

EDMONTON
99'ER
COMPUTER
USERS'
SOCIETY

99'er ON LINE... is the newsletter of the Edmonton 99'er Computer User's Society published ten times a year. Unless otherwise stated, all articles may be republished in other Newsletters provided that source and author are identified. We will in turn credit authors quoted in 99'er ON LINE.

NEWSLETTER CORRESPONDENCE: Editor: John Harbour, 13857-114st, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. T5J 4A1 (403) 456-0862.

OFFICERS: President Yves Chevalier; Vice President Bill Ince; Treasurer Dennis Miller; Secretary Andrew Webster.

OFFICERS AT LARGE: Paul Helwig Newsletter Library; Gordon Braclay Book Library; Win Appelt Disk Library; Ron Hohmann Module & Cassette Library; Jim Mulligan Sysop, T.I. Bulletin Board 464-4167, 300.1299baus.

DISCLAIMER: information published in this Newsletter is created by and for amateurs, therefore, we cannot guarantee the accuracy or use of presented information.

REGULAR MEETINGS: of the Edmonton 99'er Computer User's Society, are held on the second Tuesday of each month in room 849 of the General Service Building of the University of Alberta from 7:00 till 10:00PM, and are open to all members in good standing. Non-members may attend their first meeting free of charge.

ADVERTISEMENTS: Commercial space is available in this Newsletter at the following rates: Full page \$20.00, Half page \$15.00, 1/4 page \$10.00. Discuss your needs with John, at (403) 456-0862, or the next meeting, alternatively send "photo ready" copies to him. Members may advertise their personal computer related items for free but are asked to limit their ads to about 50 words. Mail your ads., to the Editors address or hand it to him at the General Meeting; Newsletter deadline 3rd Monday of the month.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Family; 12 months \$20.00, 6 months \$15.00. Students; 12 months \$15.00, 6 months \$10.00. New member initiation; \$20.00.

P. O. BOX 11983
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
CANADA T5J 3L1

-----(-99'er News Letter)-----

NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting will be
December 13th. At 7:15 PM.
General Service Building U of A
Campus room 849.

-----(-SEASONS GREETINGS-)-----

JUST_A ->).

By: Yves Chevalier.

Your group is like a stone wall. It is quite strong with all the stones in their proper place supporting each other. But when some of the stones start to crumble and stop doing their part then your wall turns to rubble.

Some of you are being dishonest. Others seem to be content to come to the meetings and expect to find a fully running organization. You seem to think that all things are done with just a touch of magic. Although you seem to think that your membership fee entitles you to free software, free advise, free demonstrations and guidance... Maybe you are right to a point, let me put it this way: "Your days are numbered." Nothing you have received so far was free. It all cost someone something and you owe someone for it.

Payment is due now and will be accepted in the form of time contributed toward organizing and doing demos, producing software and hardware and fuller participation in activities of the group.

EXECUTIVE MEETING NOV/88.

by: Andrew Webster.

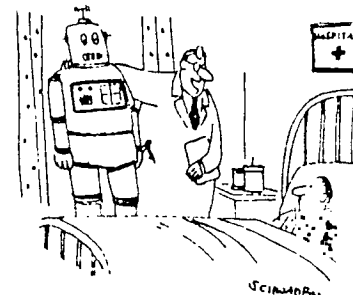
Meeting called to order: 7:40pm. Bill Ince. (Vice President).

Officers present:

Officers at large present

Bill Ince.
Andrew Webster.

Gordon Bradlee.
John Harbour.
Ron Hohmann.
Jim Mulligan.



"We're giving you an artificial heart, and we thought you'd like to meet the donor."

Agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. December meeting: ideas & demo.
2. Long term planning.
3. Advertising.
4. Treasurers report.
5. Bulletin Board report.
6. Newsletter report.
7. Module and cassette library report.
8. Book library report.

1). Quite a few ideas were tossed around regarding the December meeting. Gordon suggested a demo could be put on to detail the complex functions of Funnelweb. He also mentioned a demo on Creative Filing System and PR Base would be of value seeing that they are the two most popular data bases used today. Finally it was decided that Jim would put on a comprehensive demo on DISK & AID.

