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Jo Lambert

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James Crosson

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Treasurer

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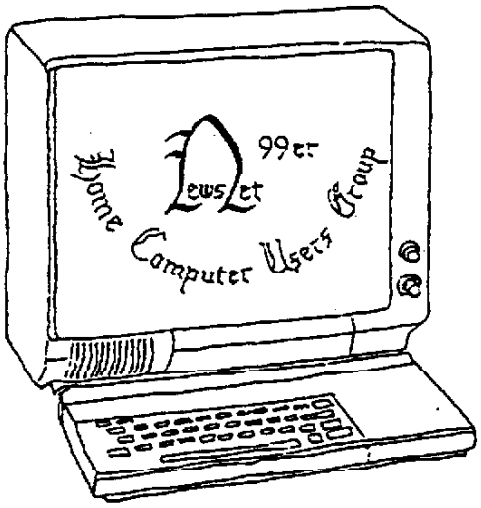

Editor

Gary Fuquay

Reproduction Staff:

Sam Weller

Marilee Catalano

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 5 May 1985

Northeast Tarrant Home Computer User's Group

Devoted to the

TI-99/4A

Presidents Page

I have news for those of you that are interested in a basic class. Gayle Foster is giving us the opportunity to present a basic class to all ages. She would like to ask the parents of those in the sixth grade and under to please attend with their children. A charge of $8.00 to cover the expenses of the class.

A minimum of twelve people will be needed to pay for the rental of the room and supply needs.

We will meet at the Hurst Public Library. The class time will be from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon.

June 15, 22, 29

July 6, 20

Aug. 3

Gayle will use the book, I SPEAK BASIC TO MY TI99/4A. She will also use some printed materials that she has available. A TV, a console, and a cassette recorder with tapes will be needed for each person. A few extension cords will be needed.

Gayle tells me that this course for the most part will cost the people in Colleyville $75.00 with an additional $10.00 for registration. Let's give Gayle the support she needs to present this class.

Please sign up at the June meeting if you are interested. We will then know if we have a minimum class.

Curtis Crosson is working on a Cassette Library. He would like to hear from anyone needing to work with cassette tapes.

Robert Wessler will present his Trivia 99er Program to us at the June meeting. Jim Stewart will present a short Character Definer Program.

We will be meeting June 8th, 1985.

Special note: I have accepted Don Bynums response to our invitation to be the guest speaker at the July 13th meeting. Let's talk this up with everyone who might be interested in hearing him. Invite all yuur friends and non-members as well. Also bring checkbooks and money, Don will be selling TE1200 and FORTI.

Jo Lambert

Minutes-May 6th 1985

President Jo Lambert called the meeting to order and treasurer Charlie Bathman gave the financial report to her. She reported that the group had $553.03 after expenses and deposits.

A buy and sell session was held.

Sam Weller presented a video cassette of the Chicago TI Computer Fair held in November of 1984, featuring Don Bynum.

Next meeting will be June 8th.

Meeting adjourned.

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CHARLIE's CHATTER

Well, May is upon us and the Livin' is Easy. I'm finding it more and more difficult to concentrate on writing this column and easier and easier to think of all the things to do during the nice weather. Don't know if it's the weather or the age.

Two items of immediate concern to be brought to mind. In last month's column, I sent Gary Fuquay what I thought would be a drawing of a RS232 to Modem and/or printer cable. Unfortunately, when I sent the file over STARMAIL, I forgot to set my screen to 80 columns and delete the carriage returns. What resulted was a series of numbers, dashes, asterixes, etc. that could only be interpreted by Who-Knows-What. So this month I sent Gary a hard copy of the drawing which will appear later in its proper form. We also received, this month, in the mail, a letter from Charles La Fara, President of the International 99/4 Users Group. That letter is also reproduced later in this newsletter for your review. When the Basic Class finished its meetings in late March, we did so with one unfinished part of the basic mailing list program still to be completed. We decided to leave that portion of the program up to the attendees to finish. The other day I received an answer to our unfinished program and I am providing the lines below. A special thanks goes to J.E. Ragsdale for the solution. To all of you who attended the classes, Thanks for the great fun we had together and particularly for the computer chair which continues to function perfectly despite its use by my seven year old for many other purposes.

Now I'll toss out another challenge to those Basic Folks; How about the line changes necessary to make the program run for disk? If you would just give me the line numbers and the changes that must be made, I'll put them in next month's News Net 99. Here's your chance to make a name for yourself.

Those of you who have received the May '85 issue of MICROpendium, I'd strongly recommend that you checkout the article on page 12 about C-CAD. The article titled "Group aids disabled" features a great interview with one of our very own members and, I might add,

strongest supporters, Jack Kishpaugh. I know Jack would like to hear your comments about the article. You can send him a STARMAIL letter to MC 1303 (now there's a low number) or you can call and chat at METRO 429-9729.

