



CLEVELAND AREA

TI-99/4A USER GROUPS



FEB. / March ~~1998~~, 1999

OFFICE	TI-CHIPS	MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Fred Ialacci 941-9397	10-12:00 A.M.
CO-PRESIDENT	** OPEN **	N. Royalton
TREASURER	Lin Shaw (440) 234-4227	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 20, 1999
TAPE & MODS	John Parken 331-2830	APR 17, 1999
EDITOR	Harry & Nina Hoffman 631-2354	MAY 15, 1999

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 6149 Bryson Mentor, OH 44060	E.260th off I-90 (South) EVERY THIRD SAT.
SECRETARY	Deanna Sheridan 440-979-0041	
DISK LIBRARY	Martin Smoley 1216 257-1661	MAR 20, 1999
TAPE & MODS	Frank Jenkins 283-8526	APR 17, 1999
HARD COPY	Dick Alden 12162571661	MAY 15, 1999



From the Editor's Desk:



Hi Tiers,

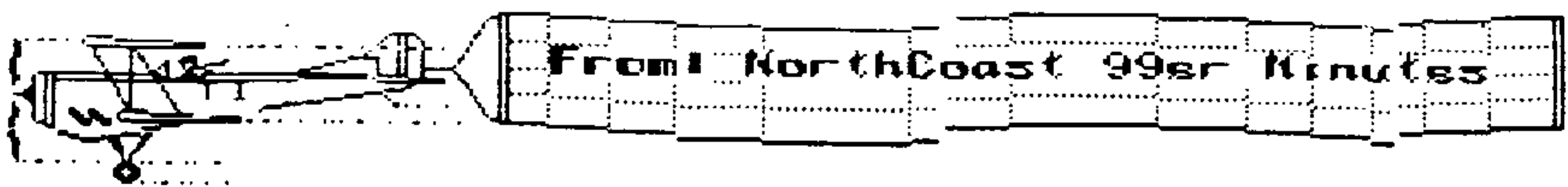
This has been a bad month and a half for us. Nina and I have not been doing too well healthwise. Plus, the more I use a "PC", the more I love my TI-99/4A! At this moment, my "PC" has been down more than running for the past 2 weeks! The problem still isn't solved and it looks like I'll have to take it to a pro! At least, with a TI, I can repair it myself most of the time and it doesn't cost an arm and a leg to do it! Enough complaining!!!

The TI community on the Web are doing great and those that can go there have a terrific time surfing from place to place! I've been to about 20 TI Web pages and they are all worth the effort. Each has a different slant on things and are very interesting! The TI-99 MUG'99 is coming up soon and many have seen our Web page. Rich Polivka has us prominently hyperlinked! I hope this encourages many to come to this affair.

Next newsletter I hope to publish some Tier addresses. Right now they are on a computer I can't get to. Please have patience with this slow moving editor. In this issue there is an article from Ted Zychowicz about transferring files from TI to the PC without a modem. It involves a special cable. Thanks Ted.

CU @ meeTIing Time.





JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, 1999

Deanna Sheridan

About five of us gathered for the January meeting.

Dick Alden brought pictures from his trip to Australia and a printout out of the genealogy chart he is working on.

We agreed to send TI-CHIPS \$100 to help with expenses on the MUG '99 conference. I received a nice e-mail "Thank You" from Glenn Bernasek for the check.

We discussed various computer situations that were not TI-related.

At the February meeting, I gave a brief demo on two disk managers as an alternative to Explorer which is bundled with Windows 95 and 98. I have used Xtree since I got my first epson computer about 12 years ago. I was very distressed when it would not work with my new machine which has Windows 98 (It will work with Windows 95). I searched the internet and at Harry Hoffman's suggestion downloaded Windows Commander which I find much more friendly and easy to use than Explorer. I still missed my Xtree program and found Ztree. This is Xtree redone so that it will work on Windows 98 and I was in heaven. It is only \$30.00 and well worth it.