2). Looking ahead for long term planning Bill suggested the possibility of having a guest speaker at one of our General Meetings. It was also mentioned that Paul Helwig (if I may, Paul) has a very good working knowledge of PR Base and that it would be of value if he would put on a demo of this data base in the months ahead. Andrew mentioned that ACCESS NETWORK had a series on TI-99/4A programming and that it would be of the greatest value if it were possible to have access to this for club members. He suggested a one hour time slot be incorporated in the General Meetings to view these tutorials. Andrew is to look into this. Finally, Gordon suggested that all new software for the club be put into the disk library first and then to the TIBB one week after the general Meeting. The reason being that this would financially better the club as the tendency would be for the members to buy the new software rather than spend hours downloading from the board. Jim countered that this would not be fair to those members who have modems. This was not put to a motion and the existing policy holds. (Which is: it goes in both the disk library and TIBB. The choice is yours whether you want to spend hours downloading or buy the software, ready to go, and help support the club).

3). It was agreed upon that there are a lot of people in Edmonton with TI computers and that our club is not known to them. Therefore the following was agreed upon for action:

- A) Andrew will place an ad in the 'free press'; investigate the possibility of having a promotion on the cable TV community channels.
- B) Jim will contact the local community newspaper in Sherwood Park for a possible write up.
- C) Encourage the General Membership to post the ad-verts. in as many strategic locations as possible.

4). There was no Treasurers report this month.

5). Jim reported that BBS was well used. Also would like to know if the mix of programs on the BBS is right. More input is needed, and any suggestion welcomed. A motion was put on the table by Jim, "That the newsletter go on-line on the BBS". A vote was taken and the motion was passed. It was mentioned that this would also be good advertising should someone new come on the board. Jim mentioned he had made several attempts to connect with the Ottawa BBS to have a look at their new BBS.Prg. The attempts failed due to bad telephone lines. Jim is looking into the possibility of buying the new Ottawa BBS program. This was approved by the executive.

6). It was reiterated that the deadline for submissions to the Newsletter shall remain the 25 of each month. Bill suggested that cartoons relating to computers be accepted as submissions. (So start collecting those funnies finally, John mentioned that still more contributors are needed. (The newsletter is a reflection of you the membership)

7). Ron reported there was very little activity in the Module and Cassette Library. (Hopefully our ad campaign will bring in people with basic systems).

8). Gordon said it was becoming a physical burden to carry the book library to the meetings. Therefore a new system will be instituted. A comprehensive list of all the books available will be compiled by Gordon, the members wishing literature will be noted by Gordon. The literature would be made available to them the following month. Jim suggested the book library be updated with manuals such as TI-WRITER and DISK & AID etc....

Meeting called to a close at 10:38 by John, Seconded by Gordon.

General Meeting November/88.

by: Andrew Webster.

-15 Members present.

Our President, Yves Chevalier opened the meeting at 7:45. He stated that the deadline for submitting articles for the newsletter was the 25th. of each month.

The General Membership was encouraged to write and submit articles. "The Newsletter belongs to you and its up to you (the membership) to see that it has content, not the executive", he said.

Gordon (Book Library) mentioned he had new updates of various programs and other programs that he would close to the board.

(THANKS GORD).

Jim (BBS) reported on the major BBS crash that occurred while he was setting up two extra drives. He reported over 50 calls had been made to the board since then. The total being approximately 600 calls in the two months of operation.

Dennis (Treasurer) handed out the last page of the Newsletter personally, and gave an explanation of why it was left out of the November Newsletter.

Bill (Vice President) reported on the missing coffee maker!!!!

Andrew (Secretary) reported on the additions to the disk library for November. (Win the disk librarian was absent.)

Report from Dennis (Treasurer) on the dues and hardware fees.

Yves passed out ads produced by Paul (Newsletter Library) to be placed in various strategic locations around the city; all part and parcel of our membership drive.

Yves mentioned club memberships are down in other clubs while ours is doing up!

Yves initiated a talk about our club creating marketable software as other clubs have, such as the Ottawa group, in order to sustain ourselves financially and to broaden our knowledge base.

It was suggested we place ads in the free press as part of our membership drive.

John (Newsletter Editor) had a talk on how one should format a TI-WRITER file for a Newsletter article submission. Basically if you are using either BA-Writer or TI Writer, set tabs to 32 columns, this keeps everything on one screen, use carriage return between paragraphs, no need for any fancy formatting defaults are all of.

Finally, the rest of the evening was devoted to the superb demo put on by Jim. He talked about the ins and outs of the BBS. There was a whole series of questions and the level of interest was high.

(THANKS JIM).

-----(-SEASONS GREETINGS-)-----



TRANSLATING PROGRAMS INTO TI BASIC.

by: C. REGENA.

Copied from: "Computer" June 1987.

I have had several requests to explain how to translate a BASIC program to TI BASIC. For example, you may see a program that fits your needs, but it's written for the Apple, or Atari, or TRS 80. How can you re-write it so that it works on your TI-99/4A?

