



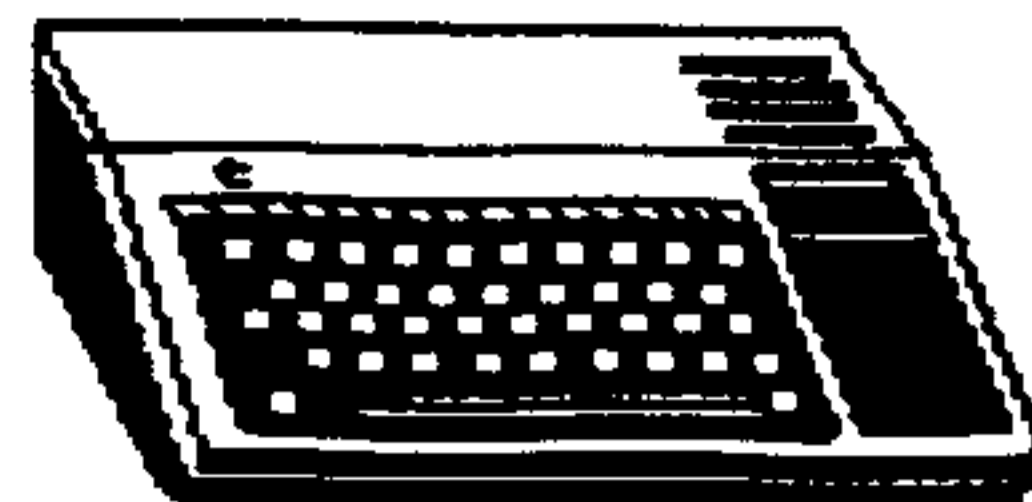
# CLEVELAND AREA

## TI-99/4A

### USER GROUPS

FEBRUARY  
MARCH

1997



OFFICE	TI-CHIPS	MEETINGS
PRESIDENT	Fred Ialacci 941-9397	10-12:00 A.M.
VICE-PRES.	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 Bernasek 238-6335	
DISK LIBRARY	Les Kee 238-6938	MAR 15, 1997
TAPE & MODS	John Parken 331-2830	APR 19, 1997
EDITOR	Harry Hoffman 631-2354	MAY 17, 1997

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	MAR 15, 1997
TAPE & MODS	Frank Jenkins 283-8526	APR 19, 1997
HARD COPY	Dick Alden 12162571661	MAY 17, 1997



#### From the Editor's Desk:



Hi Tiers,

This is a sad issue to put out. Virgil Thomason, our very dear friend, passed away on February 21st. We were working together trying to figure out what was wrong with his Artist Cardshop disk. Glenn put a plea in the minutes for a good copy of the disk. Virgil was a GOOD man and will be missed tremendously.

John Parken came through with another fine article on using 3.5" disks with a Corcomp controller card. Thank you John! I've finally started to put Club Email addresses in the news. You will also find an incomplete Email list of Tiers on the TI List Server. If there is interest, I will put in updates as we go along. Some people change Email addresses often trying to find the ultimate server.

There is a lot of newsy stuff on the list server and I would encourage all club members to sign up. If you have a modem that is! ;-)

The Lima, OHIO MUG Conference is just around the corner and is very close to Cleveland. I cannot be there this year, but would like to hear a lot of our group were attending.

See you at the meeting.





# **VIRGIL THOMASON**

Passed: February 21, 1997

"May He Rest In Peace"

Virgil Thomason was a real friend in our TI community. Well liked by all because of his kind remarks, quick smile, and willingness to lend a hand to anyone needing it!

Virgil was co-president of TI-Chips in 1993 and was always early at meeting time to help set up the equipment, in spite of the fact he came from fifty miles away! Even when he was not an officer Virgil followed this practice. He served as our greeter at the Ohio MUG conference last year in Brookpark, Ohio. (See his picture on the cover of the July/August issue of MICROpendium). He sat for most of the day, greeting TIers and listing their names and club affiliations and making sure everyone felt welcome. There always was a smile for all and cheerful attitude that warmed their hearts. Virgil was not satisfied just going to meetings, he had to help the club to keep the treasury well by taking care of the 50/50 raffle. This ensured an income every month!

