



CLEVELAND AREA

TI-99/4A USER GROUPS



~~MAY / JUNE~~ 1998
APRIL MAY

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 (440) 234-4227	County Library
MEMBERSHIP	John Parken 331-2830	State Rd. SO. of 4172 W. 217th St. Fairview Pk., OH 44126
SECRETARY	Glenn Bernaset 238-6335	EVERY THIRD SAT.
DISK LIBRARY	Les Kee 238-6938	MAR 21, 1998
TAPE & MODS	John Parken 331-2830	APR 18, 1998
EDITOR	Harry & Nina Hoffman 631-2354	<NOTE>: MAY 09, 1998

OFFICE	NORTHCOAST 99'ers	MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Ken Gladyszewski 1216 357-7274	1-4 P.M.
CO-PRESIDENT	(OPEN)	Euclidian Room
Treasurer	Frank Jenkins 283-8526	Euclid SQ. Mall
MEMBERSHIP	Martin Smoley 12162571661	E.260th off I-90 (South)
SECRETARY	Deanna Sheridan 440-979-0041	EVERY THIRD SAT.
DISK LIBRARY	Martin Smoley 1216 257-1661	MAR 21, 1998
TAPE & MODS	Frank Jenkins 283-8526	APR 18, 1998
HARD COPY	Dick Alden 12162571661	MAY NO MEETING



From the Editor's Desk:



Hi Tiers,

Well, the Lima Fair is coming up on May 15 & 16th. Charles Good says it will be the last. I for one will miss it for sure! I considered it the best of all the Faires and NOT because it was free, but because it felt good to be there. Some fairs did not give me that really comfortable feeling.

I finally broke down and took from my friend, Vonn, his 486, 66mz computer. Not being satisfied that it will do justice to the PC99 program, I am already upgrading! You see, I still love my TI and want to keep using it, even if it means on the PC. The only reason I gave in so soon is the fact of most Tiers using PC's and having Web pages full of TI pics and info! Otherwise, I would still be a 100% Tier!

Some were asking about the MICROpendium and was it still being made. It is. You can Email John Koloen (Laura Burns) at: JKoloen@earthlink.net and get a reply from one or the other editor.

The North Royalton Cuyahoga County Library celebrated 20 years of service on May 3rd. That was also the 75th anniversary of the Cuyahoga Library system!

Anyone wishing to get a disk from the TI-Chips library can Email Les Kee at: LKee@juno.com. Then he can make it up and bring it to the meeting.

TI-Chips Minutes

By: Glenn Bernasek

The March meeting of the TI-Chips was opened by Fred Ialacci. Reading of the February meeting minutes was waived. Lin Shaw reported the newsletter billing discrepancy had been resolved.

John Parken said six memberships had become past due as of March, and that he did not receive any responses from members whom he had sent renewal notices. John said he also informed everyone that the Chips' meeting agenda had been opened to platforms other than TI-99/4A and Geneve 9640.

In a related problem, Harry Hoffman said he was mailing newsletters to defunct user groups or groups that haven't replied or reciprocated with newsletters. It was suggested that Harry include a short item in his editorial comments to advise that mailing of the Cleveland Area TI-99/4A User Groups newsletter to outside user groups will be suspended or canceled if a response isn't received by a certain date. The timing (response window) will be left to Harry's best judgement.

Our disk librarian, Les Kee, reported that there wasn't anything to report. However, Les said he will print out a library catalog.

Fred handed out Jim Peterson Achievement Award ballots to those who haven't voted yet.

Harry brought in the front page of the LUBBOCK AVALANCHE - JOURNAL which featured a lead story about the Fest West and a history of the TI-99/4A. This was a fascinating article to read. This lead very nicely into the presentation of the Fest West videos taken by Vonn Malcuit. The story presented was from the perspective of the developing engineers. It was a first hand look into the history the the TI-99/4A. Thank you Vonn!

At the conclusion of the March meeting, I showed pictures I had of the TI-99/5. I said I would scan these pictures and bring in the JPG formatted pictures on 3 1/2" disks to the next meeting.

For the second month in a row, I won the 50/50 raffle.

FROM THE EDITOR:

AS ALL TI CLUB'S HAVE FOUND OUT, THE COST OF SENDING A NEWSLETTER FAR OUTWEIGHS THE COST OF PRINTING AND DEPLETES THE TREASURY QUITE FAST!

SO, I AM ASKING THOSE WHO DO NOT EXCHANGE NEWSLETTERS WITH CLEVELAND, PLEASE DROP A CARD TO ME AT:

HARRY HOFFMAN
3925 TROWBRIDGE AVE.
CLEVELAND, OH 44109-1349

OR EMAIL TO ME AT:

aa996@cleveland.freenet.edu

THOSE STILL USING THE TI AND WANT THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE RESPOND ALSO, AND YOU WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE OUR NEWS. IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND BY THE END OF JUNE, I WILL HAVE TO DROP YOU FROM OUR MAILING LIST.

