



CLEVELAND AREA TI-99/4A USER GROUPS July/August, 1996



OFFICE	TI-CHIPS	MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Fred Ialacci 941-9397	10-12:00 A.M.
CO-PRESIDENT	Jim Krych 979-9295	N. Royalton
TREASURER	Lin Shaw 235-3912	County Library
MEMBERSHIP	John Parken 331-2830 4172 W. 217th St. Fairview Pk., OH 44126	State Rd. SO. of Route 82 1/4mi EVERY THIRD SAT.
SECRETARY	Glenn Bernaset 238-6335	
DISK LIBRARY	Les Kee 238-6938	JUN 15, 1996
TAPE & MODS	John Parken 331-2830	JUL 21, 1996
EDITOR	Harry Hoffman 631-2354	AUG 18, 1996

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 6149 Bryson Mentor, OH 44060	E.260th off I-90 (South) EVERY THIRD SAT.
SECRETARY	Deanna Sheridan 333-5986	
DISK LIBRARY	Martin Smoley 12162571661	JUN 15, 1996
TAPE & MODS	Frank Jenkins 283-8526	JUL 21, 1996
HARD COPY	Dick Alden 12162571661	AUG 18, 1996



From the Editor's Desk:

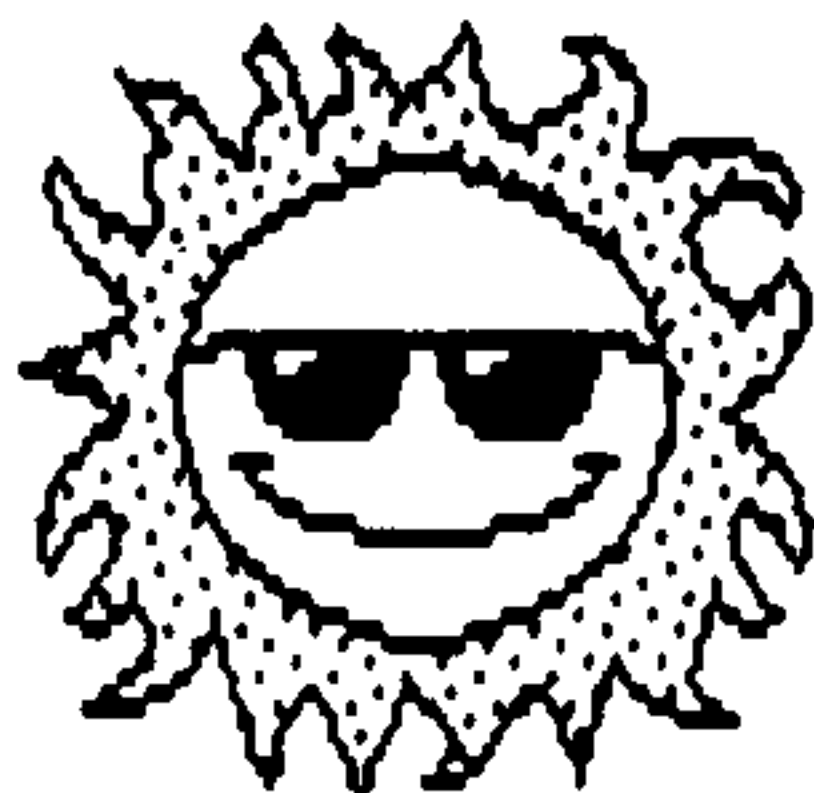


Hi Tiers,

Well, Harry does it again! Giving you a two month issue without any warning and letting you stew for a month waiting for your newsletter. FUN, isn,t it!

I was going to do an article about getting together on the internet with articles, etc. I think this letter is full, so I will wait till next month and hope for the best. The Ohio Mug brought this on with the leaders' conference and the fact that some clubs are not able to finance a newsletter. There are many ways to get on the 'NET' for free and communicate with each other. Tom Wills, from the SouthWest 99ers of Tucson, has done a great job of getting as many Tiers to sign on to a FREE "List Server" on the Net. I will bring copies of the Usenet article to the meeting so all interested parties can sign up. Tom will run the server and all who sign up can write Email to the server and ALL will get the message. That is; all Tiers will get the message. What a good way to communicate and get help or send help to others. It is also terrific for newsletter editors to find out the latest information! Tom's upload will be in the next newsletter.

I am running out of steam and will see you all at the next meeting.
Keep on TI'ing.



GLORIOUS WEATHER 000



by DEANNA SHERIDAN
JUNE/JULY, 1996

Meeting was called to order by Walt Ryder who also read the treasurer's report. There was no old business. Under new business Bruce Rodenkirch moved that we bring down our treasury by disbursing an amount equally among members. Seconded by Jim Harris. A lively discussion followed regarding the pros and cons. In the end the motion was defeated.