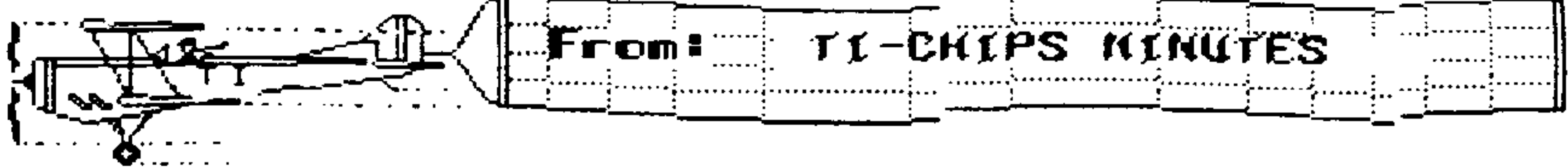
At the January meeting, Bruce Rodenkirch had asked if anyone had used Seattle Filmworks to process their film and get a copy of the pictures on disk. I remembered that I had a couple of years ago. So, I dug out the disk and showed them the pictures so he could get an idea of the quality.

No one really took any responsibility for taking charge of the March meeting, so it may be potluck. See ya there,

Deanna

**The Cleveland Area TI-99/4A User Groups wish
a very happy St. Patrick's Day, and a safe one!**

**We also want to wish you a spiritual holiday
season, with all people contemplating world
peace and brotherhood in these trying times!**



By Glenn Bernasek

The January meeting of the TI-Chips was opened by yours truly. Fred Lalacci call me and said he had slipped on ice and, according to Les Kee, had jarred his back. The Chips hope Fred's injury isn't too serious and that he will have a rapid and full recovery. Actually, Fred was able to contact me via e-mail. Yes, Fred's on line! His e-mail address is FIALACCI@aol.com. I know Fred would like to hear from us while he's recovering.

Since the minutes from the December meeting was published in the newsletter, it was moved and passed to waive the reading of the December minutes. Lin Shaw gave the treasury report. Lin stated that the TI-Chips' treasury has demonstrated a positive cash flow in spite of the purchase of TView Micro.

John Parken reported that our membership has stabilized at 18 members. (It must be noted that 11 of those members were able to attend this month's meeting.) I reported that I had phoned Les Israel, an old time member of the Chips. I said I was pleasantly surprised to find Les and His wife Marion doing rather well. Les informed me that not only had he recently celebrated his 92nd birthday, but he has also purchased a new and faster computer. Les stated that he enjoys reading our newsletter because it keeps him in touch with his old friends. He also said he was on line at WZAAR@aol.com. Les told me he will answer all e-mail sent to him. Everyone expressed surprise and admiration at what Les is still doing. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to award Les Israel TI-Chips' first Honorary Lifetime Membership. Congratulations Les.

John Parken also reported that he had a phone conversation with our former Vice President and Software Librarian, Mark McCauley. John said Mark was surprised and happy to hear that the TI-Chips was still in business. Mark said he had GramCracker cartridges available to any one who wants them.

Les Kee reported that he just received two DSSD disks of Bill Gaskill's files from Harry Hoffman. Harry said more reformatted disks will be coming.

I reported that TIMUG'99 is on schedule and that we are getting down to where we should be planning equipment procurement for the conference. A public address system and tables were discussed. I said that we wouldn't know how many tables we will have to rent at \$5.75 each until our guests make it known that they will be attending and how many tables they will need. I stated that the 8 seat, round table could serve user groups nicely, but vendors would most likely require the oblong table. This is why our guest must make their intentions known as soon as possible. There will be NO tables available for last minute, late comers. John Parken and Ron Markus discussed possible door or raffle prizes for the conference. They will report their recommendations to the Chips at the February meeting.