Speaking of MICROpendium, they have several very good articles on FREEWARE, Personal Record Keeping (PRK) and a number of other subjects. "Oh, you don't get MICROpendium?" Well, my friend, it's about time you did! Just checkout TIGS in last month's newsletter for details. I'd like to welcome our new members since our last meeting;

Dr. Hoyt E. Allen, M.D.
Presbyterian Proffessional Bldg.
Suite 110
Kaufman, Texas 75142
HP (214) 932-4580
WP (214) 932-4355

Randall Baxter
1402 Lavendale Lane
Garland, Texas 75040
HP (214) 276-3226
WP (214) 480-1068

James F. Blake, Jr.
Metroplex Protection
Systems, Inc.
P.O. Box 703
Hurst, Texas 76053
HP 282-6844
WP 282-3559

Brit Davis
7001 Pasadena
Dallas, Texas 75214
HP (214) 321-7118

William R., Ruth and
Kimbly Jane Francisco
6909 Post Oak Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76180
HP 498-4172
WP 688-0677

Mrs. Jerry K. Ludwick
7816 Maplewood
Fort Worth, Texas 76118
HP 281-5235
WP 498-1144

Harvey Moon
220 Smith Street
Burleson, Texas 76028
HP 295-4354
WP 763-3318

Leslie Payne
5800 Lincoln Meadows #1006
Fort Worth, Texas 76101
HP 451-5219

William (Bill) R. Waltrip
2111 Marilyn Lane
Arlington, Texas 76010
HP 275-6310
WP 263-8326

I'd also like to commend the following folks for their unequaled daring in sticking with the NET 99ers for another year.

Ronnie Bradford, Joe Brooks, Bob Derryberry, Gary Fuquay, Doug Klingman, Jo and John Lambert, Robert Martyn, Ward Ray, F.W. Richter, Robert C. Roper and David L. Williams

NOTE: The following is a change of address for Richard R. Hatton - 5709 Vista Bonita NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87111

HELP!!!!! If anyone has a correct address for either of the following, please let me know.

Michael Steuben. P.O. Box 805, Granbury , TX 76048

Ross Williams, 3502 Faulkner Meadows, #209, Garland, TX 75043

NOTE: The Following Names should be dropped from all membership lists AS OF THE END OF MAY 1985 due to non-renewal.

Philip B. and Dawn Anderson, R. E. and Louise Frederick, Don Jensen, Richard F. Johnson, Gary Latson, Joe Mapes, James D. and Sharon L. Mooney, Len Thorpe, Trey Turner, Michael Ward and Sid Wayne.

NOTE: Including the proposed deletions, we should show 211 different family memberships.