There was additional discussion about getting on the Internet through the library. Evidently certain areas are no longer open to you unless you have a library card.

Marty will have the demo in July and Bruce in August.

Deanna demoed three programs she picked up at the NUG conference as follows:

Label Program from Secure Electronics; \$20.00.

I had seen this program reviewed favorably and wanted to get it for two reasons; as far as I know, it is the first TI program that will print postal bar codes on addresses and it will use a cannon bubble jet. I made no dip switch modifications, etc. to print my labels. The program will print as many copies of ONE label at a time as you wish. It will also print with or without the bar codes, and will also print "filing labels" which have additional information you can store in your database such as phone numbers, both for home and business and notes you may have attached to the file. Notice that I said above "one label at a time". You must have on hand a printed copy of all the names in your database and call up the label you want by its numerical position or EXACT name. Before the program exits, it allows you to print another, etc. I had hoped that it would print a "list" of names so that if you were doing labels for a mailing for your organization, they could all be printed at once. Since it is an X-Basic program, I assume a good programmer could insert a loop that would allow you to do exactly that.

Load Master Version 2.1 by Mickey Cendrowski -
Fairware

It will automatically catalog a disk in drive 1 and give you information as to all the files on your disk. If you have a TI-Writer file, instead of saying it is a DV-80 file, it tells you it is a TI-Writer file, etc. with assembly, Basic and X-Basic. At this time, you can print out a label for your disk, a disk jacket, a disk insert, or a DV-80 file to create a continuing catalog. This program will also work with a bubblejet printer without any special modifications.

TIA Color - By Bruce Harrison - Fairware

This will allow you to print color TI-Artist pictures on your color bubblejet. I had several GIF pictures I had converted to Artist format with GIFMania several years ago. I loaded the program, it searched the disk for the Artist pictures and I simply chose the one I wanted to print. I had one of hot air balloons that I thought would give the program a good workout. It takes the pictures and prints in the primary colors of red, blue, green, yellow and does quite a decent job. Depending on the resolution of your pictures (size of the dots or squares) will depend on whether it looks boxy or not. It has no power to do any shading; therefore, a pink will come out red, etc. Any color will be translated into the closest primary color. I was pleasantly surprised by the results. The time taken to print a page is about 5 minutes on my Canon BJC 610.

In July, most of the business was taken up with a continuation of the access to internet through our Cleveland Public Library system. Apparently, it is better to have a library card number to input and you have more chance of getting to the internet pages.

Marty demoed more on TI-Basic and an interesting conversation followed. His demo pages are in this newsletter. Bruce Rodenkirch is giving a demo next meeting.



SEE YOU:

AT AT THE NEXT MEETING!!!

TI-CHIPS MINUTES
BY GLENN BERNASEK

The June meeting of the TI-Chips was opened by Fred Lalacci, and it soon became evident that the subject of the day would be how the 1996 TI-99/4A and Geneve 9640 Multi-User Group Conference (also dubbed "MUG'96" and more recently the "Ohio Conference") came off. However before we got into our collective review of MUG'96, Fred had the officers give their respective reports.

Lin Shaw distributed copies of the Treasurer's report to the officers and stated that the club account was still quite solvent. Lin will mail me a copy of the completed MUG'96 account balance sheet and I will create a final conference cost report for both the Chips and Northcoast 99ers. (It appears that the total cost for the 1996 conference, excluding the Jim Peterson Achievement awards and the color printer raffle, came within \$25 of the original estimate predicted last fall.)

Neither John Parken (Membership) nor Les Kee (Disk Library) had respective reports to make at the June meeting. However, Les Kee brought up a possible inclusion of the TI-Chips in the Sun Newspaper "Calendar of Events" sections. Les showed us a sample article his wife wrote for a similar announcement. The general consensus was that it was a good idea and we should give it a try.

The next subject up for discussion was, at long last, the 1996 TI-99/4A and Geneve 9640 Multi-user Group Conference held in Brook Park this last May 25. The comments from the membership was, for the most part, very positive. We did say that we learned from our mistakes. It was reported that we (TI-Chips and Northcoast 99ers) received several complimentary letters and words of appreciation from members of the TI community. It is heart warming indeed to know the Cleveland User Groups were able to provide an appreciated and seemingly successful service for our fellow TIers. This recognition was especially apparent in a lead article by Charles Good in the June issue of Bits, Bytes & Pixels. Thank you Charles.

The order list of customers for the video tapes was turned over to Jack Koryta. Jack reported that there will be three tapes in the set. The first two tapes will contain the classroom presentations and demos and the third tape will be the videos taken by our roving camera man, Les Kee.

