

THE SPRITER

NEWSLETTER OF THE TI USERS OF PANAMA

Volume 1, Number 2
October, 1983

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS:

The last meeting of the TI Users of Panama was held at the Panama Canal Training Center on September 27. Several members brought programs to share with the group.

As the group increases in size (we are now 48 members) it's obvious we have to get organized! At the last meeting we circulated a proposed dues structure and although we never got around to voting on it, most people appeared willing to pay \$1.00 a meeting for the time being. At present dues are going for postage and for printing the newsletter; consider the cost of printing 50 copies of a four page newsletter once a month (approximately \$10.00), and the postage required to send it out to the members (another \$10.00). I would also like to send a copy of our newsletter to other TI User Groups to see what we'll get in exchange. Newsletters can be an extremely useful source of information and programming hints, and the only way we can find out which clubs produce good newsletters is to send them a copy of ours and ask for one of theirs in return.

One of the ways we can help one another most is to pool information about software and peripherals. Many of us receive advertisements from a variety of sources - why not bring them (or copies) to the meeting so we can keep them in one place and make one member responsible for keeping them current? Among that person's responsibilities would be requesting price lists and/or catalogs from places advertising TI products (dues would defray postage costs here too). In that way any member interested in purchasing anything could call the "advertisement keeper" and find out the current cost, etc. Is anyone willing to volunteer for the job? Give me a call if you are.

What about someone to keep track of product reviews? More and more publications are coming out with reviews of TI and third party products and software. Unless we share the information we receive, it won't do club members any good. But - we need someone to be in charge. How about a volunteer? You could keep reviews in a binder and bring them to the meetings, and people could call you between meetings. Members disagreeing with published reviews could add their comments or even write reviews of products they've used. There are many possibilities here for helping one another.

What about a software library? That's usually one of the biggest aids to new computer owners. Frank Flauto previously volunteered to begin gathering programs, but the response to his offer was almost nil. If any of you have programs you would be willing to share with the group get in touch with Frank (83-4034).

A User Group can be an extremely beneficial organization, particularly to those in isolated locations such as ours. But it needs your help and support. Please come to the October 25 meeting with ideas about how we can better be responsive to the members.

Judy Baerg
(52-5030)

REVIEWS

SMART PROGRAMMING GUIDE FOR SPRITES

This little book by Miller's Graphics is worth every cent of its \$5.95 price. It's an extremely detailed introduction to the use of Extended BASIC sprites, written in a way that even a novice can understand. The author introduces short programs, lists them, and then explains how they work line by line.

Included in the book are programs that show you how to move sprites by keyboard or joystick, magnify sprites, create mazes and graphs, and "eat" dots, a la Munch Man. The book is available from:

Millers Graphics
1475 W. Cypress
San Dimas, CA 91773

The price is \$5.95 plus \$1.50 postage and handling to U.S. addresses, \$3.50 to Panama.

and speaking of Extended BASIC.....

EXTENDED BASIC COMMAND MODULE

For those of you just starting out and wondering what you should buy next to "expand" your system, consider the TI Extended BASIC Command Module. Extended BASIC is an expanded version of TI BASIC, which provides a lot of new programming features including:

-Multiple statement lines which allows you to place several statements on the same line separated by ::. This saves space and time in executing statements.

-Automatic load from disks

-Sprites - allows you to define up to 28 color graphics which move smoothly on the screen. Definition can also include sprite's size, position, speed, and direction.

-Display and accept statements which allow you to display and input data at any position on the screen.

Plus many other features. One of the most important results of using Extended BASIC is that programs execute faster; consequently almost all arcade type games and sophisticated financial or recordkeeping programs available on cassette or disk require this module.

Before you make this or any other purchase, check around with other club members for price information. There's a tremendous range in prices, and many of us receive advertising material from a variety of sources - comparison shopping is definitely helpful in purchasing peripherals and software!

PROGRAMS

This program is from the September 1982 issue of the 99/4 Users of America Newsletter. It's one you can incorporate in game programs to create the sound and visual effects of a machinegun and a laser gun. Can anyone modify this to include other sound effects? If so, send it in and we'll print it.

```
100 REM CAL KEY WITH SOUND PROMPT
110 CALL SCREEN(8)
120 CALL CLEAR
130 PRINT TAB(4);"PRESS THE DESIRED KEY!" :: :: :: ::
140 PRINT
150 PRINT
160 PRINT "MACHINEGUN FIRE -M- ":
170 PRINT
180 PRINT "LASER -L-" :: :: ::
190 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
200 CALL SOUND(100,-3,1)
210 FOR I=1 TO 200
220 NEXT I
230 IF S=0 THEN 190
240 IF K=77 THEN 260
250 IF K=76 THEN 320 ELSE 190
260 FOR T=1 TO 15
270 CALL SCREEN(7)
280 CALL SOUND(75,-6,1)
290 CALL SCREEN(12)
300 NEXT T
310 GOTO 100
320 CALL SCREEN(2)
330 CALL CHAR(96,"FFFF000000000000")
340 FOR N=1 TO 15
350 CALL HCHAR(12,1,96,32)
360 CALL COLOR(9,16,1)
370 CALL SOUND(25,3000,1,500,5)
380 CALL CLEAR
390 NEXT N
400 GOTO 100
```