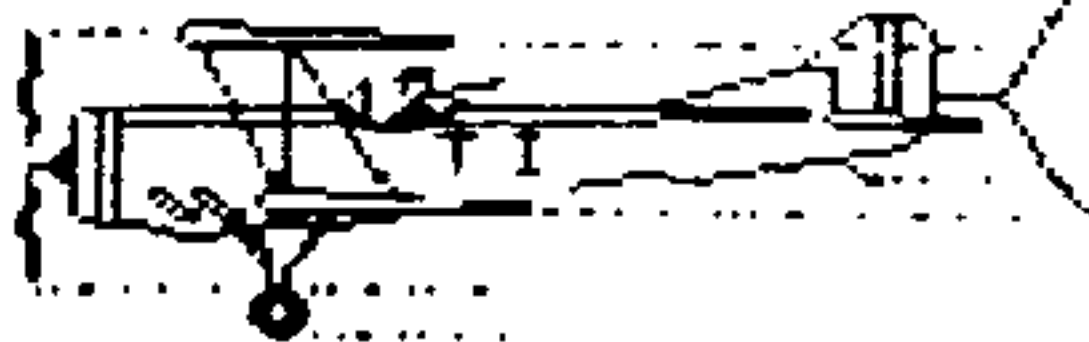
I reported that voting for the Jim Peterson Achievement awards has been suspended until February 16th. This allows the TI community to nominate additional candidates and to request corrections in the nominee list. The final nominee list will be posted on February 16th. Elections for these awards will be conducted between February 16th and April 15th. Presentation of the 1999 Jim Peterson Achievement awards will be made at the TIMUG'99 conference in Brookpark, Ohio on May 15th.

John Parken reported that he was unable to get our TView Micro to respond on his system at home. I took the TView Micro home and will check it out on both my old Compaq Contura and the new Presario laptop computers. I'll report my findings at the February meeting.

Harry Hoffman announced that he is now publishing the Cleveland Area TI-99/4A Newsletter on his own world wide web home page. It can be found at: <http://members.stratos.net/harryhoffy/newsletter/>. This is a start of electronically publishing our newsletter. However, paper copies will still be distributed to TI-Chips members. It was noted that the membership expiration labels on the newsletter were a year behind. John and Harry said this will be corrected. Harry stated that many user groups have resorted to electronically distributing their newsletters. I passed around a printout of the January issue of the Milwaukee UG newsletter I had subscribed to and received by e-mail.

John Parken asked if it was possible to schedule a tutorial session on Microsoft Word. John said he was frustrated at times because Word wouldn't let him do what he wanted to do. All we need is some one who understands Word enough to provide this tutorial. Any takers? John then put on a very impressive demonstration on speech recognition with the PC system. John had 'taught' the speech recognition software in his computer to recognize his way of speaking by reciting 256 'training phrases'. It worked so well that John was able to recite the Gettysburg Address into the computer and have his spoken word appear on the screen and through the speakers. The voice produced through the speakers sounded very much like what is produced through the TI-99/4A Speech Synthesizer.

The TI-Chips raffle director, Jack Koryta, was unable to attend this month's meeting. Therefore there was no raffle.



By Glenn Bernasek

The February meeting was opened by Fred Ialacci. (Secretary's note: It was especially nice to see that Fred had recovered from his accidental slip on the January ice. It was also nice to see Harry Hoffman able to attend this month's meeting. Harry had quite a bout with a blood infection. Through TLC from his wife Nina, liberal doses of antibiotics and our prayers, Harry is well on the way to full recovery. However we were informed that Nina Hoffman hasn't been feeling very well. Our prayers also go to Nina for a return to full health. This is what makes us a 'family'. We not only learn from and share with each other, we also care for the well being of our fellow Tiers and their families.

The January minutes were read and approved. Harry asked if it would be a good idea to post the Chips' minutes on his web site before printing the bimonthly newsletter. Fred said Harry could post the Chips' meeting minutes on his web site as soon as the minutes have been read and/or approved (published in the newsletter).

Lin Shaw made the Treasurer's report. Lin had a special announcement to make with this month's report. Lin stated that he had received a donation check for \$100 from the Northcoast 99ers to help defray the costs we will have running TIMUG'99 this year. Northcoast's generous donation was gratefully accepted and the members recommended that a thank you note will be e-mailed to Deanna Sheridan to be forwarded to the Northcoast membership. (This is another example of how we are all 'TI family' and that we will always look out for each other.)

In making the membership report, John Parken reported that March is the big membership renewal month for the TI-Chips. (It is hoped that the TI-Chips will be able to maintain or increase its membership during 1999.) Les Kee said there was no activity in the disk library. Therefore he had no report for this month.