However long the 'after glow' lasts, the TI-Chips could not escape one basic fact. Although the team work worked very well in the preparation and execution of the conference, we feel that too much of our group's energy and concentration is required to continue to host a conference year-after-year in Cleveland. Therefore the

TI-Chips has decided, by unanimous agreement, to announce that the "Ohio TI-99/4A and Geneve 9640 Multi-user Group Conference" will NOT be held in Cleveland, Ohio in 1997. The TI-Chips will be happy to host the conference on an ALTERNATING YEAR basis. This decision has been e-mailed to Charles Good of the Lima user group and Dick Beery of C.O.N.I.. This will allow other Ohio user groups enough time to start their plans for the 1997 show.

Be rest assured, the TI-Chips will be happy to provide any and all the help we can. We've learned a lot and we can help a lot. Let's keep TIing in Ohio. We're far from dead.

A question of what was discussed at the multi-user groups officers meeting. I reported that there were basically two subjects of interest. First was the conference itself. How much it cost in dollars, people and time. I reported that Charles Good said that Lima would take over the conference in 1997 if it is necessary and that Dick Beery of C.O.N.I. was surprised at how little it cost to reserve a conference area as large as the armory.

Second, there were some concerns about being able to continue publishing newsletters by certain user groups. Fred Lalacci asked how much newsletter material was 'regurgitated' from other publications. Harry Hoffman said it was quite a bit. Fred then asked if there were newsletter articles from other user groups that he, or the Chips, haven't seen. Harry said there were. Fred then suggested that the 'outside newsletters' be brought in to the meeting for member perusal. That way, if a member finds something interesting, the article can be copied on site with the library copier. This idea was accepted unaniamously.

Ron Markus (Rae Charged Computers) showed the large selection of hardware merchandise he has available for the TI community. Ron showed us cables (printer and peripherals), null modems, 5 1/4" floppy disks (getting hard to find) and much, much more. Rae Charged Computer is still, and will be for a long time, our best one stop shopping source for the TI-99/4A and Geneve 9640.

John Parken showed us the TI-99/8 system on loan from Steve Eggers. One little problem, John forgot to bring the video cable. So John gave us a super VERBAL presentation on the operation of the TI-99/8. It may not have been a 'working' demo, but what John told us was super! Thanks John. And a very special thanks to Steve Eggers!

Virgil Thomason won the 50:50 raffle. Congratulations Virgil.

TI-CHIPS JULY MINUTES

The July meeting of the TI-Chips was called to order by Fred Lalacci.

Lin Shaw gave his Treasurer's report, and he reported that the conference didn't make as much of a dent in the balance sheet as was first thought. This was good news. I then submitted an updated MUG'96 cost sheet. When the bottom line was calculated, we found that we were just \$39 short of the break even point. Not bad for the first time out.

John Parken said the Chips membership was still at a solid 24.

Les Kee had nothing new to report on the disk library. However, it was noted that Harry Hoffman and Vonn Malcuit spent the better part of the night copying 70 disks provided by the Lima User Group. These new additions will be included in future updates. Thanks to Harry, Vonn and the Lima users.

Fred then turned the meeting over to me for the MUG'96 video tape status report. I gave the floor to our tape producer, Jack Koryta, who reported that there would be only two tapes for the MUG'96. This is because Jack made the extra effort to delete dead space from the master tapes. This meant the tapes are much more tightly packed. (Less search time will be required for specific shows.) Refund checks will be sent along with tape orders (\$5 for those who paid \$15 and \$1 w/ the extra blank tape to those who provided three tapes and a \$3 payment). Jack said he was much more comfortable using TI Artist for the titles at this time. We know that Bruce Harrison gave the Chips his Titler program for the conference tapes, but Jack felt more confident using TI Artist. Jack said he was making copies at home as he spoke. The tapes will be ready for shipment in July and August.

I then read a letter I received from Bruce Harrison. Bruce naturally expressed his interest in the Tapes. Bruce also paid the Cleveland Area Users groups (TI-Chips and North Coast 99ers) a wonderful compliment on the conference. John Parken said, "A letter like that (Bruce's) makes it all worth while." John then opened a discussion on the high quality software written by Bruce Harrison. A recent shining example is Bruce's TI Font routine. John was very impressed at the quality and quantity of custom fonts available for both 9 and 24 pin dot matrix printers. The Chips were in unanimous agreement that Bruce Harrison's talent and generous release of his routines to public domain has gone a long way in keeping the TI-99/4A alive when it comes to new and useful software.

I then reported that our meeting room has been reserved for 1997. The Chips voted unanimously to continue meeting at the North Royalton branch of Cuyahoga County Library. I also reported that MUG'96 articles and pictures were submitted to MICROpendium for publication. There hasn't been any acknowledgement from MICROpendium so all we can do is hope the submissions haven't been lost.

