



**MIAMI COUNTY AREA 99/4A  
HOME COMPUTER USER'S GROUP**

(Indiana's First Recognized 99/4A User's Group)

P O BOX 1194

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**\* FEBRUARY MEETING POSTPONED \***

Our regular February meeting was scheduled for the twelfth , but if you will remember, it was snowing and blowing that evening so we (Jeff Dave) decided that we would cancel and reschedule until Wednesday the 27th. This will be an important meeting that you should plan to attend. Some decisions will be made concerning the directions that the Group will be taking for the coming year. This will also be the first meeting with our newly elected officers.

We plan to resolve the question of having another round of programming classes during this meeting. This issue has been put off, first until after Christmas, then until after our election. It is now time to make a decision on this issue. It would be helpful if you could think this matter over and bring your thoughts to the meeting.

**\* MEMBERSHIP \***

Has your membership in the User's Group expired? A large majority of our members joined the Group on a January to January basis. If you fall into this category and if you have not renewed your membership, you should seriously consider appropriating another \$12.00 for this beneficial organization. You can renew at our monthly meeting, or by contacting one of our officers, or by sending a check to our Post Office box. Please don't let this opportunity slip by!

**\* AT THE LAST MEETING \***

Our January 8th meeting was the annual meeting for election of officers. Ballots were collected and held for counting on January 18th. This was done to allow time for mail-in ballots to be collected. The heading on the first page of this newsletter gives a summary of the results. These people will assume their responsibilities at the February meeting.

After the business meeting, Tom Weir demonstrated his system which consists of two half height disk drives in the Peripheral Expansion Box. The usefulness of this setup became evident when Dave Renkenberger loaded up his newly acquired "99/4 AUTO SPELL-CHECK" from DRAGONSLAYER AMERICAN SOFTWARE COMPANY. With two drives on line the number of disk swaps was greatly reduced.

**\* PRESIDENT'S CORNER \***

Jim Perkins gave me a phone call the other day. It seems that I have been reelected President. That means that I get to write a few more of these "President's Corners". This brings forth some mixed emotions from me. On one hand, I hate to write these things, mostly because of a lack of confidence in my writing skills. Another part of me realizes that the more of these things that I am asked to write, the more newsletters you will be receiving.

This leads me into a discussion of our goals for this year and beyond. As you may have guessed, one of my primary concerns is how often this newsletter goes out. It is really hard for me to encourage people who live away from Peru to join our Group when I look back at how often our newsletter has been going out. Hopefully this will change this year! One thing will have to change to make this possible. More people will have to get involved. The newsletter is too big a job for one or two people! Anyone care to help?

Another thing that needs attention is our software library. It seems to be an untapped resource. That little box of thirty to forty diskettes contains something for everyone. There are excellent programs available in areas such as education, entertainment, demonstrations, home budget, mailing lists, data management, word processing, tax preparation, programming aids, and the list goes on. While the library is not lacking for good materials, it falls short on it's organization. We should make it a goal for this year to change our present library listing into a catalog that will enable all of us to make some use of one of our major assets. Anyone care to help?

While we are looking at things that need improvement, let's look at our correspondence library. Our Group's Post Office Box is full of useful mail every month. We get newsletters from other Groups, advertisements for software and hardware, magazines, special offers from vendors, books given to us as samples, etc. We now have two years worth of this type of material stuffed into one or two cardboard boxes. It sure would help if this material could be organized and cataloged so if anyone wants to find a specific piece of information he or she could do so without sifting through 500 pieces of paper. Anyone care to help?

To sum things up, this Group like any other organization is only as good as it's membership wants it to be. If you are satisfied with a inactive Group that does very little for it's membership, be that kind of member. If, on the other hand, you want to be part of an active and thriving organization it's going to require some work from you the membership. Anyone care to help?

Before I end this month's "President's Corner", I would like to thank you all for reelecting me as your President. Personally I have always felt that there are several others in the Group that could do a superior job, but since you have honored me by giving it to me again this year, I will try to repay you all by working my hardest to serve you well.

**\* NEW PRODUCTS FOR THE 99/4A \***

SQI TECH a Southern California firm has plans to produce and market a Ram Disk Card for the Peripheral Expansion Box. This card has 64 to 256K of RAM and can be equipped with an optional power supply to hold programs and/or files in it's memory while the system is turned off. The computer looks at this card as another disk drive.

The card can hold up to 127 different files and it will load 10 to 15 times faster than a standard drive. Millers Graphics states in their newsletter "The Smart Programmer" that a 50 sector BASIC program loaded in 18 seconds from a disk drive while the same program loaded in 1.5 seconds from the Ram Disk.

There is no word yet as to when this product will be released or how much it will cost. We will pass this information along as soon as it becomes available.

Another new product is about to be released for the 99/4A. Millers Graphics has developed a Memory and Disk Drive Diagnostics Program. It will do a complete console and expansion memory check and report any errors. It will also check the disk drives for RPM and allow you to try different head step times. It will also check a diskette for any bad sectors or files and allow you to read from or write to any sector on command.

This program will cost \$19.95 plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling. It should be ready for shipment by the time you read this.

Rumor has it that Myarc Inc. may introduce an 128K expansion card for the Peripheral Expansion Box. It will start at 32K and optional chips can be added to bring it up to 128K.

Myarc also has a new upgrade for their Disk Controller Card. It gives the card a Disk Directory that can be accessed at any time without losing the program in memory.

Tex Comp has obtained the Exclusive American Rights to distribute a program called "ADVENTURE EDITOR". The program allows the user to create Adventure games that will play on the Scott Adams Adventure Cartridge. Tex Comp will hold a contest for people writing adventure games and the winners will be marketed by Tex Comp with royalties going to the author.

THE  
ADVENTURE EDITOR  
PROGRAM  
WILL BE AVAILABLE  
SOON

\* THIS AND THAT FROM MICROpendium \*

The following items appeared in the January and February 1985 issues of MICROpendium. If you do not subscribe to this publication, I would urge you to do so. Each issue that they put out seems to get better. Here are a few examples of this magazine's coverage.

1) A reader writes in telling how he was able to use the CorComp Disk Controller Card to run his TI disk drive as a double density drive without any modifications.

2) An article shows how to use the transliterate feature of TI Writer's text formatter to control your printer's special functions from the keyboard when composing text.

3) Jerry Rowe from our Group had an advertisement for his screen dump program in the January issue.

4) An article explains how to use a cassette recorder to save data at an eighty percent faster rate than would otherwise be possible.

