses AARDLN, OLDDATE and NEWDATE, along with some text to print the heading for the customer printout. Fields 5.T36 and 5.T79A are used to format and hold information from AACOLIST, and then print it out. DATATEMP, which is in slot 5, remains stationary while the CF moves through AACOLIST one record at a time, formatting the data and printing it out. When the job is finished DATATEMP will retain the last contact name, in T36, the last address, in T79A, whatever key you pressed to continue, the old date, the new date and the customer COUNT until the next time you run AALST1WT. I created a small CF, named RESET, to turn the headings and all that stuff back on. Later, I will create another CF called AACONFIG, to turn all that stuff off at the beginning of my CFs. That will make it easier for me, but harder for you to follow.

Here's just another thing about this CF. You should see an asterisk (*) in front of the PRINTER=PIO.CR.LF command. That makes it a comment line. It doesn't work. What does work is SET PRINTER=DSK7.AA1/1/95, along with SET CRLF=OFF. This sends the normal printer output to a file named AA1/1/95 on Disk 7. This saves me a lot of paper during the time I make most of my mistakes and as I am already jumping back and forth from FunnelWeb to change my CFs, I can look at AA1/1/95 that way. Later on I will change back to SET PRINTER=PIO.CR.LF. You also need to remember the 5 is needed in front of the names of items you use from DATATEMP because it is in slot 5.

In this spot last month I made a big fat mistake. I said the IF was True so the ELSE was done. That never happens. The ELSE is only executed when the IF is False. I did it right, but I explained it wrong. I get confused because an IF is true when it is, but an IF .NOT. is true when it is not. So when the IF .NOT. was not true it did the ELSE part of the command. I'm sure you all caught that one.

Where are all of the questions?

```

***** Aardvark Awnings Inc. *****
Last printout: 12/27/94 Current date: 01/01/95
*****

Company Name ..... First Name... MI Last Name .... CLFM000
Street Address ....., City ....., ST Zip-.... ( Phone .....

-----

Aardvark Awnings Inc. Allen M. Aardvark AAAM001
59 Canyon Road, Yorba Linda, CA 92686-2343 (714-824-1234)

-----

Jim's House of Siding Inc. Jim Jones JJJ 002
49120 S. 121st. St., Des Moines, IA 78302 (718-456-4653)

-----

Smoley Siding Systems Martin A. Smoley SSMA003
6149 Bryson Drive, Mentor, OH 44060-2324 (216-257-1661)

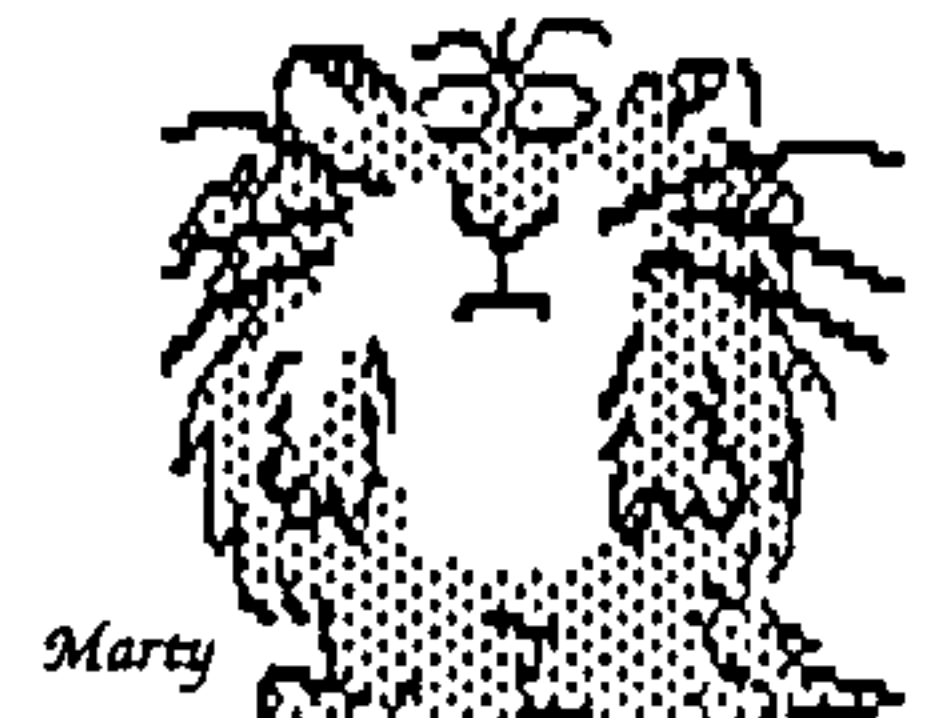
-----

Solar Specialties Suzy M. Snowflake SSSM004
71109 Tallmountain Rd., Vail, CO 83912 (303-475-7854)

-----

Current customer list contains 3