This is an alphabetizing program which sorts a list of up to 100 words in alphabetical order. Lines 420 through 490 do the actual sorting. You could modify the program to print the words horizontally by changing the : in lines 340 and 520 to a ;. You can increase the number of words to be sorted by changing the number in the DIM statements in lines 210 and 220.

```
100 REM THIS PROGRAM WILL ALPHABETIZE A LIST OF UP TO 100 ITEMS
110 REM THE TIME REQUIRED TO SORT A LONG LIST MAY SEEM EXCESSIVE, BUT IT'S WORTH IT.
150 CALL CLEAR
160 PRINT "ENTER EACH WORD AT THE PROMPT. WHEN FINISHED, TYPE END."
170 PRINT
180 PRINT "YOU MAY ENTER UP TO 100 WORDS."
190 PRINT
200 PRINT
210 DIM A$(100)
220 DIM J$(100)
230 PRINT "ENTER WORD TO BE SORTED:"
240 I=I+1
250 INPUT A$(I)
260 IF A$(I)="END" THEN 280
270 GOTO 240
280 N=I-1
290 FOR I=1 TO N
300 J$(I)=A$(I)
310 NEXT I
320 CALL CLEAR
330 FOR I=1 TO N
340 PRINT A$(I):
350 NEXT I
360 PRINT
370 PRINT
380 PRINT "PRESS 'ENTER' TO ALPHABETIZE"
390 INPUT Z$
400 CALL CLEAR
410 PRINT "SORTING - PLEASE STAND BY"
420 FOR P=1 TO N-1
430 FOR I=1 TO N-P
440 IF J$(I)<=J$(I+1) THEN 480
450 X#=J$(I)
460 J$(I)=J$(I+1)
470 J$(I+1)=X#
480 NEXT I
490 NEXT P
500 CALL CLEAR
510 FOR I=1 TO N
520 PRINT J$(I):
530 NEXT I
540 END
```

This little program in TI BASIC allows you to print in different colors. You control the screen color in lines 110 and 180; the print color in line 180. See your Users Reference Guide, pgs. II-73 and 74 for information on CALL COLOR. Can you figure out the significance of lines 240 through 260?

```
100 REM THIS PROGRAM ALLOWS YOU TO PRINT IN DIFFERENT COLORS.
110 REM YOU CAN CHANGE THE SCREEN COLOR IN LINE 110 AND LINE 180. CHANGE THE
    PRINT COLOR ALSO IN LINE 180.
120 REM SEE PG. II-75 OF YOUR USERS REFERENCE GUIDE FOR AVAILABLE COLORS.
130 CALL CLEAR
140 CALL SCREEN(12)
150 PRINT "YOU CAN CHANGE THE PRINT ANDBACKGROUND COLOR, TO JAZZ UP YOUR PROGRAMS
    OR MAKE DESIGNS, LIKE THIS:"
160 PRINT
170 PRINT
180 PRINT
190 PRINT "***** ***** *****"
200 PRINT
210 PRINT
220 PRINT
230 PRINT "USE YOUR IMAGINATION!"
240 FOR A=1 TO 8
250 CALL COLOR(A,7,12)
260 NEXT A
270 FOR DELAY=1 TO 3000
280 NEXT DELAY
```

FOR SALE

Anteater (Romox Software)	\$ 35.00
Peripheral Expansion Box	125.00
TI-Writer	75.00
Microsoft Multiplan	75.00

Call Harvey Brown
(88-6364 home)

Teach Yourself Extended Basic (Disk)	17.00
Video Graphs Command Module	17.00

Call Judy Baerg
(52-5030 home)

There were a number of newcomers at our last meeting. Please add the following names and addresses to your member list. We'll update the list periodically, but with our ever-increasing membership it's a problem to get it updated every month.

Robert C. Black
PSC Box 2639
APO Miami 34002
85-4627

Rick Breer
PSC Box 1255
Ft. Clayton, R.P.
87-3842

Geoffrey T. Cleaves
Apto. 8051
Panama 7, R.P.
64-3533 (father's office)

Michael & Leanne Coffey
PSC Box 2809
APO Miami 34002
52-6994

Jeffrey C. McDaniel
PSC Box 1535
APO Miami 34001
84-3949 (room 399)

Gail & Dave Radzik
PSC Box 1404
APO Miami 34002
52-5894

Joseph & Elizabeth Rimkus
PSC Box 51
APO Miami 34001
84-4735

Dennis Sinke
396 Signal Co.
APO Miami 34004
87-3670

Central Alabama 99/4
Users Group
551 Lakewood Drive
Montgomery AL 36109

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TI USERS OF PANAMA
c/o Judy Baerg
PSC Box 3333
APO Miami 34002

THE SPRINTER

POSTAL SERVICE
FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 1000 MIAMI FL
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