

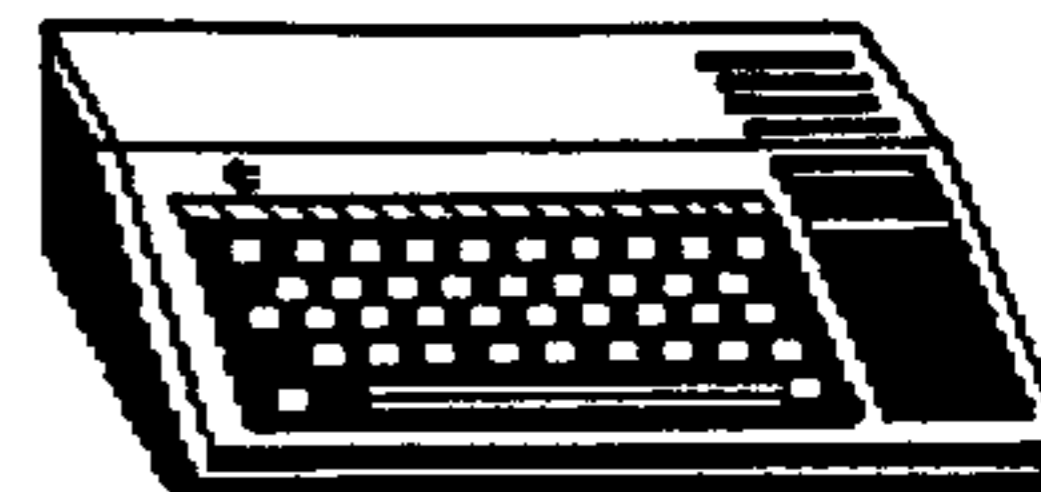


CLEVELAND AREA

TI-99/4A

USER GROUPS

MAY 1995



OFFICE	TI-CHIPS	MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Glenn Bernasek 238-6335	10-12:00 A.M.
CO-PRESIDENT	Virgil Thomason 1264-7779	N. Royalton
TREASURER	Lin Shaw 235-3912	County Library
MEMBERSHIP	John Parken 331-2830 4172 W. 217th St. Fairview Pl., OH 44126	State Rd. 80. of Route 82 1/4mi <u>EVERY THIRD SAT.</u>
SECRETARY	D. Stockdale 345-5239	
DISK LIBRARY	Les Kee 238-6938	MAY 20, 1995
TAPE & MODS	John Parken 331-2830	JUN 17, 1995
HARD COPY	Harry Hoffman 631-2354	JUL 15, 1995

OFFICE	NORTHCOAST	MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Ken Gladyszewski 1357-7274	1-4 P.M.
CO-PRESIDENT	Walt Ryder 921-8223	Euclidian Room
Treasurer	Frank Jenkins 283-8526	Euclid Sq. Mall
MEMBERSHIP	Martin Smoley 1-257-1661 6149 Bryson Mentor, OH 44060	N.260th off I-90 (South) <u>EVERY THIRD SAT.</u>
SECRETARY	Deanna Sheridan 333-5986	
DISK LIBRARY	Martin Smoley 1-257-1661	MAY 20, 1995
TAPE & MODS	Frank Jenkins 283-8526	JUN 17, 1995
HARD COPY	Dick Alden 1-352-9172	JUL 15, 1995



From the Editor's Desk:



In case you have not heard by now, Harry Hoffman, on very short notice had to have heart bypass surgery. He almost went the maximum with five bypasses, and as I write this, he is doing fine. It will be awhile before he gets back to his normal strength, and so ye olde (in more ways than one) newsletter editor, Deanna, will be taking over again for a couple of months.

I am without the benefit of other newsletters to get a grasp of what is going on, so will expound a bit about Lima and the TI. Marty, Ken and I rode down as we have done for several years now. I know our spouses could never understand how we could talk TI for 2 1/2 hours down, spend the day with TI people and have even more TI stuff to talk about on the way home.

As you will note in Marty's notes, the attendance was noticeably smaller than in previous years. We are getting down to the precious few, and hopefully those we saw this year we will continue to see for many years to come.

The good news is that there were several NEW items that can prove to be very exciting. The hardware project is the AMS (or expanded memory) card. After the schematics for this card were put in the public domain, the Southwest 99ers took it on as a project and it is ready to ship. We are including some articles by Jim Krych, a local T1er, and an order form. You can get an AMS card for as little as \$85.00. Let's face it, for most of us, our TI has become our hobby computer. Look around you and see what people spend on their hobbies. Already a

couple of software programmers are planning to include the features of the AMS in their software. At the moment the only actual running program that comes with the AMS card is a Monopoly game. But if enough of us spent our \$85.00 to encourage programmers, I am sure that before long, there would be many other programs. This can open up a new world for the TI for very little expense, especially when you consider what most of us spent for our Ram Disks, Hard Drives, and Hard Drive Controllers.