I also announced that the "1997 Ohio Conference" will

be hosted by the Lima User Group. Charles Good will publish any and all announcements for the 1997 conference. The TI-Chips decided that our treasury couldn't withstand an annual conference cost drain indefinitely. However, we did agree to host the "Ohio Conference" in 1998.

Harry offered some comments regarding the newsletter editor's job. Harry said producing a newsletter with minimum or no input was difficult at best. Trying to construct a full size newsletter from a limited supply of articles was taking too much of his already tight and limited scheduled. Several suggestions were offered.

1. The newsletter doesn't have to be a full ten pages long. The purpose of a newsletter is a communication medium for user group membership. A single page of club minutes would be sufficient if that is all there is to publish.

2. The newsletter is a must for user group membership. As Fred said later, "A newsletter was paid for with part of the member's dues."

3. If "outside" articles can be found to contain useful information, then we will continue to re-print these articles in our newsletter. (We would really rather have original Cleveland area user group articles.)

4. It was also suggested that the Cleveland Area User Groups (TI-Chips and North Coast 99ers) consider discussing the possibility of establishing a new/revised policy on newsletter distribution to other user groups (i.e., e-mail distribution, internet posting, bimonthly or quarterly land mailing). This could serve to reduce costs somewhat and ease the editor's load.

John Parken gave us a "working" demonstration of Steve Egger's TI-99/8. However we didn't set up the club's TI-99/4A for this month's meeting. Therefore a benchmark comparison of the 99/8 versus the 99/4A couldn't be made. John will write Steve and ask him if we could keep the 99/8 one more month to run a comparison test. (John Parken stated that Geneve "A-Basic" programming language will work in the 99/8.)

Les Kee asked if we could have a demonstration on how to call up the World Wide Web through the County Library system. Contact was made with the library administration and they offered to assist us. I was asked if I would do the Telco demo and I said I would be happy to. I also agreed to download Rich Polivka's WWW home page article from Steve Egger about the TI-99/8 for publication elsewhere in this newsletter. ~~(Ed. Note: Not done)~~

In closing, we were advised that Ron Markus, Ramcharged Computers, has decided that he would no longer set up his wares at the meetings. Ron will take phone orders between meetings instead. All we have to do is call Ramcharged Computers at (216) 243-1244 for anything we may need or want in software and / or hardware for the TI-99/4A or Geneve 9640.

So much was discussed at the meeting that we forgot to conduct the 50/50 raffle this month. Oh well, there's always August. See you there!



The only thing I leave out is the arrow, "<--", in the space column. When I run the CF, it drops to the BOTTOM (CF line 025) of the Db and backs up until it finds the last "<--", which it put in and starts calculating from there. If you had a hundred entries this would save the time of grinding through all of them and jump to the new additions.

By *Martin A. Smoley* © July 15, 1996

6149 Bryson Drive, Mentor, Ohio 44060-2324

TI-Base Version 3.02

The first thing I need to say is that this is a Demo for the July meeting. Not a Newsletter article.

The printout you see below was produced by the CF that is listed on the next page. I use it and a Db to keep track of the monetary transactions for the clubs disk library, "and a couple other things". The report you see below is just as it prints out on my Star NX-1000II, except for some minor changes needed for the laserjet print which printed this page.

I simply append blanks to the Database which holds my information and then edit in the Date, Name, Item and all the rest of the information.

CF = DSKLIB95 Db = DSKLIB95

As you can see, I try to keep it as simple as possible. I SUM all the numeric fields to a LOCAL variable and use those values in the Totals line at the bottom of the printout. The bulk of the printing on the report is done by PRINT ALL (line 059). With the RECNUM and HEADING ON (lines 057-58), all of the headings, record numbers and all of the fields are dumped to the printed page. I tell the CF how to put in the comments and the totals and it's done.

You should notice that I use two separate types of printer control. Lines 22 through 24 have embedded codes which I put in with FunnelWeb. These codes will be passed through TI-Base to the printer to set up the heading line that includes NorthCoast 99'ers. The other type of control codes are those which are sent by TI-Base. Typical of these would be CF line 056, where I clear all codes with (Drft) and then set Emphasized with (E) and Condensed with (f).

If you don't make it to the meeting, you can write me if you have any questions. Good luck TIing.