```





By Martin A. Smoley © Jan. 1, 1995

6149 Bryson Drive, Mentor, Ohio 44060-2324

CREATED 12/27/94 CHANGED 12/31/94
FIELD DESCRIPTOR TYPE WIDTH DEC

FIELD	DESCRIPTOR	TYPE	WIDTH	DEC
1	T79A	C	079	
2	T79B	C	079	
3	NEWDATE	D	008	
4	T40	C	040	
5	T39	C	039	
6	T36	C	036	
7	OLDDATE	D	008	
8	GO	C	001	
9	AARDLN	C	038	
10	TORS232	C	038	
11	TOPIO	C	038	
12	TURNON	C	038	
13	PRESSKEY	C	038	
14	PRINTING	C	038	
15	BLANK	C	038	
16	CURNUMBER	C	030	
17	COUNT	N	003	00

* filename = AALST1WT/C

CLOSE ALL

SET TALK=OFF

SET LSPACE=64

CLEAR LOCALS

SET HEADING OFF

SET RECNUM OFF

SET PAGE=000

* SET PRINTER=PIO.CR.LF

SET PRINTER=DSK7.AA1/1/95

SET CRLF=OFF

SELECT 5

USE DATATEMP

SELECT 1

USE AACOLIST

REPLACE 5.OLDDATE WITH 5.NEWDATE

REPLACE 5.NEWDATE WITH .DATE.

REPLACE 5.COUNT WITH 0

WRITE 22,3 5.AARDLN

WRITE 10,3 5.TOPIO

WRITE 12,3 5.TURNON

WRITE 14,3 5.PRESSKEY

READCHAR 23,37 5.GO

WRITE 12,3 5.BLANK

WRITE 14,3 5.PRINTING

PRINT (Drft),(E),(e),5.AARDLN,(LF)

PRINT " Last printout: ",5.OLDDATE;

, (30), "Current date: ",5.NEWDATE

PRINT (79*), (LF)

TOP

WHILE .NOT. (EOF)

REPLACE 5.T36 WITH TRIM(FNM) | " ";

| MI | " " | TRIM(LNM)

REPLACE 5.T79A WITH TRIM(SA) | " , ";

| TRIM(CT) | " , " | ST | " " | ZP;

| LCLZP | " (" | PH | ") "

PRINT CONM,5.T36,ID

PRINT 5.T79A

PRINT (LF),(79-),(LF)

REPLACE 5.COUNT WITH 5.COUNT + 1

MOVE

ENDWHILE

REPLACE 5.COUNT WITH 5.COUNT - 2

PRINT (e),5.CURNUMBER,5.COUNT,(LF);

,(Drft)

DO RESET

RETURN Copyright Martin A. Smoley 1994

TI-Base

Version 3.02 from Insebot Inc.