All the main microcomputers use a programming language called BASIC. However, each brand of computer has its own form of BASIC which may not be compatible with other computers.

To convert programs, you first need to be familiar with your TI's language idiosyncrasies: what syntax and spelling to use; where to put spaces, commas, colons, and semicolons; what type of numbers to put in parentheses; and what the limits of parameters are.

The command module for TI extended BASIC makes conversion easier because extended BASIC increases programming power by allowing multi-statement lines, PRINT AT or DISPLAY AT features, and more versatile IF-THEN-ELSE logic. This column, however, concerns conversions to the built-in console TI BASIC.

You cannot load a program from cassette or diskette from another brand of microcomputer to your own. In general, the baud rates (the rate at which information is transferred from one place to another) are different, and each computer has different character codes which may not be recognised by another computer. Graphics are especially machine-specific.

GAMES WITH GRAPHICS AND SOUND.

Action games are probably the most challenging programs to translate because they use graphics and sound. You could run the program on the computer for which it was written (to see what it looks like) and then write your own TI graphics. It's really easier to design your own graphics and sound than to try to convert line by line. If you see a command in another program with the word SOUND or PLAY, the command is for noises or music; and TI BASIC will require a CALL SOUND statement.

Typical graphics statements in other versions of BASIC contain PRINT with special characters in quotes, or such words as LINE, DRAWTO, CLIN, VLIN, CIRCLE, PAINT, COLOR, SETCOLOR, SET, PSET, RESET, PRESET, INVERSE, GRAPHICS, GR, FMODE, SCREEN, DRAW, or PLOT. Many POKE statements also display graphics or play sounds. Also numbers for graphics commands may be contained in DATA and READ statements.

COMMON STATEMENTS.

Many general-purpose programs can be easily converted from a printed listing for another brand of computer. Below are examples of common statements and translations. The left column contains examples you may see in listings for other computers. The right column gives the TI BASIC equivalent.

Other computers that allow multi-statements often use a colon to separate commands. For the TI, simply separate the statements with new line numbers. If there are any branching statements, be especially careful of proper logic and program flow.

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 100 X=1:Y=1:Z=2 | 100 X=1 |
| 110 PRINTY:GOTO400 | 102 Y=1 |
| | 104 Z=2 |
| | 110 PRINT Y |
| | 112 GOTO 400 |

Spaces which are required in TI BASIC may be omitted in other versions of BASIC:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 200 FORX=1TO5:PRINTX: | 200 FOR X=1 TO 5 |
| NEXT X | |
| | 202 PRINT X |
| | 204 NEXT X |

A NEXT statement requires the name of the loop variable, and NEXT statements may not be combined.

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 200 FORD=1TO500:NEXT | 200 FOR D=1 TO 500 |
| | 202 NEXT D |
| 300 FORI=1TO10 | 300 FOR I=1 TO 10 |
| 310 PRINTI | 310 PRINT I |
| 320 FORJ=1TO100:NEXTJ,1320 | 320 FOR J=1 TO 100 |
| | 322 NEXT J |
| | 324 NEXT I |

Some computers have special function keys to clear the screen, or they may use the command CLS.

```
100 PRINT:CLR:      100 CALL CLEAR
100 CLS
```

CLS with a number following the command clears the screen with a certain color number. TI BASIC can use CALL CLEAR then CALL SCREEN(C) for the color C.

INPUT statements in TI BASIC may have a prompt which is followed by a color. Other computers may use a semicolon or a comma.

```
200 PRINT"NUMBER?";  200 INPUT"NUMBER";A
210 INPUT N
300 INPUT"ENTER     300 INPUT"ENTER
    COST";C          COST";C
```

TI BASIC allows colons in the PRINT statements to indicate blank lines or to start a new line.

```
200 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:  200 PRINT :A
300 PRINT"OBAN":PRINT  300 PRINT :B:A : C:D:
    "JACK"
400 LE:ITGS           400 PRINT ::::
410 PRINT
420 NEXTL
```

An IF statement must contain a line number rather than a command after THEN or ELSE. Some computers do not have the ELSE option, but in your translations you may notice it would be appropriate to use an ELSE.

```
200 IFX=20THENX=1      200 IF X<20 THEN 210
210 PRINTX             202 Y=1
                       210 PRINT X
300 IFA=BTHENC=1:     300 IF A<>B THEN 310
    GOTO100            302 C=1
310 A=A+1              304 GOTO 100
                       310 A=A+1
400 IFN=107THENN=     400 IF N =10 THEN 600
    N+1:GOTO100        402 N=N+1
410 GOTO600            404 GOTO 100
500 IFI>JTHEN250      500 IF I>J THEN 250 ELSE 700
510 GOTO 700
```

Random numbers may be generated in a variety of ways. TI BASIC command RND yields a decimal 0 to 1 (which may be multiplied by another number). The INT command is used to get random integer numbers (whole numbers). For example, INT(10*RND) yields a random number from 0 to 9, so INT(10*RND)+1 or INT(10*RND+1) will give a random number from 1 to 10. INT(5*RND)+10 will give a random integer from 10 to 14-10,11,12,13, or 14.