New software at Lima included a preview of TERM 80. This program is being written by a 15-year old Canadian student by the name of Jeffrey Brown. It will open up a whole new world for those who do not have 80-column cards or access to a DOS machine when logging onto bulletin boards. TERM 80 is an 80-column terminal emulator program for the TI for which you do NOT need an 80-column device. The author of this program has agreed to make it compatible with the AMS card. Charlie Good demoed it at Lima, but said the author would not give permission to distribute it yet as not all of the bugs were out of the Xmodem transfer area.

Evidently additional features have been added to the 80-column editor of Funnelweb. We did not arrive in time to see Charlie's demo, and as of this date, I have not had time to load and check it out for myself. However, Marty and I did get copies and they will be available in the library. Perhaps next month, I can feature an article in the newsletter. Jim Krych said that Tony McGovern was anxious to have an AMS card available.

Hopefully, if he gets one, we could encourage him to add the features that have gone into the 80-column editor to the 40-column editor. Either of these software programs should be reason enough to get an AMS card to encourage software development.

The other new software we saw demoed was Rich Gilbertson's RICHXB. This is another package which adds features to TI's Extended Basic. Unfortunately, at the moment it will only work with a GENEVE or a Gram device. Again, this package seems a perfect candidate for the AMS card so that all TIER's could take advantage of its features. In his demo Charlie Good concentrated on the Batch File feature. If you use a DOS machine or even a GENEVE, you are familiar with Batch files. They are actual little programs that do a series of repetitive tasks for you without your having to continually retype them. Charlie started out with a disk with only one program on it. He ran his batch file which took information and made a new file. From that file, he extracted information that made a new file. By the time he ended, he had a disk full of runnable programs, and he had not touched the keyboard. Marty Smoley was very excited about this program, and I am sure that you will see some articles in the newsletter, and he plans his demo for the July meeting to be on this program.

I have said that you always learn something new when doing the newsletter. From day one of Newsletter Printer, I was under the assumption that it WOULD NOT work with a Geneve. I remember trying to load it with the Util program and everything locked up. Well, I don't usually use the editor anyway, preferring Funnelweb. I decided to try putting just the NL files (the final draft files that do the printing) on the Geneve to see what happened. It worked! This has been a big help to me. Harry uses PagePro a lot in the newsletter and I find it dreadfully slow on the TI, but very usable on the Geneve. Always before, I had to do part of the newsletter on the Geneve and then switch to the TI for final printing. Now I can do it all on one machine!

Last, but not least, we are inviting ALL current Tiers and X-Tiers to our June meeting for some fellowship and fun. That includes the Chips group and anyone they may know. In a couple of weeks, I am going to post a notice on the IBM section of FREENET (where I know a lot of our X-users visit). All we ask is that you call Marty or myself because we want to get a party tray and refreshments. We don't want to order for 50 and only 20 people show up. Thus, please give one of us a call or leave me a message on Freenet (aa726) by the weekend of June 9.



TI-CHIPS Executive Notes

Minutes of the TI-Chips - April 15, 199

The meeting was called to order by Co-president Glenn Bernasek at 10:00 AM. The minutes of March were included in the newsletter.

Lin Shaw gave the treasurer's report. We had a net gain of \$7.40 for the past month.

The situation arose again of not finding a set of by-laws and constitution. Following a discussion, the motion prevailed that we put a notice in the newsletter to the effect that if any past or present member of TI-Chips has such a copy, please notify any officer of the group. In the event copies are not found by the July meeting, a committee will be established to draw up new by-laws and constitution.

Report from John Parkens on membership indicates a stable number for the last six months.

Les Kee gave his library report. There is a group of 11 disks in the library that give a complete listing of the disks available in the TI-Chips library. Be aware that they are written in the standard DV/80 format, on SSSD disks.

We will be looking forward to a report on the Lima Fair on April 29 from the delegates from Cleveland. John

Parken announced that he has the raffle tickets ready for raffling off the nice laser-jet printer. The tickets will be available at \$3.00 ea., or two for \$5.00. Advanced sales were available to Cleveland members (up to 25). Virgil will handle sales at Lima.