Meeting once a month makes us friends in a way that we like each other and enjoy the use of our TI's and the help we all share. Virgil was a real friend to all. We will miss him greatly!



By Glenn Bernasek

Fred Ialacci opened the February meeting of the TI-Chips. Lin Shaw gave the Treasurer's report and John Parken reported that our membership was holding up well with recent renewals. John also reported that he had returned the TI-99/8 to Steve Eggers. The Chips are grateful to Steve for his generous and e-x-t-e-n-d-e-d loan of his 99/8. Thank you Steve.

Les Kee brought in copies of the latest disk library update, and reported that he was quite busy taking care of THE request he received for a copy of software last month. (grin) Les then provided the answer to a long standing mystery, "Who was providing the free donuts at the meetings?" It turns out it has been Vonn Malcuit. Thank you Vonn, they've been delicious and much appreciated.

I had several announcements. Terry Vacha, TI-Chips' President in 1986, visited me recently and sent his greetings to all Chips members as well as his entire TI-99/4A system as a donation for the TI-Chips and/or its members. Thank you Terry. We hope you will have a free Saturday to visit us sometime. The children's library of our host, the North Royalton branch of the Cuyahoga Library system, gave us back one of the TI-99/4As and game cartridges we had originally donated to them. Both Terry's and the library's systems were eagerly snapped up by the Chips members.

Lastly, I announced that I had sent Charles Good an e-mail reservation for 4 tables for the Cleveland Area User Groups at the Lima MUG this coming May. Charles quickly e-mailed confirmation for the reservations to me. We're all set and ready go!

John Parken put on an interesting demo of dual EXTERNAL 3 1/2 inch disk drives (DSK3 and DSK4) plugged into the club's Corcomp disk controller with a special wire switched ribbon cable. This means the drives were addressed through the cable rather than setting jumpers in the drives. Much simpler and just as effective. John said he would have an article in this issue of the newsletter explaining the technique. Great demo John!

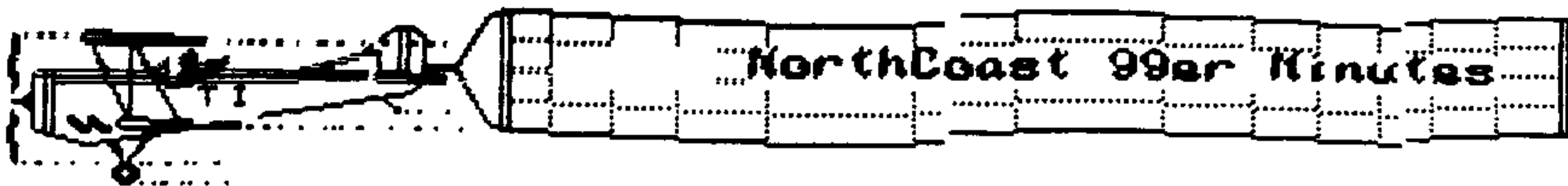
John also informed us that just by covering up the little hole in the corner of a 3 1/2 inch, 1.44 meg, High Density disk, with a write protect tab, the Corcomp controller will accept it as a formatible 360K, Double Density disk (1440 sectors). (Thanks for the hint John.)

Jim Krych announced that Bruce Harrison is working on a version of Midi Master for the SuperAMS card and the Video Turtle is very close to pilot production.

Ron Markus said that he is handling a 'splitter cable' that will hook up two PEBs in daisy-chain fashion. (Think of the possibilities. Super TI-99/4A systems here we come!)

Harry Hoffman said he was having a difficult time with an apparently corrupted copy of Card Shop. (The disk had a bad sector every eight sectors.) Harry's looking for a 'clean' copy. (Copy on a disk with all good sectors.)

I hit it lucky and won the 50/50 raffle. See you in March!



FEBRUARY, 1997  
Deanna Sheridan

The meeting was called to order by Ken. Frank e-mailed the treasurer's report to all who have e-mail addresses and will continue to do so.

Ken asked if there was any new business. Norb said that there will be a swap meet in Erie on March 22 with a variety of computer equipment offered.

Since there was a quorum present, we had election of officers. Deanna nominated the same slate as for the previous year. Seconded by Harry Hoffman. Passed.