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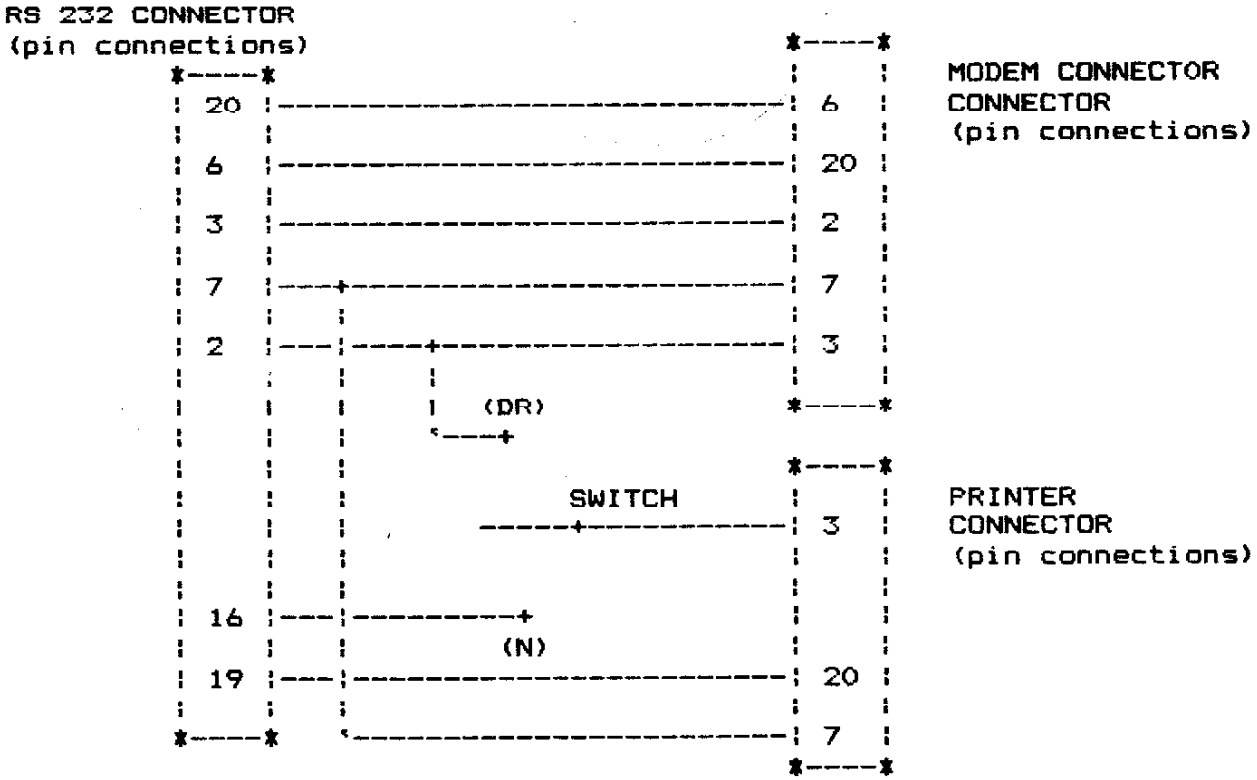
Another option for a modem connecting cable allows you to both serially communicate and serially print, (using the RS232 serial port), at the same time. A switch allows the printer to use either the normal (N) data path or to look at the directly recieved (DR) data coming from the modem. This cable requires three DB 25 male connectors. The switch can be installed in the RS232 DB 25 connector hood if a very small switch is used. Wire the cables as shown below:



```
3200 REM *****SORT BY ZIP*****
3210 CALL CLEAR
3220 PRINT "THE ZIP CODES ARE BEING SORTED"
3230 REM Z$(I)=SEG$(CSZ$(I),LEN(CSZ$(I))-4.5)
3240 M=N
3250 M=INT((M+1)/2)
3260 Q=N-M
3270 FOR I=1 TO Q
3280 P=I
3285 Z$(I)=SEG$(CSZ$(I),LEN(CSZ$(I))-4.5)
3287 Z$(I+M)=SEG$(CSZ$(I+M),LEN(CSZ$(I+M))-4.5)
3290 IF Z$(P)=Z$(I+M)THEN 3350
3300 GOSUB 3380
3310 IF (P-M)1 THEN 3350
3320 IF Z$(P-M=Z$(P)THEN 3350
3330 P=P-M
3340 GOTO 3300
3350 NEXT I
3360 IF M=1 THEN 3370 ELSE 3250
3370 GOTO 130
3380 REM *****SWAP PLACES*****
3390 XX$=LN$(P)
3400 LN$(P)=LN$(P+M)
3410 LN$(P+M)=XX$
3420 XX$=FN$(P)
3430 FN$(P)=FN$(P+M)
3440 FN$(P+M)=XX$
3450 XX$=AD$(P)
3460 AD$(P)=AD$(P+M)
3470 AD$(P+M)=XX$
3480 XX$=CSZ$(P)
3490 CSZ$(P)=CSZ$(P+M)
3500 CSZ$(P+M)=XX$
3510 XX$=HP$(P)
3520 HP$(P)=HP$(P+M)
3530 HP$(P+M)=XX$
3540 XX$=BP$(P)
3550 BP$(P)=BP$(P+M)
3560 BP$(P+M)=XX$
3570 RETURN
```

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REVIEW OF TC-MAIL

Program by Thi Chau
Distributed by Ramsoft Enterprises
Review by LeRoy Thompson

When I saw the advertisement for TC-Mail, I was quite eager to investigate it. This was the first mail list program that I had encountered that was written in FORTH. Due to FORTH being a public domain language nearly everything written in FORTH comes free. However $9.95 plus 1.50 S/H is almost free.

When I ordered this program, I hoped for two things. First, with this program being written in FORTH, I expected to be able to learn

more about writing in FORTH (I failed to notice that the ad said it was BSAVEd). Next I hoped for a super mail list based on the number of records per disk which were advertised. Many other features were also mentioned.

I feel like I lost on all counts. In starting out the program looks excellent and contains many neat features. It will initialize disks and also write dummy files on them from within the program itself. The data entry and score-keeping is also quite good. Then comes the print options--it looks like he subcontracted the print routines out to an illiterate 4-year old. The labels option yields only 3-line labels with no possibility for expanded address or attention lines. The phone list is just that--names and phone numbers only. Now who wants a phone list without addresses. The other option--print records- -will print out all the other 'unused' information plus that which you have seen before, all jammed up onto two lines.