I reported that TIMUG'99 planning and preparation is right on schedule. All we need is speakers and guests. I reminded the Chips that rectangular tables will have to be rented at \$5.75 each. And that the rental agency will deliver and pick up the tables. (There will be no tables available to those who do not make their table reservations before April 30.) There was a question of sufficient electrical power for the conference. I said the building's wiring appeared to be up to code and had sufficient amperage. Another question was to the availability of a telephone line since Lew King is planning to present a demonstration on how to make the TI-99/4A work with a 56k baud modem. I said this would be looked into and if there wasn't, we would advise Lew well in advance of the conference. We will also confirm the accessibility of Spang Mansion for equipment set up as scheduled for 7:00 AM on Saturday, May 15. It was suggested that both the Brookpark building Dept. and the Police be contacted and advised regarding our intention to be in the hall at 7:00 AM. Ada Markus said she will also check into parking facilities and said she will need funds for the hall rental and security deposit at the March meeting.

John Parken and Ron Markus suggested an Epson color, ink jet printer be raffled off at TIMUG'99. This is planned to be a 'break even' event. Only enough raffle tickets will be sold to cover the cost of the printer. The membership voiced their approval for the TIMUG'99 color printer raffle.

I reported that the nominations for the Jim Peterson Achievement Awards was closed February 15 and that the award elections were now open. I passed out ballots for the attending members to cast their votes. Additional ballots were taken to the Northcoast 99ers' meeting. Jim Peterson Achievement Award voting will be closed midnight, April 15 and the presentations will be made at TIMUG'99 (Saturday, May 15).

Matt Andel said he would e-mail instructions on how to connect with Cleveland Freenet through the user's local ISP (i.e., AOL or CompuServe). Several members are presently using the 'Communicator' routine in Microsoft's 'Works for Windows' to sign on with Cleveland Freenet.

I explained that I was able to get the TView Micro to work on my Compaq Presario by reconfiguring the monitor driver to 'Standard VGA'. This enabled the computer to 'look' for an external monitor that will respond to a standard VGA signal. It found the TV set and put the display on the TV screen. However, unlike the Compaq Contura, the Presario will only display on the configured screen. Therefore I cannot get a simultaneous display on both the notebook and TV set with this set up. I guess it's just a matter of, "Nothing's free." John Parken said he still couldn't understand why the TView Micro, set to Standard VGA, wouldn't respond with his system.

Ron Markus won this month's 50:50 raffle. Congratulations Ron!



"Tell my mom, I done my best."

By Jim Krych

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes short again and again; because there is not effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumphs of high achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

A couple of days ago, I put a close friend away. The memories came back:

First getting the TI back in 1982. Getting it hooked up and running on a TV purchased with the rebate money. Typing in my first program. Running PARSEC, with the Atari joystick adaptor. Typing and saving in programs, using the ole cassette! Getting the PEB at a great discount. Buying the 32K card, getting my first floppy system (on Plain Dealer paper route money), the "free" speech deal!

Typing in book reports on the E/A editor! Printing them on a second-hand Gemini 10X! Getting my first modem, Volksmodem, and getting online for the first time! Having that "device" built to allow auto-answer, and running Walt P. Ryder's custom BBS software. "The Hardcore Tavern BBS" was the name of my BBS. Having someone from Parma come over at 2 in the morning just to replace the battery of the "device"! Having 45+ users on the BBS, in a matter of months. And, running this between 10PM and 6AM!!!

Meeting new people, coming up with project ideas. Involved with a small user group for a little while—hardware and software hackers user group. Getting the TI set up again when in the Coast Guard! Buying the HFDC, and fixing it with an old TI clam shell, having 360K floppies, and a 20MByte HD! Learning electronics at the same time from CIE.

Building my "custom" TI with an Amiga 500 case, Rave keyboard, SOB, widget, GROM extender, and the TIM. Funny, how the multisync monitor I had at the time should have worked with the lower frequency, but just didn't. Hmmn, there JUST had to be a better way.....