Disk Library Report

NorthCoast 99'ers

12/14/95

REC	DATE	NAME	ITEM	CASH	MSCHECK	MCHECK	POSTAGE	DISK COST	BALANCE	SPACE	DISK_IN	DISKS_OUT	DBAL
0000	01/01/95	New NOCO Records for 1995	1994 Bal.	14.9	.00	.00	.00	.00	14.49 <--		5		5
0001	01/05/95	>Postage<	Membership	.0	.00	.00	-3.20	.00	11.29 <--				5
0002	02/01/95	>Postage< 1/5/95-2/1/95	Membership	.0	.00	.00	-1.92	.00	9.37 <--				5
0003	02/27/95	Harry Guenther	Disks	.0	6.65	.00	-1.65	.00	14.37 <--		-5		0
0004	03/03/95	>Postage< 2/1/95-3/3/95	Membership	.0	.00	.00	-1.28	.00	13.09 <--				0
0005	03/05/95	Purchased disks for Club	Library	.0	.00	.00	.00	-4.95	8.14 <--		25		25
0006	03/06/95	Check from Frank for the	Reunion	.0	50.00	.00	.00	.00	58.14 <--				25
0007	03/10/95	Mailing postage for	*REUNION*	.0	.00	.00	-44.80	.00	13.34 <--				25
0008	03/27/95	Martin Frankiewicz	Disks	.0	.00	6.50	-1.50	.00	11.84 <--		-5		20
0009	04/04/95	>Postage< 3/3/95-4/4/95	Membership	.0	.00	.00	-3.20	.00	8.64 <--				20
0010	05/04/95	>Postage< 4/4/95-5/4/95	Membership	.0	.00	.00	-3.20	.00	5.44 <--				20
0011	05/19/95	TO Frank Jenkins	Copy Disks	.0	.00	.00	.00	.00	5.44 <--		-6		14
0012	09/08/95	Edward E. Howard	Disks	.0	.00	19.50	-4.50	.00	0.94 <--		-17		-3
0013	09/16/95	Disks from Frank J to the	library	.0	.00	.00	.00	.00	0.94 <--		13		10
0014	11/09/95	Harry Guenther	Disks	.0	6.50	.00	-1.50	.00	5.94 <--		-7		3
Totals through 12/14/95				14.49	63.15		-66.75	-4.95	5.94	-----	43	-40	3