Norb wanted to give his opinion about some conversations from a couple of months ago, when we were discussing the future of the NC 99ers as a TI Club. Several of us said that we really didn't care if we drifted a little from the TI format, as we enjoyed meeting and sharing information, whether it was for the TI or other computers. Norm made the point that he travels a 100 miles round trip to attend the meetings specifically for TI information and would hate to see the club drift from that focus. He also acknowledged that it was sometimes hard to find TI related material that was new or interesting for demo purposes.

Ken gave the demo which was a discussion on e-mail and the various ways one can sign up. He investigated e-mail options so that he could more readily obtain information on his current hobby of restoring his 67 Renault Caravelle and the difficulty in finding manuals, etc. He found that what was taking 8 days for letters to arrive at his friend's home in California, could be sent and received in a matter of minutes through e-mail.

For those who have DOS machines, there are indeed several options...the standard on-line services, such as AOL, Compuserve, Prodigy, Delphi, etc. As far as we knew, the only of these that still had a non-graphical interface and could be called in by a TI99 user was Delphi. The others all required the company's own software for Windows-based machines. Even though you still need the company's proprietary software and a DOS machine, there are several companies that provide free e-mail services (you have to put up with some advertising on the screens). These are Juno, Hot Mail and Net Address. If you have access to the WEB, simply go to <http://www.hotmail.com> or <http://www.netaddress.com>.

Lastly for those of us who have access to a Freenet, this is absolutely the best choice for TI people. You can use any communications program (even a slow 2400 baud modem) and e-mail anyone anywhere. You can also subscribe to the various "lists" of special interest and receive all their traffic and participate in it if you wish.

Harry Hoffman has the demo for March. See ya there.  
Deanna

# Using 3.5" Drives With Your Corcomp Disk Controller Card

By John Parken - TI-CHIPS

The 5 1/4 format of the TI has been a plus because 5 1/4 disks have been more or less set aside for the more popular 3.5 inch format on the IBM. The people who get rid of 5 1/4 disks because they don't use them anymore give me a good source of disks to reformat for my TI. People get rid of disk files full of double sided double density which work fine with the TI.

For people who are putting no more money into their TI. You can buy 3.5 " IBM drives for use with your TI till you decide to retire it. Then recycle them on your IBM system. If you have a Corcomp disk controller you can use 3.5 inch disk drives and only need low density disks for them. I have thought about putting 2 3.5 drives on my system because I have seen so many 3.5 disks on sale with a rebate for their whole purchase price. I just bought 100 SONY disks for 39\$ and got a 30\$ rebate check 9 cents a disk. Hard to pass a deal like that up. I can't understand how the manufacturers can make any money off a deal like that but I love them.

I wrote this article in another article. then I bought two 3.5 drives and found things not to be as I thought. That prompted me to get it working before I submitted the article as true. So here we go.

When hooking up two 3.5 on the CORCOMP disk controller card in addition to the two 5.25 drives you have in the PEBox, no problem right! Well drives have changed all IBM 3.5 drives are set up for drive 2 which for IBM is OK. Their cable takes care of selecting drive 1 or 2, but what about my TI? Gone are my drive select jumpers and no select as to high or low density. I can use the same approach as IBM uses. I will do my switching in the cable; pin 12 or wire 12 is the drive select #2, if I want drive 3 all I do is move wire #14 coming out of the disk controller to wire #12 into the drive. The disk controller will then consider that drive as drive #3. The drive select lines on a corcomp card are 6=drive #4; 10=drive #1; 12=DRIVE #2; 14=DRIVE #3.

The drives I used I bought at a Peter Trapp show for \$19.50 each they are Neutronics(Mitsumi) 3.5" 1.44 MEG. At that show I also bought the splitter cables to power the drives. I did have to go to two different tables to get the right combination I needed. First a Y 5.25(LARGER CONNECTOR) to get my power outside of my PEBox. I did experience some problems with the 3.5 drives by just using the p box power supply so I did add an external 5 volt power supply. The supply I use supplies 1 amp @5VDC. You can buy a wall plug in 5 Volt power supply from Jameco or Radio Shack when you hook it up the black and red wires are GND and +5VDC.