AEMS!!!!!!!!!!!! And the team! First Walt Ryder, then Chris Bobbitt, Joe Delekto, Tony Lewis, Art Green, and Chuck Abdouch. Wire wrapping the first prototype—and promptly seeing it not work at the Corpus Christi 99 User Group! (some mis-placed ground wires!) Sending the working prototype to Joe. Getting the PCB's, to Chris, from OPA! The first announcements, the "debates", software, and the Goal achieved! Reviews! Trying the PSRAM SuperAMS prototype. Sending out schematics to the public domain.

The SW99ers, Dave Ormand and Mike Doane, and the SuperAMS card. Working with the PCB designer. First PCB prototype—and debugging the "prototype". Showing off the SuperAMS at the 1995 Lima Fair. Seeing the SuperAMS accepted. With emulation! More software, more people buying the SuperAMS.

VideoTurtle....

Rehashing an old idea, from Asgard Peripherals. Doing the R&D, asking questions. Building the first prototype, in an old TI 32K standalone, in an entire weekend-while listening to ABBA. The prototype working! Sending it off to Turtle Enterprises, and the "boys". The "boys" debug and enhance. Getting a new design, building and creating a PCB prototype, with a friend, in about 8 days. Refining design down, two more PCB designs. The "boys" enhance even more! Production PCB's ordered. The "countdown" on the TI server.

"VideoTurtle", we tried VideoFlyer, but a rather significant Amiga company, New Tek, had a product with the same name. Soooo, their very friendly legal department humbly offered their opinions on a same-name product! We, tried others. "Larry Smith" offered True-Vu, hmmm, still wanna keep "Video" somewhere. Well, a friend of mine, from way back, her alias being "Turtle" on my BBS, well, the rest is history-VideoTurtle!

VideoTurtle getting just outright fantastic reviews. From very demanding and professional computer users. And, those who have had to deal with earlier converters, and had to get glasses because of them!

I have had my TI, in one shape or another, since 1982. I started with just a TI, a cassette recorder, and Atari Joystick adaptor, a 13" color TV, and some dreams. I end with: 80-column TI with a 1CM135 RGB monitor, 256K SAMS card(prototype card), Rave Keyboard, Rave Speech card, HFDC with 2 360K floppies, and a 20MByte HD. And, the ability to view a "True Vu" S-Video screen with the VideoTurtle!

I want to personally thank the following people, who in one way or another, were either ~~team~~ members, keepers of secret info (while I posted rather cryptic messages), or just encouragers

Joe Delekto, Chris Bobbitt, Tony Lewis, Art Green, Bruce Harrison, Charlie Good, Brad Snyder(Thanks Brad, for keeping VideoTurtle a secret before we officially announced), Mike Doane, Bob Carmany, Chuck Abdouch, Glenn Bernasek and the "gang" from the TI Chips User Group, who had to put up with someone who refused to just be a passive onlooker in the TI community. Bobby Paar, Jim Bures, Wayne McNabb, and the rest of the Corpus Christi 99er User Group, for the help, encouragement, and willingness to listen.

May all TIers have a Blessed holiday this March and April. May we stay friends always and enjoy our TI-99/4A for a long, long time! There is still life in this old machine yet!!!

Transferring Files from a TI to a PC
 By Ted Zychowicz
 Milwaukee Area TI User Group

There are many ways to transfer files from a TI or Geneve to a PC. One way is to upload a file to a BBS from your TI, and then download it with your PC. This also leaves a copy on the BBS. This is ok for a couple of files. Another way is to use PC transfer. This way may take some time because with PC transfer it could take up to four times through the program to complete one disk full of files, and programs. Plus PC transfer is not compatible with some disk controllers. A third way is to connect Modems to each system, and connect them with a telephone cable.

I have found another way that does not use a modem. I found out how to do this several years ago when I bought my 386sx. When I looked through the PC manual I looked at the layout of the serial plugs. When you look at the layout of the 25pin serial connection on the PC, and the rs232 25 pin connection on the TI. You find that you can use a straight 25 pin male to 25 pin female cable. There is the possibility of using the 9 pin serial plug on the PC. I have never used it but I included it in case someone wants to try it. The MYARC rs232 plug layout is the same as the TI rs232. I do not know about the Corcomp rs232 but I believe it is similar to the TI rs232. The layout of the cables is shown below.