Checks made out to the NorthCoast 99'ers go directly to Frank J. 26.00

Current cash balance... 5.94
Disks currently on hand. 3

Marty



By *Martin A. Smoley* © July 15, 1996

6149 Bryson Drive, Mentor, Ohio 44060-2324

TI-Base Version 3.02

```

001 * CF to update DSKLIB95 and print
002 * a report on the NorthCoast disk
003 * Library transactions to date.
004 *
005 * filename = DSKLIB95/C
006 CLOSE ALL
007 USE DSK7.DSKLIB95
008 SET LSPACE=500
009 CLEAR LOCAL
010 LOCAL SUB_BAL N 7 2
011 LOCAL SUBDISK N 7 0
012 LOCAL TCASH N 7 2
013 LOCAL TMSCHK N 7 2
014 LOCAL TNCCHK N 7 2
015 LOCAL TPOSTG N 7 2
016 LOCAL TDSKCST N 7 2
017 LOCAL TDIN N 5 0
018 LOCAL TDOUT N 7 0
019 LOCAL TODAY D 8
020 REPLACE TODAY WITH .DATE.
021 LOCAL HEADER C 65
022 REPLACE HEADER WITH "xlDisk Library ";
023 | "Report'w1'w1'G NorthCoast 99'ers";
024 | "w0'w0'x0"
025 BOTTOM
026 WHILE (SPACE = " ")
027 MOVE -1
028 ENDWHILE
029 REPLACE SUB_BAL WITH BALANCE
030 REPLACE SUBDISK WITH DISK_BAL
031 MOVE
032 WHILE .NOT.(EOF)
033 REPLACE BALANCE WITH SUB_BAL + CASH;
034 + MSCHECK + POSTAGE + DISKCOST
035 REPLACE SUB_BAL WITH BALANCE
036 REPLACE DISK_BAL WITH SUBDISK + DISK_IN;
037 + DISKS_OUT
038 REPLACE SUBDISK WITH DISK_BAL
039 REPLACE SPACE WITH "<--"
040 MOVE
041 ENDWHILE
042 *
043 SUM CASH TO TCASH

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044 SUM MSCHECK TO TMSCHK
045 SUM NCHECK TO TNCCHK
046 SUM POSTAGE TO TPOSTG
047 SUM DISKCOST TO TDSKCST
048 SUM DISK_IN TO TDIN
049 SUM DISKS_OUT TO TDOUT
050 *
051 SET RECNUM OFF
052 SET HEADING OFF
053 PRINT " CF = DSKLIB95 Db = DSKLIB95"
054 PRINT (LF),(LF)
055 PRINT HEADER,TODAY,(LF)
056 PRINT (Drft),(E),(78-),(f),(LF)
057 SET RECNUM ON
058 SET HEADING ON
059 PRINT ALL
060 SET RECNUM OFF
061 SET HEADING OFF
062 PRINT (LF),(24),"Totals through ",;
063 TODAY," ",TCASH,TMSCHK,(8_),;
064 TPOSTG,TDSKCST,BALANCE,(7"),TDIN,TDOUT,;
065 (5 ),DISK_BAL,(LF)
066 PRINT "Checks made out to the ",;
067 "NorthCoast 99'ers go directly to ",;
068 "Frank J. ",TNCCHK,(LF)
069 PRINT (Drft),(E),(78-),(LF)
070 IF BALANCE < 0
071 PRINT " Current cash deficit.... ",;
072 BALANCE,(LF)
073 ELSE
074 PRINT " Current cash balance";
075 ".... ",BALANCE,(LF)
076 ENDIF
077 IF DISK_BAL < 0
078 PRINT " Current disk deficit ";
079 "is... ",DISK_BAL,(LF)
080 ELSE
081 PRINT " Disks currently on ";
082 "hand. ",DISK_BAL,(LF)
083 ENDIF
084 PRINT (78-),(LF)
085 CLOSE ALL
086 SET LSPACE=256
087 CLEAR LOCAL
088 SET RECNUM ON
089 SET HEADING ON
090 RETURN Copyright Martin A. Smoley 1993

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*Note: This will be the
July Meeting
Demonstration.*



LIBRARY UPDATE

July 1996

By Bruce Rodenkirch

Here is another batch of disks for your viewing pleasure. Now that nice weather has finally arrive it is hard to find time to work on the library. Harry told me that our copy crew got about 100 disks copied from the Lima Library at the MUG conference so we should be set for awhile. By the way, the MUG conference was really great and I really enjoyed myself. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this a success! It is good to see there are still so many people who love their TIs.

I have been surfing the Internet with my TI and spending far more time snooping around that I really should do. Other than pictures I have found that I can do just about anything the clones can do.

If you don't have Internet access join the freenet. Once you have e-mail access there are things you can investigate too. I have found some LISTSERVS which provide an interesting service. These servers handle long lists of groups on hundreds of subjects and if you are on the mailing list you will receive e-mail from people all over the world on any of these topics you sign up for. You can join in with your comments too. To get a list of these groups send an e-mail message to: LISTSERV*NETCOM.COM with one word in the body of the text and that is 'lists'. (By the way the '*' in the listserv address is the 'at' sign or 'shift 2' character. This character is a formatting command and may not survive the printing for this newsletter.)