NORTH COAST MINUTES

MARCH AND APRIL, 1998

By: Deanna Sheridan

Ken called the March meeting to order. No treasurer's report from Frank. No new business. Ken relayed Earl Blewett's E-mail address and that he had been playing a lot of golf: "aeblewett@juno.com", <-No quotes. He made note of the Hamfest at Madison.

Harry demoed some of his favorite games for the TI from Bill Ries. The first one, "Colors", required you to get a row of three of the same color up, down, diagonal, etc, to get the largest score. A game similar to Tetris, but with colored balls. Harry liked the fact that you could set your most comfortable keys for controlling the balls dropped and the level at which to play!

The next was TI-Pei...a Mahjong type game. We were promised additional playing boards for this one, but they never materialized. Finally, his favorite (and mine), Tournament Solitaire, which features 7 different solitaire games which can be played individually or one after another as a tournament. It can be addictive!

Ken called the April meeting to order at 1:05 PM feeling that no more members were about to show up. There were 7 present. It was brought up about the new P400 chip and what advantage it would be for those who wish to upgrade. It was the consensus that it would not improve speed that much. We discussed the upcoming Lima Faire and the fact it was on meeting day. Harry said TI-Chips changed their meeting to May 9th. NorthCoast could not change so a motion was made to cancel the May meeting.

Les Kee demoed a program written by Regina for the Compute magazine. It is called "Loan Records", an amortization program. When you enter: Date, interest rates, payment or loan add-on. The interest, principal balance will be shown. You can save it to disk or print it out. Les is trying to get it to print properly for another member of the club. The program does daily interest also.

Dick Alden's Email address is: Alden10@juno.com

The May demo was to be put on by Ron Markus but will have to come at a later date. Deanna is doing the demo for June.

TI-Chips Minutes

By: Glenn Bernasek

The April meeting was called to order by Fred Ialacci. The minutes from the March meeting were read, and Lin Shaw reported that the treasury balance was up somewhat.

John Parken reported that he had received two membership applications. John said we're now at a "hardcore" 15 members. Les Kee said there wasn't anything to report in the disk library this month.

Jim Krych reported that the Jim Peterson Service Award voting was plentiful and complaints or concerns were not received. The award plaques will be ordered and I will make the presentations for Jim at Lima this year. Jim said National Guard duties prevent his attendance at the MUG in Lima.

I announced that two tables were reserved for the Cleveland Area User Groups (TI-Chips and Northcoast 99ers). Because of the MUG at Lima on May 15 and 16, the Chips voted to have the May meeting moved up to May 9th. The meeting will be held in the small conference room.

I also read an invitation/request from the North Royalton library for the Chips to attend and take part in their 20th anniversary celebration on May 3 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Yours truly, Fred Ialacci and Jim Krych volunteered to attend and help out. TI-Chips name tags have been made up to be worn at the event.

A question was asked if MICROpendium was still being published. Harry said he would try to find out. (Harry received his the Monday after the meeting).

I handed out 3 1/2 disks containing JPG files of TI-99/5 pictures I had scanned.

John Parken did a demo of an oldie called "Loan Calculator" that had been published in the classic computer magazine of yester year, "Home Computer". This program was efficiently written in X-Basic judging from the quickness at which it computed all loan calculations including principle, interest and payments. It felt good to see a TI-99/4A program demoed! Thanks John.

Lin Shaw won the 50:50 raffle. Congratulations Lin.

NOTE: THE MAY MEETING DATE WAS CHANGED TO MAY 9TH DUE TO THE LIMA FAIR BEING THE SAME DAY AS OUR TI-CHIPS MEETING !!!

Thank you!
TI-PC Puget Sound Users,

1998 Lima Multi-User Group Conference
is Set for May 15-16, 1998
Reed Hall, Lima Campus of Ohio State University

This all TI 99/4A/Geneve computer experience is sponsored by the Lima Ohio User Group. This group is the home base for Charles Good, the guru, of TI/Geneve information and the reviewer of programs for our MICROpendium publication.

Presenters Scheduled to Speak



To date, the following individuals have signed up to present information:

- Dan Eicher: "The Tomy Tutorcomputer, and the Control Data Corp 99/4A computer"**
- Lew King: "Accessing the Internet with a 99/4A using Term 80"**
- Ted Zychowicz: "How to Transfer Files from the 99/4A to a PC without a Modem"**
- Bob Carmany: "Upgrading the T.I."**
- Bruce Harrison: "Midi Master Upgrade"**
- Delores P. Werth: "Midi Music Concert"**
- Jim Krych: "The Video Turtle"**



Exhibitors in Attendance

To date, the following have consented to have a table or more:

- Cleveland Area User Groups----2 tables**
- Dave Connery, Hardware,----3 tables**