P. O. Box 291610

Pt. Orange, FL 32129

DATATEMP 00000/00001

REC T79A

0000

REC T79B

0000

REC NEWDATE

0000 / /

REC T40

0000

REC T39

0000

REC T36

0000

REC OLDDATE

0000 / /

REC GO

0000

REC AARDLN

0000 ***** Aardvark Awnings Inc. *****

REC TORS232

0000 Prints to RS232.CR.LF

REC TOPIO

0000 Prints to PIO.CR.LF

REC TURNON

0000 Turn the printer on now!

REC PRESSKEY

0000 Press any key when ready.

REC PRINTING

0000 Printing customer list.

REC BLANK

0000

REC CURNUMBER

0000 Current customer list contains

REC COUNT

0000 3 On the left side of this page is another

CF which prints Aardvarks customer list, full page width. In an effort to show you some new ways to do an old job, I made it very different.



- By - Inscebot, Inc.

P.O.Box 291610, Ft.Orange, FL 32129

Version 3.01 Tutorial 23.1.2 By Martin A. Smoley

NorthCoast 99'ers User Group - July 14, 1991

What I did was copy LOAD, LOADTI, MAIN, MSGS, OVERLAY/P, PRINTER/D, PRINTER/S, SCRNL, SETUP/C, TIBASE and TIBASEB to a newly initialized disk. This is all you need to autoloading TIB and it should give you about 100 free sectors on the disk. You could erase all files other than the ones I just listed, but I feel it's always better to make another copy. Note: Whenever you initialize a disk for use with TIB always verify the sectors. A problem disk can give you big headaches later. While you're at it initialize a couple extra disks for drive 2. Name them something distinct like DAT01, DAT02, etc. and label the jackets so you can identify them. Then put TIB in drive 1 and load it again. If everything went well it's time to make a Command File (CF). At the Dp type MODIFY COMMAND DSK1.RESET and press enter. If later you do a directory of the disk, you will see /C after the RESET. You do not enter these characters. TIB will do that for you. After entering the command TIB will give you a blank screen (with no Dp) and wait for you to type in the command file (CF). "Once again TIB gives you no help." Just type in the file I have listed below as RESET. On the first line start with an asterisk, which signifies a comment line. "Do not type in my heading. The first line you type is the one with the asterisk (*). Type in all the lines as you see them, pressing enter (E), after each line, as in Funnelweb. You will not see a CR at the end of each line because TIB doesn't use CRs in the same way Funnelweb does. If your printer is serial, not parallel, enter RS232.CR.LF in place of the PIO.CR.LF, in my example. This is not the only chance you have to get this right, we can change RESET to do something else, later. After it is all typed in, press Fctn 8 to have TIB save the CF to disk.

MODIFY COMMAND DSK1.RESET <E>

RESET/Command File

```

*      07/11/91      RESET
CLOSE ALL
SET DATDISK=DSK2.
SET PRGDISK=DSK1.
SET PRINTER=PIO.CR.LF
SET PAGE=56
SET HEADING=ON
SET TALK=ON
SET SPACE=01
SET RECNUM=ON
SET LSPACE=256
CLEAR LOCALS
SET CURSOR=02
SET CRLF=ON
SET INVERSE=OFF
CLEAR
RETURN              (Fctn 8)