TI BASIC also has a command RANDOMIZE to mix up the random selection. Other computers may not have this function or may use the words RANDOM or RAND.

To get a random number from 1 to 6, the following statements are equivalent.

```
VIC-20      X=INT(6*RND(0))
TRS-800C    X=RND(6)
APPLE      X=RND(6)+1
ATARI      X=INT(6*RND(1))+1
TI         X=INT(6*RND)+1
```

GET and INKEY\$ check to see which key has been pressed for a single keystroke answer. Some computers may "buffer" several keys. The equivalent TI statement is CALL KEY.

```
200 GET A$:IF A$=""    200 CALL KEY (0,K,S)
    THEN 200
210 IF A$=Y THEN 300   210 IF K=69 THEN 300
220 IF A$="N"THEN END  220 IF K<>78 THEN 200
    ELSE200
                230 END
```

```
200 A$==INKEY$:IF A$=""THEN200
210 IF A$="Y"THEN 300
220 IF A$="N"THEN END
230 GOTO 200
```

HOW TO USE VARIABLES

String Variables are handled differently in different computers, so it helps to know what the other computer is doing to be able to convert to the TI. For example, the Atari requires a DIMension statement for the string length. The TI uses a DIMension statement when the string is in an array. The TRS-80 Color Computer may have a statement such as PCLEAR 2000 to clear more memory for strings.

LEN(A\$) returns the length of the string variable A\$. Some computers give the length of the null string, "", as 1, but the TI says the length is zero.

To combine strings in TI BASIC, use the ampersand symbol.

```
200 B$=A$+B$+"XYZ" 200 A$&B$+"XYZ"
```

LEFT\$,MID\$, and RIGHT\$ are functions that refer to part of the string. The TI BASIC equivalent is SEG\$.

```
200 B$=LEFT$(A$,5) 200 B$=SEG$(A$,1,5)
(left five chars. of A$ starting with the first char.)
```

```
210 C$=MID$(A$,7,3) 210 C$=SEG$(A$,7,3)
(three chars. of A$ starting with the seventh char.)
```

```
220 D$=RIGHT$(A$,2) 220 D$=SEG$(A$,LEN(A$)-1,2)
(right or last two chars. of A$)
```

```
230 E$=RIGHT$(A$,R) 230 E$=SEG$(A$,LEN(A$)-R+1,R)
(right R chars. of A$).
```

The PRINT AT or PRINT @ statement is another statement you may want to convert. The PRINT AT statement is followed by one or two numbers which indicate a position on the screen to begin printing. There are two main ways to write this procedure in TI BASIC:

```
200 PRINT TAB(COL);"HELLO";:;:;:
(Where the colons scroll the printing up to the proper row.
To print without scrolling:
```

```
200 M$="MESSAGE"
210 FOR I=1 TO LEN(M$)
220 CALL HCHAR M,COL-I+1,ASC(SEG$(M$,I,1))
230 NEXT I
```

Lines 210-230 graphically place one letter at a time for the length of the message on the screen.

Several microcomputers distinguish between integers (whole numbers) and floating point numbers (numbers which may contain a decimal).

Often the symbol % is used to designate an integer in a variable name (as in B%). This is similar to the way we use \$ to designate a string variable such as S\$. In TI BASIC all numbers are able to contain a decimal (they are floating point numbers). TI BASIC programmers also do not need to worry about single precision and double precision designations.

A function you may see in other listings is FIX. FIX(N) is the same as INT(N) which returns the integer or whole number portion of a number N.

Two symbols you may see in listings are "tokens" or abbreviations: ? (question mark) is the abbreviation for the word PRINT, and ' (apostrophe) is the abbreviation for REM or REMARK.

You may also need to add the DATA and READ statements because TI BASIC contains the command RESTORE. Other computers might not have it. RESTORE means to start at the beginning of the data list with the DATA statement. You may also RESTORE data beginning with a certain line number. RESTORE 430 indicates that the next READ statement should start with the first data item in line 430.

I hope some of you find use for this rather old article, I found it among some papers given to me. So took the time to type it in.