Milwaukee Area TI User Group-----1 table
Harrison Software-----1 table
S & T Software (Tim Tesch)-----1 table
The Fort's User Group-----Fort Wayne, Indiana
Turtle Enterprises/Video Turtle--Jim Krych
Huggers User Group, Indianapolis, Indiana-----2 tables



HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

LIMA OHIO AREA

The following hotels are conveniently located about two (2) miles from the campus:

- Motel 6- Phone 419-228-0456 (This has been the most popular in past years.)
- Holiday Inn of Lima- Phone 419-222-0004 (Very nice with an indoor pool, kind of expensive)
- East Gate Motel- Phone 419-229-8085
- Economy Inn- Phone 419-222-1080
- Super 8 Motel- Phone 419-227-2221

The following accommodation is located on I-75 two exits north of the 309 exit and about six (6) miles from campus:

Ramada Inn and Conference Center- Phone 419-221-0114

The following accommodations are about three (3) miles from campus at the intersection of I-75 and Route 81:

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

If you want further information regarding accommodations, check the Web site listed earlier in this issue for the Lima Fair.



AMERICANS ARE DISCUSSING SOCIAL SECURITY HERE IN SEATTLE ON SATURDAY, MAY 2ND AT THE UNION STATION, 401 S. Jackson St. from 9 AM to 1 PM. Call 888-560-2377 to register. Check out: <http://www.americansdiscuss.org/>

Printing Problems / a Cannon BJC210

By: John Parken TI Chips

At one of our monthly meetings Curtis Gadd said, "How do I get my BJC210 to print color?". Well my answer was to use TIPS or Bruce Harrison's TI-ARTIST Color Picture Printer program. He said he tried this but had no success.

I said bring the printer with you to the next meeting and the next meeting he showed up with it and I had forgotten about it. I had not brought any color printing programs with me. But upon looking in my briefcase, I did have a 93 Lima disk with some of Jim Peterson's programs on it. One program I remembered was one that printed labels in color on my STAR MXR 1000 printer. Well I loaded that up and gave it a try. It would only give black output, I was surprised. I thought, maybe Cannon had changed their codes and their new manuals do not publish the printer control codes. This looked like it needed research. So I took the printer home with me. At home I tried to print graphics from TIPS and got no output at all. But my BJ230 worked fine.

Next I used Cannon's Fax retrieval service and got printer codes for the Cannon 600 series. None were listed for the 200 series. I also got a list of FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions). When you could not print in color they all pertained to not having a Bidirectional Cable and that some jumpers may be needed. But that was all they said.

I called their BBS and found nothing. Then I called their voice help line and found a number for technical questions. The person I talked to told me that the printer could only print through Windows. And I needed to install the proper drivers. Well I told her that my TI-99/4A did not use drivers and I could do my printer control through Basic.

Well she had no idea of what kind of computer I had but the printer did not use Epson Control Codes, but Epson emulation thru software. Still working on the Bidirectional cable idea I asked if I could get information on the cable. She said she did not have information on that. Nor did she know where I could get it. I asked if there was someone else I could ask. She said no then I asked if I could talk to her supervisor. She said she WAS the supervisor. Not a very technical help session! She was able to give me the address where I could write for some answers. I hope those letters don't come across her desk. It was hard to keep my cool.

I was then set to write a letter to Cannon for help. But first decided to read the printer manual in reference to my problem. I did not expect to find any information, and when I said I decided to read it I'm not saying I did not look at it at all. I did look for control codes. Upon finding none I quit looking. But I will start from page one now. On page three it talked about the BJC210 being a line printer in that it gets information from the computer and does not process itself. The computer is responsible to tell it where to put the dots on that line. The manual also explains that the computer's speed and ability to process this information controls how fast it will be printed. When I tried to print text in colors it only printed that text in black. This makes me believe the printer has enough smarts to understand the printable ASCII codes such as text but goes no further than that. And this why it did not print graphics, but did print text.

The other printer they refer to is called a page printer as our Epsoms which understand control codes.

At Lima Bruce Harrison came up to me when we were raffling off the Cannon BJC620 and said that it might not work with the TI if it did not have DIP switches. He looked and found that it did have DIP switches. He said that was a good way to tell. Well the BJC210 does not have DIP switches. What Bruce knew then, I did not, but I do now.

I will still write Cannon to confirm what I think is correct but I am still curious as to how they send their information to the printer. They also talk about page printers as using PCL (Printer Control Language). This is used in HP Deskjet and Laser printers. This is a control biased communication with the computer. And I have used this with Basic on TI and an HP Deskjet printer.

I feel disappointed. I solved nothing. But, it's good that I came up with an explanation of something I did not know before.

YES, we are still learning!

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

FIRST CLASS

PLEASE PARDON ME FOR THIS NEWSLETTER WITH ALMOST NO GRAPHICS! THE FIRST PAGE HAS A DISASTER AND THE FOLLOWING ONES HORSE! MY XR1000 PRINTER GAVE OUT ON ME! I HOPE THE PROBLEM IS SOLVED BY THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

HARRY