After you send this one word message you will receive in a minute or two, a long-very long-list of topics. A help file is included with this list to take you from there. For example, say there is an item on the list named 'toads' and you want to know if this is a subject of interest to you, send another message to the above address with the message 'info toads'. Again, in a minute or so you will receive a description of this topic. If you want to receive mailings send another

message: subscribe toads and will be on the mailing list. If you decide you want to stop the mail send: unsubscribe toads.

Here are the addresses of other list servers. Again I will use an asterisk in place of the 'at' character. These addresses are normally sent in lower case letters but I have changed them to upper case for legibility. My freenet address is AA360*ACORN.NET.

LISTSERV*MORGAN.UCS.MUN.CA
LISTSERV*MITVMA.MIT.EDU
MAJORDOMO*WORLD.STD.COM
LISTSERV*SOUNDPRINT.BRANDYWINE.AMERICAN.EDU

And here are the new library disks:

DISK 96035: [DS/SD]

*ARTICLE - An article on the 80 column card which was published (and heavily edited) in Micropendium.

*README1ST- A letter dated Dec 19, 1994 from Kurt Radowich, Vienna, to Charlie Good in which he discusses the COURSE DESIGNER/AUTHORING PACKAGE (CDAP-see 96033) and the above *ARTICLE file. He also discusses some of the other programs on this disk, such as the G99110 GIF LOADER.

TOOL2UT et al: Harrison's MIDI Toolbox which is a set of Assembly programs designed to help the users of MIDI-Master 99 in working with their SNF source files.

DSDD2532 AND DSDD2564: The DSR routines from the 2532 and 2564 eproms and the two PAL's used in the original TI DS/DD disk controller card which was not released by TI after they stopped production of the TI-99 in 1983.

DISK 96036: [DS/SD]

This disk contains a variety of informative articles and some XB programs. I didn't run the programs but did look at some of the articles.

The articles are:

FAX- A discussion of fax machines.

LIBRARY UPDATE

By Bruce Rodenkirch

July 1996

FLIP- Jim Peterson reviews the pros and cons of "flippies".

MIDI-FILES: A tutorial on using the TI with MIDI machines.

SALLY- Jim Peterson tells how the TI does math operations.

TIANDBUSINESS- Use of the TI for business applications.

WINDOCS- Documentation for the WINDOWS programs (WINTI etc.) on this disk.

XB19- One of a series of XB tutorials by Jim Swedlow.

The XB programs are: CATALOG, DNOUGHT, HYPMOSIS, LINE-LIST, LOAD, PRIORITIZE, WINDOWS1, WINTI/O and WINTIA.

DISK 96037: [DS/SD]

This disk contains 51 files, some XB and many DV80 files. Here are SOME of the file names: XB--4A2WAFFER, APOLLO, CAT/9640, CAT/XB, CC402WAFFER, CHARPAT, JS_CRAYON, LOAD, MED/ALERT, OCTOBER, SCRIN/TEST, SHOOTSTARS, WAFER/2/4A, WAFER2CC40, WAFERCATR, WAFERCAT2 and Z-END.

DV/80 FILES: 10CHARSET, 16BITBUSS, ADDRESSLIT, ARROWGAME, BARGRAPH, BIORHYTN, CALENDAR etc.

DISK 96038: [DS/SD]

This is part of the LIMA LIBRARY LISTING. Each file is 43 sectors long and catalogs as a program file. I suspect this is a database format, possibly FIRST BASE or similar.

DISK 96039: [DS/SD]

The SLIDESHOW program and a collection of TIA pictures. This program will automatically show each picture with a slight pause between pictures. The pictures on this disk are: BAMBTH, BEE, CASTLE, CITYSCAP, DAFFY, FUJI, HUMMING, KINGTUT, and WATRFALL.

DISK 96040: [DS/SD]

PRINT/APR and PRINT/MAR are the March and April 1996 issues of the British Columbia

Newsletter. It is ready for your formatter and will print a neat copy of this very informative newsletter. The ECHO files are downloads of the TI newsgroup from Internet and there are some other files containing HUMOR, RECIPES and SCIENCE stuff from various sources.

DISK 96041: [DS/SD]

These are TI modules which have been converted to assembly programs on disk. They are DEMOMOD, READADVEN, and READCHEER. *DATA-BASE, *PAINT/PRI, *SUPER-DUP, *TI/IBM-CC and *TYPOMAN are Gram Kracker files for the Geneve and Gram Kracker devices.

DISK 96042: [DS/SD]

Twenty eight TIA pictures including 3STOOGI, B-COSBY, B-LUGOSE, BAMBI, BELKER, BLOOM, BUGSBUNN, CAVEGIRL, CHESSMENT, CLOWNS, DONALD and others.

DISK 96043: [DS/SD]

For you Geneve owners here are some My Art pictures including AMILGO, DEATH, FLORIDA, HDRAGON, HUNICORN, HWOLF, ROGOCOP and TIGER2.

DISK 96044: [DS/SD]