Then a double 3.5" (Small Connector). These 3.5 drives only need 5 VDC. Use a volt meter to see which wire from the wall 5volt power supply are GND and +5VDC. A 24" length of 34 conductor ribbon cable with one 34 position card edge connector and 2 34 pin socket connectors make up the cable. All odd pins are at ground potential. In my cable diagram I will only show part of the cable and only the even wires.

(Next page please.)

Please remember this is for a Corcomp disk controller only. Even when you use a 3.5 1.44 meg drive it will only format your 3.5" disks to 360k and only if you cover the density hole with tape (black) or use some of those write protect tabs.

As I wrote this article I built the cable. Then I tried it. It did NOT work. The drive lights came on (all four) all the time. Upon further inspection when the card edge connector was crimped on it was off just enough side to side to short all the pins together. I cut off that connector and recrimped a new one on and problem fixed. These connectors should be available at radio shack. Having the 3.5 drives is nice. Again TI is a winner only because we do have some compatability with IBM equipment.

CARD EDGE CONNECTOR

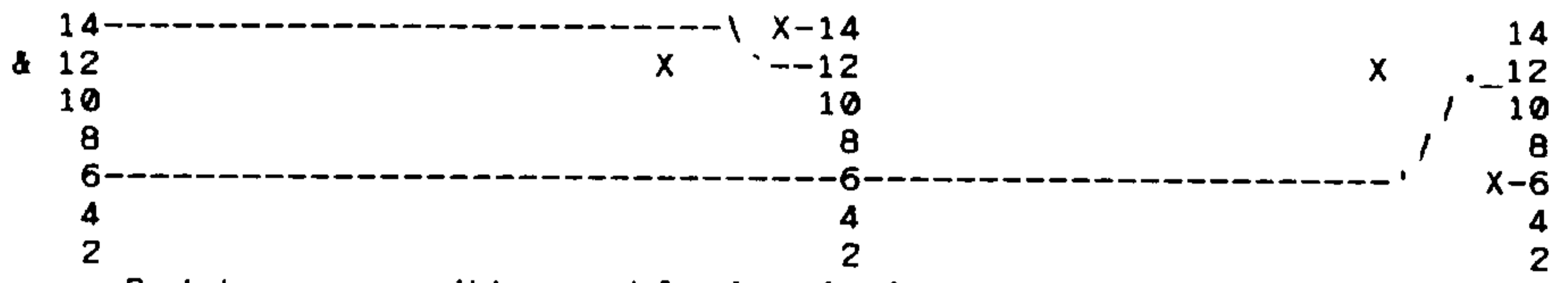
SOCKET CONNECTOR

SOCKET CONNECTOR

ON BACK OF CORCOMP

DRIVE 3

DRIVE 4



Red trace on ribbon cable is pin 1

X is where you cut the cable!  
 34 Cond ribbon cable to connect 3 1/2 drives to CORCOMP card  
 Whole cable and odd pins not shown for clarity.



