HUG

HOUSTON USERS GROUP
TI STORE IN THE GALLERIA
FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH — 2 PM
NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 7, 1982

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

On average I receive from 15 to 20 phone calls a month from new
TI-99/4A owners and others who have had their magic boxes for a time
but have finally reached their frustration limit, and realize a call
for help is their only recourse. To all of those who have called I'd
like to say "Thanks". It's absolutely amazing how much you can forget
about this machine when you haven't worked in console basic or used a
cassette for loading in over a year. Then too, when you've had the
machine for a long while you forget all of the little pitfalls of
programming you avoid by 'reflex' having been bitten a few times when
you first started.

One of the most often asked questions is "How can I learn BASIC
easily?". The answer to that of course is "You can't". There are a
couple of books available which are better than what you receive with
the computer, but still, the only way is to sit down at the console
and either write your own program or modify someone elses'. I can see
by the questions I receive that it is time to publish a sheet of
helpful hints for the beginning computer genius. (It would also be a
handy reference guide for those who have short term memories, such as
myself.) I'll get the information together and hopefully we can
include it in a newsletter soon. Meanwhile ... keep calling, I'm
learning more from you than you can imagine!

By the way, we have to begin looking for a new meeting place. We
MUST have a new place by the January '83 meeting, so ... suggestions
are heartily welcomed ... and encouraged ... think about this and call
us ANYTIME. You can call the TI Store and leave messages for Jane or
call me. Bill Hunt has been very kind to allow us the use of the
store these past few years, which we greatly appreciate. For the
December meeting we would like to have a party either at someone's
home or clubhouse ... please think about it and come to the November
meeting with suggestions on both these subjects!!!

Don Wells

1982 OFFICERS

President: Don Wells, 10107 Westview, #112, 77043; 984-9338
Vice-Pres: Jane McAshan, 1719 Briarmead, 77057; 783-2135
Treasurer: Curt Garcia, 10202 Forum Park Dr., #310, 77036; 774-6881
Librarian: Bill Delvalle, 3623 Kingsman Dr., 77082; 870-8869

>>> We now have PERIPHERAL EXPANSION SYSTEMS IN STOCK!!! <<<<
Also Disk Controller Cards, Disk Drive Cards, and Memory Expansion
Cards are available. If you are interested, please call the store at
961-5822 and ask to have one held for you!

New software - Typing Tutor, PHM 3064 - There are 3 sections to
cover Lessons, Diagnostic and a practice Game. If you are a beginning
typist start with the Lessons section and then get more practice with
the Game. If you already know how to type, the Diagnostic section
will analyze your speed, and identify keys that need more practice.
You can then go to the Lessons and Game, but at a speed that will
provide a challenge for you.
    Also new - Reading Flight - for grades 5,6,7 provides practice in
classifying information, summarizing information and outlining. The
lessons are colorful and interesting - with a game at the end of each
section as an award.

>>> MANAGER'S SALE <<<

For a limited time the TI Store is having a 33% off Sale on all
Third-party Software - programs from Futura, Not-Polyoptics, PDI, and
Creative Computing are included. Limited to stock on hand!

THIS MEETING

We will have a report on TI-FEST by Jane McAshan and
Wayne Wright for our program. The Election of Officers
for 1983 will also be held this Sunday. Officers to be
elected will be President, Vice-President, Treasurer,
and Librarian. (The Librarian needs to have a disk
system!) The new officers will take over at the January
meeting.

ODDS AND ENDS OF INFORMATION

Dan G. Luce, 463-0196, is interested in selling or
trading his Thermal Printer. He is primarily interested
in a RS-232 box plus a synthesizer, modem or cash.

Compute! magazine is looking for applications and
articles on the 99/4A. Write them at 625 Fulton St.,
Greensboro, NC 27403.

The 99'er magazine has gone monthly! The November
issue is in the mail now, if you haven't got it by the
time of the meetng, there will be a copy at the store.

The TI Newsletter is at the press now, so hopefully
you will be receiving it sometime in the next month.