I admit up front that I didn't pay close attention to the advertisement in the area that the program is BSAVEd 'for fast program loading.' This is another way to say that studying/alteration of the program is considerably more difficult. Now I must learn how to un-BSAVE the screens of interest. The by- product of the whole adventure is that I may learn more about FORTH by forcing myself to study how to change this program.

In conclusion, this program did not do either of the two things that I had hoped it would when I bought it. I can not judge its performance with large numbers of entries because I didn't want to waste the time necessary to make a large number of entries. The program is cheap enough, but it is worth nothing to me.

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TIMELESS TECHNICAL TIPS
by LeRoy Thompson

When I thought of this title for a column, I thought it would serve for anything that I wanted to write. However, I am afraid that some non-technical thoughts may creep in.

Once again, apologies. It seems that my boss is getting quite unreasonable--he expects me to work on the company's business ahead of researching a replacement connector for the GROM port. That's the main reason that I haven't done the final search yet. Maybe next month.

I have several more things to say about the Qume disk drives mentioned last month. First and foremost--they are down to $70 now and I think that you can do even better. See Dick Webber for the latest good deal (485-5750). I know of at least two cases where the modification has been successfully done. I also know of one where a minor catastrophe resulted and caused secondary damage. It has all been successfully repaired now and is working. The point is that if you elect to make the power supply modification--please exercise great care in component layout and check for shorts prior to applying power. There isn't much room left for extra heat sinks. The best version that I have seen are the clip-on variety that Dick Webber

bought at Delta. They take up the least room.

I called and placed an order with Triton toward the end of April. I was warned that one item was on backorder. As of the 17th of May the entire order arrived (in two separate shipments). That's not too bad for service. Triton has the advantage of a large inventory, but their prices reflect their attitude that it's a seller's market. But, if that's the only place to get something . . . One word of warning. When dealing with this California firm you must pay TEXAS state tax. They claim that it is because they have assets in Texas. Whatever the reason, it just doesn't seem fair.

I may just start seriously considering purchase of the Myarc 128K memory card. It is supposed to come with software which will allow it to simultaneously perform as a printer spooler and RAM disk. It is also expandable to 512K. If anyone has had experience with this card, please let me know. Thanks.

****

TRADIN' and TIPPIN'

Console	$60 or b.o.
Assorted games Par-sec, Munch-Man Typing Tutor Etc.	10 ea.
Signalman MKIII w/cable	60

Vinnie Grover
817-277-7259

If you have an Okidata or are thinking about an Okidata, this information may be useful. Okidata publishes "TIPS" for different CPU's. The following is a list for the 99/4A, and comes to us courtesy of Tom Hall.

Description	TIP #
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS TI-99/4A	3030
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS TI-99/4A INSTALLATION GUIDE	3042
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS TI-99/4A W/SUPER SPEED RS232C	3061
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS TI-99/4A	3074
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS TI-99/4A USING TI-WRITER	3086

These tips are free for the asking. Write OKIDATA
CUSTOMER SUPPORT
532 FELLOWSHIP ROAD
MOUNT LAUREL, NEW JERSEY 08054

If you can't wait call: 609-235-2600

International 99/4 Users-Group
EDUCATION • ENTERTAINMENT • PERSONAL ENRICHMENT
P.O. Box 67
Bethany, OK 73008
(405) 948-1023

Dear Users-Group President,

As you may have heard by now the International 99/4 Users-Group has asked it's attorneys to file for protection under Chapter 7 of the Federal Bankruptcy Act. Although we sincerely regret this action we have found ourselves with no other alternative.

It has saddened me deeply to see what has happened to the I.U.G. over the past year. Once known for our service and reliability, financial pressures have placed us in a position where we have been operating on a day-to-day basis. For the last 4 months we have floundered with so little cash flow that we were unable in many cases to buy postage to fill our members orders.

In trying to save the I.U.G. from extinction, I personally have placed myself in a position where our family could loose everything that we have worked for over the past 20 years. This type of risk taking to me as an entrepreneur is not entirely new, however failure is. Regardless of what some individuals think of me or the I.U.G., I can honestly say that we have never knowingly taken advantage of any of our members or suppliers. I know with out a shadow of a doubt that over the past 5 years the I.U.G. has done considerably more good than harm.

It is our current desire to ship all in-house orders for Owner Written & Translated software to our members prior to May 30, 1985. There will not be enough capitol to refund any full or partial membership dues. All creditors will be notified by the court as to the division of assets.

The entire Software Library has been kept in tact and active I.U.G. members will be notified by a new supplier how they can continue to purchase these items should they desire to do so.

Respectively,

Charles La Fara