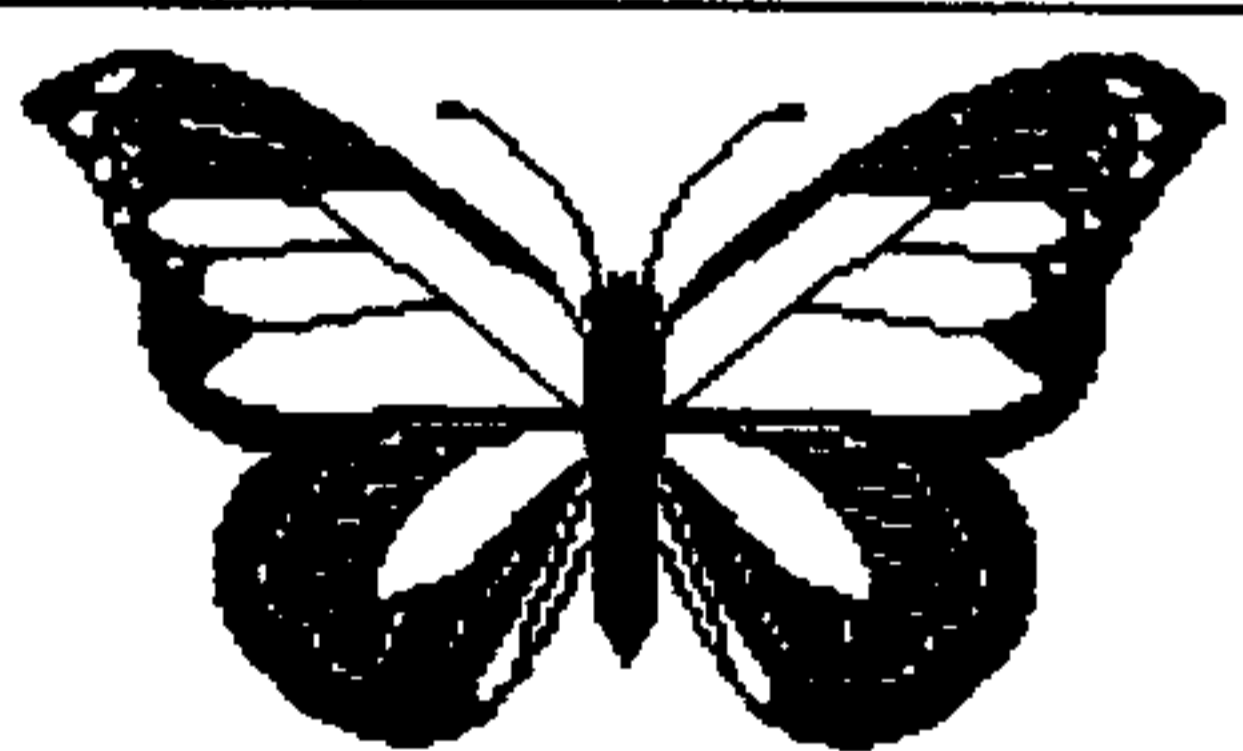
**Palm Sunday  
& Purim  
March 23rd**

**Easter Sunday  
March 30th**

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**St. Patrick's Day - March 17th**

**First day of Spring March 20th**



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# 1997 MULTI USER GROUP CONF.

Fri. & Sat., May 23rd & 24th to 7 P.M.

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All TI-99/4A & Geneve computer show, sponsored by:

The Lima Ohio User Group, held in Reed Hall of the Ohio State University. A totally free event. No charge for admittance or exhibit tables. Write in advance or

Dr. Charles Good  
P.O. Box 647  
Venedocia OH 45894

Email: [good.6@osu.edu](mailto:good.6@osu.edu)

Preferred!

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## JIM PETERSON MEMORIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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The Peterson awards for service to the 99/4A community in four categories will be presented at the MUG conf. These are:

1. Community Service
2. Geneve
3. Hardware
4. Software

Jim Krych is handling nominations & voting. Send in your nominations now & vote later. To Jim Krych  
Email: [ab453@cleveland.freenet.edu](mailto:ab453@cleveland.freenet.edu) | 3969 Clague Rd.  
North Olmsted OH 44070

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Hotels located 2 miles from campus @ I75 & Rt.309.

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- 

About 6 miles from campus; @ I75 2 exits north of Rt.309 is the Lima Inn Conference Center. Largest indoor pool in the area.

- > 419-221-0114 - - - A nice family place!
- 

About 3 mi. away @ I75 & Rt.81:

- > Days Inn - - - - - 419-227-6515  
-> Econo Lodge - - - - - 419-222-0596
-

From: tedzychowicz@juno.com (Theodore J Zychowicz)  
To All on the List:  
I have compiled the list as sent, with my address book.  
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Email: 75227.2370@CompuServe.COM

*a partial list!  
an update  
will be in  
the next  
NEWSLETTER  
Amy*



# LIBRARY UPDATE

By Bruce Rodenkirch  
(aa360@acorn.net)

December 1996

This will be the last of the 1996 updates since I will switch to the 97nnn series with the next library update, if there is a next update. It is getting more difficult to scrape up disks although I still have a few Lima disks to de-archive. The lack of interest alone is enough to make me want to hang it up. I do assemble the disks for the Akron Library so it isn't too much extra to make extra copies for this library too. It won't be long though until the library will stop growing unless there is a miracle and someone else steps in and takes it over.