>> CHRISTMAS PARTY <<

Our December meeting will be a party at a location to be announced
later (see Don Well's letter). To make the occasion festive we are
asking everyone to bring a program on cassette or disk (NO third-party
or TI software please!), we will then exchange the programs as
Christmas gifts. Also, please plan to bring some edible goodies -
dips, chips, cookies, cakes, candy, etc... This will be a chance to
visit with other members of the group (and, if there is room, their
better half).

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HH   HH   UU   UU    GGGG
HH   HH   UU   UU   GG   GG
HHHHHH   UU   UU   GG
HHHHHH   UU   UU   GG  GGG
HH   HH   UUUUUU   GG   GG
HH   HH    UUUU     GGGG
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HOUSTON USERS GROUP

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RANDOM BITS

   The Computer Advantage Club is offering 5 classes this spring.
      For children: computer awareness
                    programming in TI Logo
                    programming in TI Basic
      For adults : computer awareness
                    programming in TI Basic
   The classes will start on January 17. For information and resestration
call 1-800-693-1318

                    _____

   TI Writer is now in stock and available at the TI store in the Galleria
                    _____

   In the December issue of the 99'er the line 1680 should read
1680 CALL KEY(0,K,S).
                    _____

   Compute magazine is now carrying a column on the TI 99/4. The author will
be Regena(her mother must have been scared by an octopus)
                    _____

   This years dues are to be paid this month if you want the next newsletter.
As of now they are still $10.
                    _____

THIS MEETING
   Charles Ehnenser of Futura Software will be our guest. Charles will
demonstrate his latest software and show an operating Winchester drive. We
will also have a report from the January Consumer Electronics Show!
                    _____

FOR SALE OR TRADE
   Jane McAshland has a RS232 and Disk Controller Box for sale. Contact her
for details.
   There is an Expansion Chassis for sale. Brand new in an unopened carton
Price is $200. I have over the holidays lost the name but if you will tell
me if you are intrested(Tom Dasenbrock 1-256-2804) I am sure I will be
reminded of who it was this meeting and will pass the information along.

PROGRAMMING HINTS

by Tom Dasenbrock

    This routine is one I have played around with and is actually part of
a much longer routine that is used in some adventure type games I wrote and
will convert words to numbers that are much more easily manipulated.
    Here is a short, quick routine for recognizing single key strokes to
go and do many different opperations when the keys are not in ASCII sequence
.Any number of keys can be used by simply adding to K$ and lengthening
the GOTO statement.

<div align="center">KEYUSE</div>

```
100 K$="WERSDZXC"                          List of recognized keys
110 CALL CLEAR
120 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
130 IF S=0 THEN 120                        If no key is pressed look again
140 A$=CHR$(K)                             Create a string for the key
150 P=POS(K$,A$,1)                         See if key is recognized key
160 IF P=0 THEN 120                        If not, look for new key
170 ON P GOSUB 200,220,240,260,280         If the key is recognized go do
    300,320,340                            the routine
180 GOTO 120                               Return and fetch new key
190 END
200 PRINT "NORTHWEST";P                    DEMONSTRATION ROUTINES
210 RETURN
220 PRINT "NORTH";P
230 RETURN
240 PRINT "NORTHEAST";P
250 RETURN
260 PRINT "WEST";P
270 RETURN
280 PRINT "EAST";P
290 RETURN
300 PRINT "SOUTHWEST";P
310 RETURN
320 PRINT "SOUTH";P
330 RETURN
340 PRINT "SOUTHEAST";P
350 RETURN
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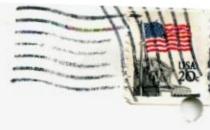
    If anyone can think of a better way to do this sort of routine, or if
you know of any other helpful routines, please let me know so others can
share in you're knowledge.(It's also an easy way to get your name in print)

Edmonton TI Users Group
Paul Langlois
P.O. Box 11983
Edmonton Alberta T5J 3L1