Ron Markus reported some unexpected news about Harry Hoffman's forthcoming heart catheterization and by-pass operation. Our prayers are surely with Harry and Nina. If you wish to extend your concerns, write to:

Harry Hoffman
3925 Trowbridge Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44109-1349

Les Kee gave a demo on "Computer Checkers". Made a few moves on the monitor and it worked quite well. (my recording ended here, due to technical problems with the second cassette!)

A second demo was given by Jim Krych. He is a member of a new group, Group X, that has been working for five years on the Asgard Memory System, with 128K capacity. He spoke of three maxims:

TI CHIPS NOTES - CONTINUED

1. To free you from the use of Ram Disks. 2. No need for a DSR. 3. AMS is not a Ram Disk, but rather a card for pure memory.

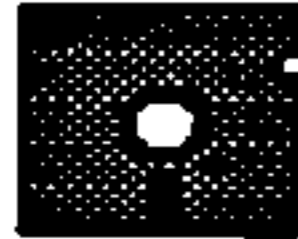
Who can use the AMS system?

1. The average user.
2. Assembler program. Macro Assembler, linker, & loader.
3. C-99 modified compiler, for use with the above.

4. XBasic - XB Packer. (This is the extent of my notes and comprehension of the AMS system. Please feel free to elaborate!)

Meeting moved to 'Shop, Talk, etc.' A drawing was made and the person listed as secretary WON. (Hum-m)
Adjourned at noon.

Dinsmore Stockdale
Secretary (?)



NORTHCOAST 99ers Executive Notes

The April meeting was called to order by Co President Walt Ryder. Frank Gave the Treasurer's Report.

This brought on a lengthy discussion about what some consider as excess funds in our treasury. Bruce moved that we reduce our cash assets by sending \$20.00 to all members as of January 1, 1994. The motion was seconded. The discussion became very heated as to whether this was the right way to reduce our treasury. An attempt was made in that direction last year when we decided to quit charging dues. However, since the newsletter printing costs are less, it has not gone down as much as anticipated.

Someone asked if we had a quorum to actually vote on the matter. There was more discussion as to what the constitution meant by active members, ie., whether those who are long-distance members are to be considered "active members" even though they never attend (or couldn't if they wanted) a meeting. It was determined that the best way would be to put forth a proposal to change the constitution so that the number to determine a quorum would be more in line with the number that normally attends a meeting.

Marty has made a plea on a separate page for as many members as possible to attend the next meeting so that we can make this change to the constitution. I believe it

will take about 18 to 20 to attend. If we cannot get this many at one meeting, we will have to send out proxies through the mail.

Since it was determined we did not have a quorum present, no action was taken on the motion.

Les Kee demoed a program which calculated continued fractions. He had no practical use for it, but thought the process was interesting.

Bruce Rodenkirch demoed a solitaire game which has been modified by Ron Minadeo and is now in the club library.

Bernie Zuckerman will be giving the May demo, and I am told that he has been working diligently on it. There will also be reports and discussions of the Lima event by those who attended.

Be sure you keep the June meeting date open for some fun and refreshments. We will have all kinds of TIs set up; Ken will have his robot and duelling stepper motors. We have asked Bernie to dust off his home burglar alarm system. Should be fun!

See you in May.

DEANNA



June 1, 1995

Your Name
Any Street
USA

Reunion Committee

<i>Deanna Sheridan</i>	<i>Martin Smoley</i>
<i>20311 Lake Road</i>	<i>6149 Bryson Drive</i>
<i>Rocky River, Ohio</i>	<i>Mentor, Ohio</i>
<i>44116</i>	<i>44060-2324</i>

Dear Current Member of TI-Chips or NorthCoast,

As you may know, the NorthCoast 99'ers will hold their first reunion on June 17, 1995. At the April meeting it was decided that TI-Chips should be included in this event.

Therefore the invitation goes like this.

All current members of the TI-Chip TI99/4A Users Group and all current and past members of the NorthCoast TI99/4A Users Group are invited to the First Annual NorthCoast 99'ers reunion. It will be held in the Euclidian Room at the Euclid Square Mall (our normal meeting location), on Saturday, June 17, from 1:30 to 4:30PM. There will be food and non-alcoholic beverages.

The only requirement is that you let us know if you are going to attend the reunion so we can order enough food for everyone. You may contact either Deanna or me. Our addresses and phone numbers are on this page.