## DISK 96072: [ DS/SD ]

A collection of HUMOR, RECIPES, SCIENCE and general interest articles I downloaded. These make for interesting reading. For you ham operators there is a copy of the ARRL LETTER which is sent out by a list server. This file tells how to subscribe to it. The HHG files are "HOT HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP" which are humorous comments on Hollywood gossip, also provided by a list server via e-mail.

## DISK 96073: [ DS/SD ]

A couple of LIMA XB-PROGRAMS which are tutorials on math and science. The LOAD program brings up the MATH programs and LOAD-SCI brings up the SCIENCE programs. Some of the filenames: ALGEBRA, CATAPULT FACTORIAL, GENETICS, MATH/AID, REGRESSION, SCHOOLTEST, SCI/QUIZ.

## DISK 96074: [ DS/SD ]

A LIMA disk on HEALTH. These are XB-PROGRAMS designed to help you to better health with information and ways of evaluating your health. Some of the filenames: BIOSYOU, BIORHYTHM, CALORIE, CORONARY, DAILYNUT, DIET/PLAN, DIETMANAGE, DIETRITE, HEALTH, MEDIALERT, NUTRITION, PHOBIA, POISON, SAFETY, SELF/EVAL, TEETH, WINDCHILL.

## DISK 96075: [ DS/SD ]

An assortment of HUMOR, RECIPES, SCIENCE and general interest articles for good reading. For ham operators there is the 1996 WIAW schedule for morse code practice, and plans for a "J-Antenna" you can build. TWAIN is a humorous Mark Twain story written in "Olde English" about flatulence. V-BOATS is an informational article on large submarines. WRIGHT is humor by Steven Wright who makes comments like, "You can't have everything, where would you put it?"

## DISK 96076: [ DS/SD ]

There is an archived file (1201B) on how to make your TI say anything using the Speech Synthesizer with the program provided.

The rest of the disk is a tutorial on how to combine assembly programs or modules with extended basic programs. I am not proficient in assembly but the techniques described in the docs should be of use to those of you who can figure out how to use them. The files XB/ASY/PG1 through PG5 contain the documentation.

## DISK 96077: [ DS/SD ]

PLOTTER by Bruce Harrison. This program is also on 96058 but there are some additional files here. PLOTTER allows you to print various geometrical shapes by entering a mathematical formula. The program uses XB to calculate the parameters of the formula and then calls up assembly routines to print the graph in bit mat mode. Samples of these plots are shown in TIArtist format.

## DISK 96078: [ DS/SD ]

Here is a Read Me file from Bill Gaskill telling of all the interesting stuff on this disk.

PA TAPE PROG- Cassette version of Personal Auditor that I am releasing to the public domain.

PRINTXT 28 D/V - 28 column listing of PRINT TEXT pgram.  
PRINT TEXT Prog- Program to examine disk contents and print out DV/80 files if desired.

PRINT TEXTU D/V80 - Article explaining use of PRINT TEXT.

RETIREQUIZ D/V80 - Investing for Retirement quiz.

THINGS0296 D/V80 - Feb 1996 Things That Have Come and Gone.

THINGS0396 D/V80 - Mar 1996 Things That Have Come and Gone.

THINGS0496 D/V80 - Apr 1996 Things That Have Come and Gone.

THINGS0596 D/V80 - May 1996 Things That Have Come and Gone.

THINGS0696 D/V80 - Jun 1996 Things That Have Come and Gone.

TIWLABELS Prog - XB program to print mailing labels from a TIW mail merge file.

TIWLABELT D/V80 - Article for TIWLABELS program.

TIW LAB 28 D/V80 - 28 column LISTING of TIWLABELS program.

TRONICS AB Prog - Tronics Address Book program from 1983.

TRONICS HI Prog - Tronics Home Inventory program from 1983.

## DISK 96079: [ DS/SD ]

This is another Bruce Harrison production. It is a collection of C99 routines for C99 programmers. They are line commands for a C99 program which will allow use of ACCEPT AT, joystick control, integer handling and a variety of other commands for which someone who knows something about C99 programming will be eternally grateful.

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



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