```

DO DSK1.RESET <E>

After completing all those tasks RESET should be ready to go, so let's see if it will run. At the Dp type DO DSK1.RESET <E>. The CF should scroll up the screen and finish with a blank screen except for RETURN and the Dp at the bottom left, and hopefully no error messages. RESET should not do anything noticeable. It's main function is to SET or RESET TIB to your system. If it acts weird or you got an error message, you probably typed something incorrectly. Just go back to MODIFY COMMAND DSK1.RESET to correct your problems. This time through you will not be given a blank screen, but the original RESET will appear for re-editing. The keyboard overlay you received with TIB will be indispensable for CF creation and editing. After you get RESET to run with no apparent problems type DISPLAY STATUS at the Dp. This should cause the TIB current STATUS to scroll up the screen. It should be identical to the printout of RESET, with your changes of course. You can get a printout of the screen by typing SNAP <E> at the bottom of the STATUS screen. If all these things work, you are making good progress. Now type MODIFY COMMAND DSK1.SETUP and when the SETUP file is presented insert a line and add DO DSK1.RESET as you see in my previous printout. I also made three other changes to my SETUP CF. I added "Vr 3.01" after TI-BASE, I changed QUIT will terminate TI-Base to "Type QUIT to terminate" and I changed FUNCTION (7) for help to "(Fctn 7) help not available". "Why?" Because I like to know which version of TIB I am using, you type QUIT to quit, you never never use (Fctn =) or (Fctn QUIT) from the TI keyboard and last, I removed all my help files from disk 1, "That's why!" Now when you, or TIB, run the SETUP file RESET will run automatically. You can also run RESET at the end of other CFs to RESET the system. "OK!" Now that you are totally experienced at CFs let's CREATE that Database.

The Database

In order to CREATE the CLUB91 Db I described earlier, you type CREATE DSK2.CLUB91 <E>. TIB will then give you the top two lines of the CLUB91 STRUCTURE printout, with nothing below that. It's your job to fill in the rest. The second line contains FIELD, DESCRIPTOR, TYPE, WIDTH and DEC. These are column headings. As you enter the FIELDS you want, TIB will number each of them in the FIELD column. DESCRIPTOR is where you will enter the name or title of a particular FIELD, for instance LASTNAME (LN) or FIRSTNAME (FN). The TYPE column is where you place one character to tell TIB what TYPE of data it will find in that FIELD. The only choices you have are C, N, D or X for this entry. C denotes (C)haracter and tells TIB that it might find almost anything in that FIELD. If you place an N in this spot TIB will expect (N)umerical data in this FIELD, meaning things it can perform math on (+-.0123456789). If you select D for (D)ate, TIB will expect you to supply a date in the form of MM/DD/YY as I described on startup. The WIDTH would be set at 8, and slashes are automatic (07/14/91). X TYPE FIELDS are for printer control codes and will be converted by TIB to Hexidecimal before transmission. If you don't know exactly what you're doing, DO NOT USE ANY Xs AS FIELD TYPES.

CREATE DSK2.CLUB91 <E>



The WIDTH column is where you will tell TIB the maximum number of characters you will be putting in that particular FIELD. You will probably be doing math operations on your (N)umeric FIELDS so add one extra space to each of those TYPEs where TIB can keep track of the signs (+-). The DEC column is for decimal places. Here you enter the number of decimal places from the right (of the total) you want TIB to place the decimal point. This applies to (N)umeric FIELDS only. So type in all the stuff I have listed in the CLUB91 STRUCTURE printout. You will see that pressing enter moves the cursor from item to item. The arrow keys also work for moving back and forth. When the cursor has dropped to line (or FIELD) 14, pressing (Fctn 8) will cause TIB to complete and save the Db. You will then be asked if you would like to enter data now. You can enter (Y) for yes and start entering the information I supplied at the bottom of this page. Note: The CLUB91 printout may look a little off because I still had to chop a few spaces from the Db printout after I brought it into Funnelweb. It wouldn't fit across the page as it was. The names (DESCRIPTORs) I use are normally two characters long. This lets me guess what item I have stored in that FIELD and still remain short enough to type several FIELDnames on one line in a CF. The NM FIELD is a unique number. I created it from the Month that person joined, the persons first initial, the year they joined, their last initial and a number relating to the order in which people joined during that month. All of which is irrelevant, any number will do. Then I have Last Name, First Name, etc. NL is a (N)umeric FIELD which will hold the persons Name Length (NL), and LTS holds a record of the number of letters sent at renewal time to each person.