Ed.....

cathy

by Cathy Guisewite



DISK-CATAL .A.

by: Win Appet.

Hello peopies. Here's what is new in the disk library for December:

CHRISTMAS!

A disk full of Christmas music and programs. Also included on this disk is a file called WOODSTOCK. This is a story about Woodstock's Christmas that has got to be seen.

COMIC-SHOW.

This program will let you animate your TI-Artist pictures. This program is originally from Germany, but it has been translated for our use. Included in this package are three excellent animated picture demos.

DSKU4.12.

John Birdwell's latest update. Version 4.12 has got some great features. copy utilities - file utilities - sector editing - and a couple of features that I really like such as being able to use a . (period) in your file names, time dating your disks, also commenting each file on disk, and being able to get all this info about your disk every time it is cataloged. John has made use of some of those blank bytes that were reserved by TI for "Future Use". All in all a great program!

TELCO V2.2.

This is this latest version of Telco that we have received. This version has numerous revisions, too many to list. This is definitely the best terminal program for the TI.

TTS-ENG.

Text To Speech-English is a program released by TI that has recently been released as Public Domain software. This program will allow you to write programs that 'speak' virtually any word in the English language. The documentation is extensive, but not on disk (yet). Till the docs are out on disk, please call me, and I will try to get you a copy.

PROFESSIONAL REPRODUCTION

PROFESSIONAL COPYING & DUPLICATING

| | | |
|---------|----------------|-------------|
| Reports | Specifications | Price Lists |
| Briefs | Proposals | Directories |
| Manuals | Address Labels | Newsletters |
| Flyers | Transparencies | Resumes |

Prices

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| 1-10..... | .09/Copy |
| 11-24..... | .07/Copy |
| 25-49..... | .06/Copy |
| 50-99..... | .05/Copy |
| 100-249..... | .045/Copy |
| 250-499..... | .038/Copy |
| 500-999..... | .036/Copy |
| 1000-2499..... | .032/Copy |
| 2500-4999..... | .03/Copy |
| 5000-Up..... | .028/Copy |

PRICES PER ONE ORIGINAL
ALL ORDERS SUBJECT TO FEDERAL SALES TAX

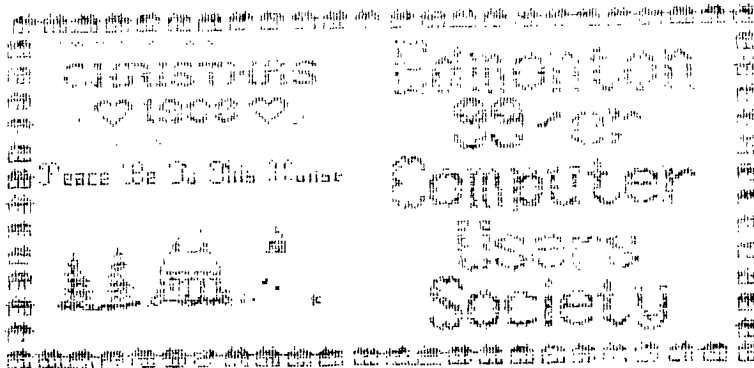
| | | |
|--|---|------------|
| Retail | Services | Print Shop |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Office Supplies * Office Furniture * Business Machines * Typewriter Rentals * Machine Repairs * Rubbers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Professional Duplicating * Custom Printing * Laminating * Color Binding * Folding/Cutting * Stapling/Padding | |

HOURS: 5:30pm Monday to Friday - 10:00am - 4:00pm Saturday

broadmoor 165 ATHABASCAN AVENUE
tationers LTD. SHERWOOD PARK, ALBERTA

464-4343

***** DECEMBER 1988 ==



Well its that time of year again when our thoughts turn to Christmas and all that it entails! A time to relax and enjoy our families and friends. As secretary I would like to take this opportunity to wish every member a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

My Christmas, from a TI perspective, will be a busy one. This will mark the first anniversary that I have owned a TI. I have come a long way in a year and have had more fun with this machine; so much so that it is almost equal to a drug addiction. I have heard that every one goes through this in the first year!--RIGHT JAMIE!! THE POOR WIVES--EH!

Well, many of my Christmas cards this year are TI generated. And my six year old is right into TI-ARTIST. So Christmas has taken a different twist. It revolves not so much around the "tree" as it does around the "machine"! But its all part of the fun.

The above Christmas graphic was designed with TI-ARTIST and converted from an instance to a TL file. Various fonts were used for the wording. Happy computing through out the festive season. Have a good one and once again;

***>> MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR. <<***