The Reunion Committee
invites you
to a NorthCoast Reunion
being held in the

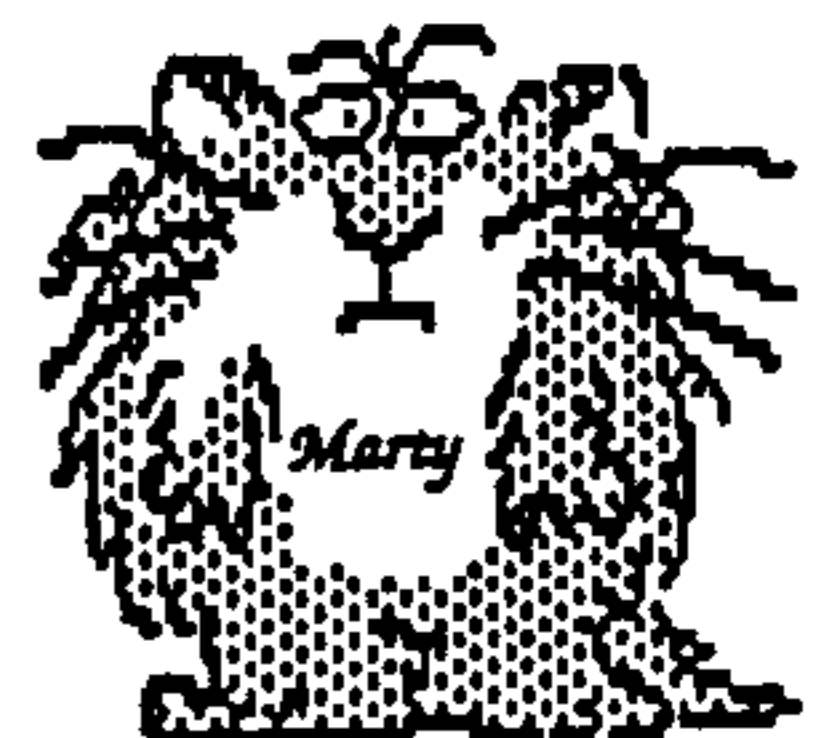
Euclidian Room

at the Euclid Square Mall
on Saturday, June 17, 1995
from 1:30 to 4:30PM

R.S.V.P.
333-5986



R.S.V.P.
1-257-1661



Printed with FunnelWeb, Final Copy, and my TI99/4A.



By *Martin A. Smoley* © April 29, 1995

6149 Bryson Drive, Mentor, Ohio 44060-2324

It is very
Important
that you read this.

The NorthCoast 99'ers Group is in a crisis.

We desperately need the help of our members.

Although our membership is holding steady at about 51 members, the attendance at the monthly meetings is not. As a matter of fact, the number of members who attend our monthly meetings has dropped below the quorum (the number that is required by our bylaws to conduct club business). This is a problem because we cannot make decisions or pay our bills.

The answer to our problem is to change the bylaws and reduce the number of members that are required for a quorum.

The problem with the answer is that we need a quorum to change the size of the quorum.

Therefore, we need as many members as possible to attend the next meeting. We must have enough members present to change our bylaws and correct this problem.

Please attend our next meeting.

Some Rhetoric.

I am both saddened by the Lima meeting and happy at the same time. I am sad because I can see the signs of the times. The number of TI'ers attending the conference was not nearly what it should have been. It was a nice group, but way too small. I like to be in a place where I feel comfortable, because the people there, with me, are familiar, but in this case I am not happy. The group was so small that I recognized almost everyone. When I attend the Lima Conference it would be nice if the building was so packed, with TI'ers, that we could barely walk from one display to another.

Disregarding low turnout, what part of the Lima Conference made me happy? Everything! For me, going to the Lima Conference is like a short trip away from reality. It is like a gathering of model train collectors or a bunch of bird watchers. The TI is a hobby. The TI is fun and entertaining, and so are the people who are associated with the TI. I normally ride over to Lima with Deanna and Ken, and the ride to Lima is as great as the Conference itself. Whenever you have more than one TI'er in a spot for some time, it turns into a TI convention.

My TI

When I print something for our Newsletter I include the line, "Printed with my Canon LBP-8 mkIII printer using FunnelWeb 5.01 and my TI99/4A". I am trying to show TI users that they can print beautiful pages, for the Newsletter, or just a letter to a friend. I put a lot of work into some pages, but once a letterhead is created, filling in the rest of a personal letter is easy. New printers like the Epson Stylus Ink-Jet are as low as one hundred and sixty seven dollars. Canon BJ-200 printers are under \$200. Writing a beautiful letter, using your TI99/4A is not hard and you can really impress your friends

Your Friend. Marty.