Data Entry or APPEND Screen

```

NM _____
LN _____
FN _____
MI _____
NL _____ 000
SA _____ >
CT _____
ST _____
ZP _____
PH _____
XP ___/___/___
GP _____
LTS _____ 000
  
```

CLUB91

REC	NM	LN	FN	MI	NL	SA	CT	ST	ZP	PH	XP	GP	LTS
0000	4A83S1	Smithsonian	Arthur		0	1142 Lemon Drive Apt. 246	Los Angeles	CA	91234	303-221-8943	04/00/91	CH	0
0001	2G85A1	Aardvark	Grant	E.	0	9995 State Rt. 84	Geneva	OH	44014	1-465-9876	02/00/92	NC	0
0002	2M83S4	Smoley	Martin	A.	0	6149 Bryson Drive	Mentor	OH	44060	216-257-1661	02/00/92	NC	0
0003	4Q86J2	Jones	Quincy	W.	0	37285 Burgandy Lane	Mentor-on-the-Lake	OH	44060	257-1029	04/00/91	NC	0
0004	9R88W1	Whitman	Slim	A.	0	2574 East 254th St.	Eastlake	OH	44094	951-2345	09/00/91	CH	0
0005	8E84V1	Vivannovitch	Elexxie	I.	0	111 E. 98th St.	Cleveland	OH	49023	541-5415	08/00/91	NC	0

If you're working on your own Db, use any FIELDS you think you will need. You just have to remember to fill in the right names when you whip up the CFs. If you're new at this you should CREATE several Dbs with no purpose in mind, just for the practice. After that, try out the commands, PRINT ALL and DISPLAY ALL, to see how they work. Refer back to the manual frequently for guidance. The entries for DISPLAY are listed below.

```

USE DSK2.CLUB91 <E>
DISPLAY ALL <E>
CLOSE ALL <E>
  
```

If you have struggled along this far, try typing in the GETLEN CF, listed below. Its purpose is to check the number of non-blank characters in LN and FN. Then it looks to see if MI is blank. If it is blank, TIB adds one to the total for the blank space needed between names. If MI is not blank TIB will add MI's length plus two spaces to the total length which is stored in Name Length (NL). GETLEN will USE CLUB91 and perform this task on each RECORD as it MOVES through the Db. When it reaches the End Of File (EOF), it will DO RESET, which we created earlier to CLOSE ALL Dbs and reset all parameters. If GETLEN runs without any problems, type USE DSK2.CLUB91 (E) and EDIT (E) to check the results, or DISPLAY ALL LN NL (E). If it didn't work, keep at it, don't give up until you figure out what went wrong. Read the manual!

MODIFY COMMAND DSK2,GETLEN <E>

```

* 07/14/91 GETLEN
CLOSE ALL
USE DSK2.CLUB91
WHILE .NOT. (EOF)
REPLACE NL WITH (LEN(LN)+LEN(FN))
IF MI = " "
REPLACE NL WITH NL + 1
ELSE
REPLACE NL WITH (NL + LEN(MI) + 2)
ENDIF
MOVE
ENDWHILE
DO DSK1.RESET
RETURN Copyright Martin Smoley 1991
(Fctn 8)

DO DSK2.GETLEN <E>
  
```

I'll try and continue next month. Good luck. Marty.

I'm REC 0002 Write Letters.



WHAT A MESS

My wife, who corrects my atrocious spelling and punctuation, said that the last Tutorial was by far the most confusing I had written to date. It's a good thing that the main point of that tutorial was to get you to read the original TI-Base Manual (I think). Because of my wife's comment I am going to attempt to change my approach to this tutorial. I hope it will help.