HARRISON'S XB COMPILER. This disk contains the first release version of the Harrison XB Compiler. It is all Public Domain except for the files RAGASM and RAGASN, which are FAIRWARE from Art Green. The Compiler is designed to operate with programs written for TI Extended Basic, not third-party versions of XB. The program to be compiled should be well tested, then saved to disk with the MERGE option. This is an updated version, as of 2 January 1995.

The TI-99/8

[IMAGE]

This TI-99/8 is owned by TI Chips User Group member Steve Eggers, and was loaned to the group to put on display during the 1996 Cleveland MUG.

[IMAGE]

Texas Instruments apparently built a few, but never went into full production due to the state of the home computer industry at the time.

It is capable of 15 MEG of memory, and has built in Extended Basic II and P-Code.

[IMAGE]

This is a close-up of the screen. The options are:

A.) TI Extended Basic II, B.) P-System, C.) Set Speed

The options for 'Set Speed' are:

[A]. Slow, [B]. 99/4A Speed (for games), [C]. Full Speed (10 MHZ)

[IMAGE]

Steve has two stand alone peripherals. In this picture, the top one is a modem, the bottom is an RS232. [IMAGE]

Steve Eggers e-mailed me with a little history on the 99/8. Here's what he had to say:

The TI-99/8 was TI's last attempt at making it to the top of the home computer market. At the time it was to be released, it would have been more powerful than any other computer in its price range. It came equipped with 64K of RAM, upgradable to 15 Megabytes. It had built in speech, unlike other computers. It had Extended Basic II included as the standard language at power up. XB II included over a dozen new commands, new string handling code and several new routines that made use of the decimal/hexidecimal number handling. Also available at the power up menu was the PASCAL P-System Version 4.12 and a SET SPEED option for setting the speed of the computer. There is a SLOW mode, a 99/4A mode and a FAST mode for running the 99/8 at the full 10 MHZ speed. The fourth selection was whatever module was plugged into the GROM port. Ports included cassette, video, AC power and the Hex-Bus port. The expansion port on the side of the console had 50 pins versus the 44 pins on the 99/4A. The extra pins and juggling of signals gave the 99/8 a true 16 bit handling on its I/O bus. The cartridge port was mounted on the top of the console and installing a cartridge vertically instead of pushing the cartridge horizontally into the front of the console. The keyboard was totally redesigned, adding to keys to lessen the use of the FUNCTION key. The keyboard is almost 4 inches wider and touchtyping was easier because it felt like a full Selectric typewriter keyboard.

Some specifics about the 99/8 project.....

According to several discussions with people connected with 99/8 project, I have gathered the following information. The 99/8 almost died in the development stage because of the complexity of the memory mapper. A big breakthrough by one individual kept the project going. There were approximately 100 etched PC boards. Only 250 of these were actually assembled into working units. Out these 250, only about 150 were the final preproduction versions. These early units, if they had Pascal installed, had them on ROMS instead of GRPMS. Only less than 2 dozen 99/8's have the Pascal system intact.

One thing about the 99/8 was the compatibility with the 99/4A. Anything that is on cartridge will work perfectly, except for Extended Basic, for obvious reasons. Most Basic and XB programs will work also.

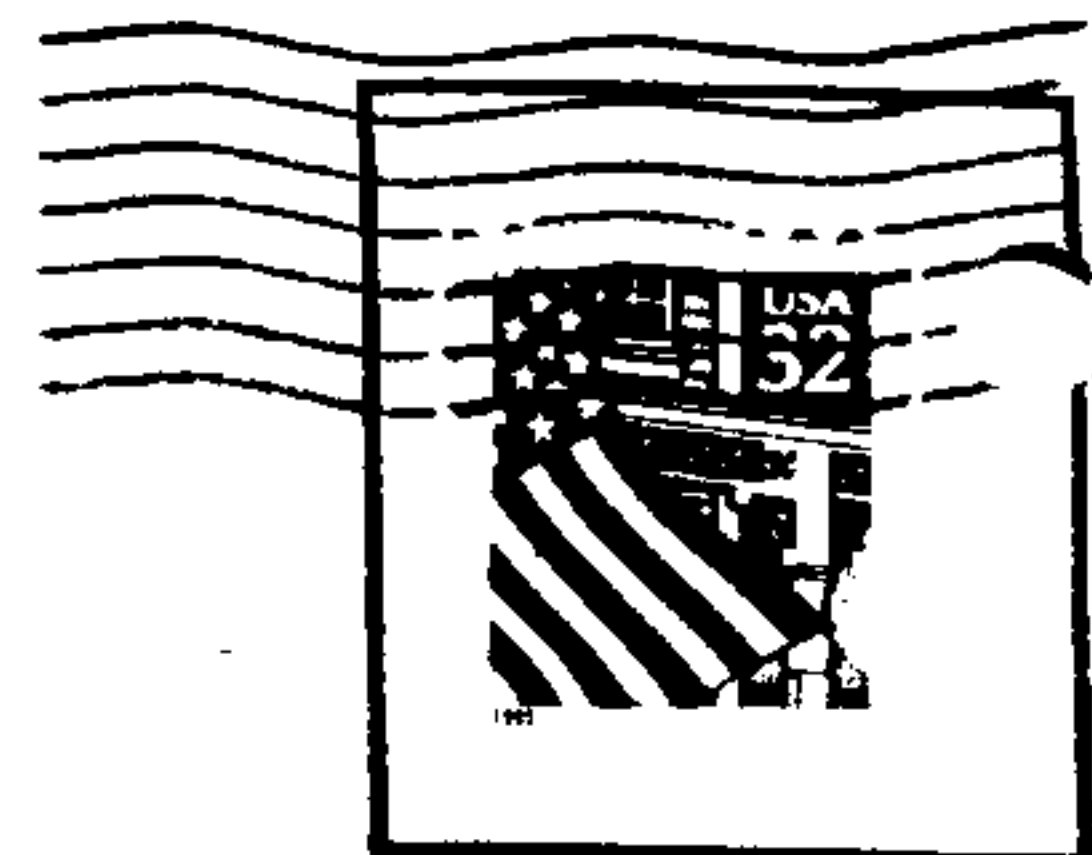
The BIG reason the 99/8 never made it to market was due to TI CEO J. Fred Bucy. He was the man who decided that TI had to do the quickest thing it could come up with to heal the wound thru which hundreds of millions of dollars was flowing. He called a board meeting and because of that meeting, the whole home computer division was shut down. Thus ending hope for the future - the 99/8, as well as support and everything else that owners of 99/4A's needed. We still survive as users of the 99/4A, but in spite of TI.

-Steve Eggers

This article was down-loaded from Rich Polivka's home page. Thanks Rich for sharing this information with the TI-99/4A community.

[Ed.Note: Had to severely edit this so as to fit it on this page.]

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