THE SUPER AMS CARD

Taken from Internet Postings by James Krych
ab453@cleveland.freenet.edu

Edited and commented on by Deanna Sheridan - NorthCoast 99ers

The dream of the TI world for several years has been to be able to break the 32-K memory block of the TI-99/4A. Many said it could not be done. Others said it could, but disagreed on the method. Either two or three years ago, Asgard announced they had developed a board which gave us this memory. It had a very limited distribution, was quite expensive and no promise of any software behind it. As we all know, Asgard soon left the TI Community and we all thought their extended memory card or anyone else's for that matter, would ever see the light of day.

A young man by the name of James Krych, who many in the TI world probably never heard of as a shaker and mover in the community, had put much time, and I suspect, money into this project and didn't want to see it die. Also, possibly unknown to a lot of us, he is a local person and started on this project while in the Coast Guard and away from the Cleveland area. Upon his return last year, he visited the clubs and tried to stir up some interest in this card with little success. The schematics for the card were put in the public domain if anyone wanted to build one of their own.

One of our user groups, the Southwest 99ers decided this was too valuable to project to let die. They worked with Jim in finding a PCB designer to convert schematics into PCB artwork. With what Jim had learned at two PCB shops, he commenced to design and debug a prototype PCB, the SuperAMS!. His dream had come true.

The card was in production and ready to ship by the time of the Lima 95 Fair. These cards include everything a programmer needs to write programs to take advantage of the AMS card. Hopefully, this will encourage new software, which will also encourage new hardware buyers and a whole new world will have opened up for TI users.

This card can be purchased for as little as \$85.00 for the 128K version and are \$100 for the 256K. Prices have not be set for cards with higher sizes of ram because of the cost of the chips.

Besides Jim, he gives much credit to Brad Snyder, Jeff Brown, Art Green, Joe Delekto, Jon Dyer, Tony Lewis, Chris Bobbitt, and others.

So, what can the Super AMS do for you, and what is it? The SuperAMS is not a randisk. A randisk is nothing more than a solid state floppy disk. A randisk still must load it's contents INTO memory, which is a 32k card, or a SuperAMS a randisk is NOT then, memory for the computer to use, for program and data. SuperAMS IS a memory card system that allows the 99/4A to have greater sized programs in memory at once, without a need to load modules, etc. from a randisk, floppy, hard disk, etc. With SuperAMS, it is all in memory.

Memory then that can be used for program code AND data, without the constraints of the old 32k card. Super AMS does this by a technique known as memory mapping. The upper 24k of the TI memory map, is a window for us to use 4k chunks, pages, and have them pointed, not loaded into, and run. With the SuperAMS, the lower 8k is also mapped out. Our system allows a minimum size of 4k for a program module, all the way up to 24k!

For the average user, SuperAMS allows greater sized programs for productivity and games, WITHOUT the need for other expensive peripherals. The Super AMS replaces the 32k card, in what is called PASS Mode. All of your old software is still good. The TI only sees a 32k card in this mode.

Software, then, needs to be written to take advantage of this expanded memory. Some software HAS been written to take advantage, such as XB Packer to allow 5 XB programs in memory at once, more with updated versions, and the 72k game, TI-Mopoly. But software written for the 32k will only see the 32k. SuperAMS cannot magically make a TI Writer have a bigger buffer, Multiplan a larger spreadsheet, or Telco a greater screen size for capturing text.

I believe that Jim, his fellow software and hardware developers of this card, and the Southwest 99ers have sent us a challenge we cannot afford to pass up if we want to keep the TI alive. At first, I did not believe that I needed this card since I have a GENEVE with a hard drive, but the more I have thought about it, the \$85.00 is really small price to pay to help keep the TI going, and my order is now in the mail! How about you!

SuperAMS Order Sheet

NAME: _____ [] AVERAGE USER
 ADDRESS: _____ [] PROGRAMMER
 _____ [] HARDWARE DESIGNER

 PHONE: _____

INVOICE

PRODUCT NAME		PRICE	AMOUNT	TOTAL
SuperAMS	128k	\$85.00		
SuperAMS	256k	\$100.00		
SuperAMS	512k			
SuperAMS	1024k			
OTHER (SALES TAX)				
SHIPPING AND HANDLING				\$5.00
TOTAL PRICE				
[] CHECK		[] MONEY ORDER		
Make Check or Money Order out to: SW99ers				
Mailing Address:				
SouthWest 99ers	Box 17831	Tuscon, AZ	85730	

**Cleveland Area User Groups
 % Harry Hoffman
 3925 Troubridge Ave.
 Cleveland, OH 44109-1349**



**Check your Expiration Date
 This may be your LAST issue!**

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

**Due to the rising cost of the Newsletter:
 Newsletter only cost is \$12.00
 Full membership price - \$15.00 w/library priveleges.
 Join either club. See front cover for membership chairs.**

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