Once Again

If you need or want a Database (Db), you should start with some information you already have (Name + Address list, etc.) and a pencil and paper. Think about your new Db. Consider the information to be placed in it and what you will do with it afterwards. You don't have to be complete or specific, but just toss some ideas around and jot down notes. I do this for several days before I CREATE a Db. I will CREATE a membership list for the combined but separate clubs of the NorthCoast 99'ers and TI-Chips (sound familiar). The main use of this Db will be for the monthly mailing of the combined club newsletter. The second (important!) use will be to keep track of when each member's dues are due. I'd like to print all my data across one page so I keep in mind that I can print 132 columns in condensed print. Now I take the old list and visually scan it for the longest last name, first name, street address and city. I then add 2 or 3 spaces to the length of the longest item in each category. That will hopefully become the length of my FIELDS. In a DB each complete unit of Data would be a Record. In TI-Base (TIB) each Record can contain 17 FIELDS. So a FIELD might contain a persons last name, the next FIELD might contain that same persons first name, the next could be the street address, the city, etc. All these items (or FIELDS) together would make up one Record. In TIB each Record (REC) is given a number (REC 0001, 0027, etc.) do not confuse Record numbers with FIELD numbers (which you see below).

CLUB91 STRUCTURE

CREATED 07/08/91 CHANGED 07/10/91

FIELD	DESCRIPTOR	TYPE	WIDTH	DEC
1	NM	C	006	
2	LN	C	015	
3	FN	C	015	
4	MI	C	002	
5	NL	N	003	00
6	SA	C	025	
7	CT	C	020	
8	ST	C	002	
9	ZP	C	005	
10	PH	C	012	
11	XP	D	008	
12	GP	C	002	
13	LTS	N	002	00

Now that I've wet your appetite for the first Db, we're not going to do that yet. In the last Tutorial I hit the ground running with a bunch of stuff on Command Files, Printouts and a lot of confusing junk. You should be able to think about our first Db (CLUB91 or whatever) and jot down notes about it while I re-explain TIBS startup. When you put your COPY (not the original) of TIB in drive 1 and select Extended Basic (from the TI power up screen) TI-Base will automatically load and run. After you watch the little load bar crawl across the screen TIB will print MM/DD/YY on the screen and ask you for the date. Enter the date as Month/Day/Year, and don't leave out any zeros or slashes. For example July 10, 1991 would be entered as 07/10/91. The system will use this date and we will want to use it also, so enter it carefully each time you start up TIB. After you enter the date and TIB finishes loading you will be left with a period (the Dot prompt) with the cursor flashing next to it. "That's all!" You must enter all your direct Commands at the Dot prompt (Dp), so get used to it. If you type something at the Dp and press Enter (<E>), TIB will either accept or reject your Command, drop down one line and give you another Dp. The only Commands TIB will accept and act upon are those in the manual, under the conditions given in the manual. Enter a Command TIB doesn't recognize or break a rule and all you get is an error message. "Sounds like about as much fun as dropping a brick on your little toe." Any Command that can be typed and executed at the Dp can also be place together with other Commands in a Command File. A Command File (CF) can then be executed with the Command DO and all the Commands in that CF will be executed. "If you're trying to figure out what the heck I just said, glance through that manual again." The reason I dragged you through all this is because, if you made it to the Dp, TIB has already executed a CF. The CF I'm referring to is SETUP and it's quite important. It contains the information TIB needs to SET itself UP for your system. This means that SETUP can help or hinder you greatly with the use of TIB, so you must put the right information or Commands in the SETUP file.

Original TIB SETUP CF

```

*
*      Welcome to TI-BASE
*      QUIT will terminate TI-BASE
*
* PRINTER EPSON
SET CURSOR 2
DO DSK1.RESET
DISPLAY STATUS
*      FUNCTION (7) for help.
RETURN

```

The printout you see above is of the original SETUP file I received with TIB except for the line that reads DO DSK1.RESET. I added that line, as you will, later, but first we need to CREATE the CF named RESET. Note: If you managed to fight your way through the last Tutorial, with all of the Printout CF stuff, this should be familiar. Let's try to CREATE the RESET CF. But first, another confusing but necessary side track. We need to make some needed room on the TIB disk in drive 1 (or make another copy).

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