Pin #'s	25 pin PC	9 pin PC	25 pin TI
1	Ground	Data carrier detect	Ground
2	Transmit data	Receive data	Receive data
3	Receive data	Transmit data	Transmit data
4	Request to send	Data terminal ready	no connection
5	Clear to send	Ground	Clear to send
6	Data set ready	Data set ready	Data set ready
7	Signal ground	Request to send	Ground
8	Data carrier detect	Clear to send	Data carrier detect
9	no connection	Ring indicator	no connection
10 to 19	no connection		

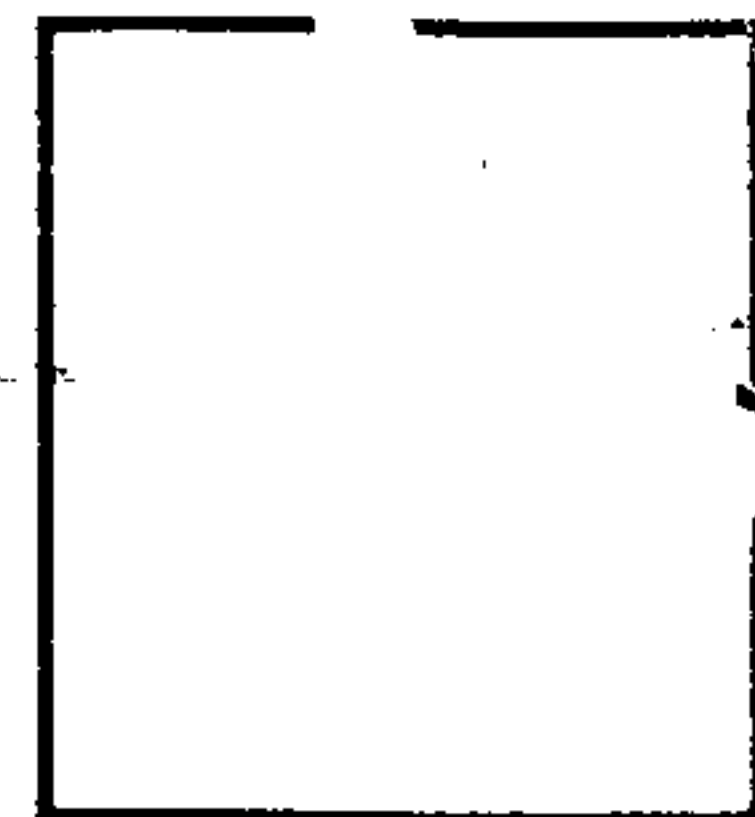
20	Data terminal ready	no connection	Data terminal ready
21	No connection		

22	Ring indicator	no connection	no connection
23 to 25	no connection		

To send files via this cable. First plug in the female plug of the cable into the male 25 pin com port on the PC. Then plug the male plug into the female rs232 plug on the TI. Turn on both systems, and start a terminal program on both systems. Set up parameters the same on both systems.

I have found that the Geneve will send to the PC at 33,400 baud but will only receive at 19,200 baud, this was using the program Port on the Geneve. The TI should be able to send and receive at 19,200 baud. Once both systems have their terminal programs running. Then set one system to receive and the other to send. I would suggest that the sending system be set up first. Once the files are in the PC you can use the utility programs that come with PC99 and V9T9 to get these files into those programs. Or use your CD writing program to write a CD rom.

Cleveland Area User Groups
c/o Harry Hoffman
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Cleveland, OH 44109-1349



Check your expiration date.
This may be your LAST issue!

FIRST CLASS

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\$12.00/yr newsletter only.

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Keep in mind the May 14th & 15th days for the OHIO
TI99-NUG '99!

Check the TI Home Page of Rich Polivka and our own
Cleveland Area TI-99/4A User Group Web page!

Rich's Page: <http://99er.interspeed.net/>

Cleveland page:

[http://members.stratos.net/harryhoffy/newsletter/
timug99.htm](http://members.stratos.net/harryhoffy/newsletter/timug99.htm)