

TI-99/4A

JULY 1986 NO. 10

FOR THE RECORD

by Ed Bittner
Recording Secretary

The shortness in length of this report is in no way related to the enthusiasm expressed at the June 16 meeting. The meeting opened with a comment on a NEW machine from some manufacturer but the topic was quickly snuffed due to rumor and innuendo (not a suppository). Questions such as a new place, the need for insurance, and whether the PACC (Pittsburgh Area Computer Conference) still existed were all unanswered but the good news is that we are now more than 40 members strong with several members from out of state as far away as New Mexico. Obviously this guy is overwhelmed at the quality of our newsletter because he wasn't at the meeting!

Ed Bittner (ahem!) brought along several copies of a disk containing programs taken from other newsletters which he painstakingly keyed in. Sales of these disks were brisk, considering the price (\$1.00 American), pilferage would be discouraged. Programs included a DIS/VAR 80 to MERGE format converter, a Program Line Saver, some Epson Printer programs and his own version of Hangman. Copies are still available, see Jan Trayers at the July meeting.

Chuck Strink re-introduced the idea of an "I WANT" column for the newsletter. People who need or want a program could ask for it and at the next meeting, could swap/trade at our session prior to the meeting (6:15-7:00). John Willforth **EMPHASIZED** that he must have your articles by the first of each month for publication in the newsletter. Please give John your support. John also talked about a \$35 mini, very portable, PEB which can accommodate 3 cards and can be directly coupled to the console. If interested give John a call or see him in July.

During the demo session I was in and out of the room so please accept this shakey report. The Brain, a calculator-conversion factor-chemistry/physics encyclopedic type program was shown by Scott Coleman. It did not receive a Nobel Applause. Now here's the shakey part- a Graphics Standard for telecommunications transmission has been developed, MAX-RLE. An FBI picture and description was on the screen when I returned and this was apparently downloaded thru or with the public domain software program, MAX-RLE, I think. Two word processing programs were also shown, Funnel Writer and BA writer. It turns out that BA writer does indeed work with the MYARC controller! Clyde Colledge demoed his cassette loader showing the incredible 2X of TI's speed and the ability to load programs up to 24K length programs (2X TI's size).

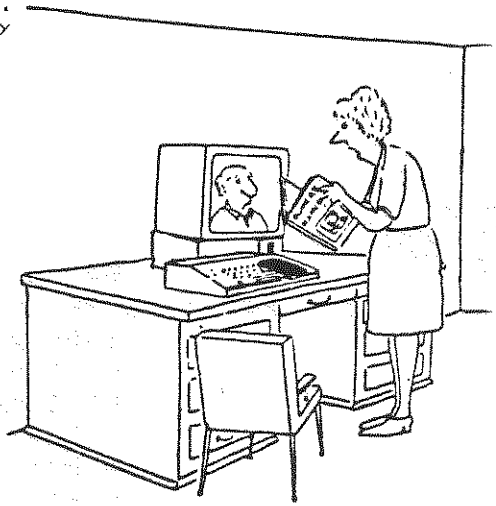
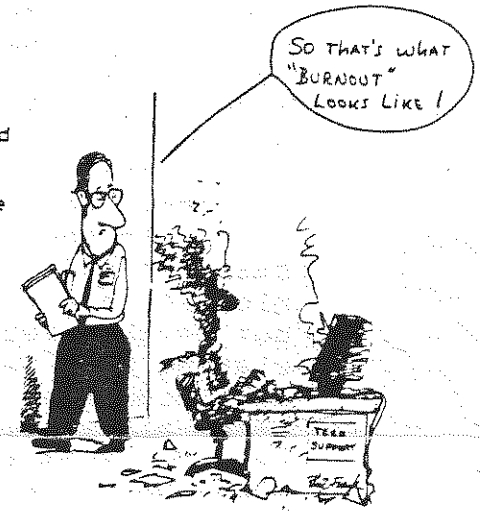
Classes in Basic (Chuck Strink) and Assembler (Gene Kelly) followed the main meeting. I apologize for the first sentence, this was longer than anticipated.

Relentlessly submitted,

Scoops Bittner

P.S. Following a suggestion by the president, I did bring one case of cold pop (soda) which sold for \$.50/can. This was a great hit. Unfortunately I will miss the next meeting so I am delegating my authority to Scott Coleman to bring one case of cold pop in his Coleman (ahem!) ice chest. Also I would ask that Jan Trayers, our treasurer, take notes at the next meeting since she has managed to keep us in the black.

Ed



"Now, Scott, just relax, and try to remember which buttons you pushed."

IN CASE YOU LOOSE TRACK OF YOUR PRIORITIES, I'VE PLACED THESE LITTLE CARTOONS IN OUR NEWSLETTER TO REMIND US THAT WE CAN TAKE A GOOD THING TOO FAR. ...ENJOY THE SUMMER!!!!

DUMB QUESTIONS

A computer whiz I certainly am not and never will be. I'm just one who is fascinated (and intimidated) by this wonderful wizard of a machine. I joined this group with relief and great anticipation. Relief because I was no longer alone feeling inadequate with this little silver box that kept telling me "can't do that"!!; anticipation because I could immediately see there was a wealth of information available to me inside the heads of all these new acquaintances. The problem was (I soon found out) they didn't speak English!! Being a determined type, I stuck it out, knowing surely there had to be a way to communicate. Since my spare time is almost non-existent, I can't spend hours searching books and doing alot of trial and error, so these "dumb questions" are popping up constantly, increasing even more with the new programs made available through my new friends. The news letters were a great start because you get programs you can "key" (see, I did learn a new word!) in yourself, but now comes one of my dumb questions -- "once I get all this into the computer, how do I save it on a disk or cassette?" It seems like such a stupid question in the midst of all this "ram disk" and "gram cracker" talk -- but nevertheless a very vital question, obviously! The classes have helped because I think I'm becoming convinced that maybe I can control this little box after all -- if John could tell me why the program I keyed in from the newsletter won't work for me; and Chuck would tell me how I can get into line number 320 to change the typing mistake I made without retyping that whole line; and Stanley would tell me how the heck do you underline with T I Writer, anyway!??

???????????? Trayers

JUNE TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE CARRIED	\$458.93		
RECEIVED IN JUNE		PAID OUT IN JUNE	
1 DATA CASE	\$ 6.00	RENT (YMCA)	\$10.00
80 DISKS SOLD	64.00	POSTAGE	33.00
ED'S NEWSLETTER			
DISKS 5 @ \$1	5.00	POP	7.00
4 MAX-RLE DISKS			
@ \$2	8.00		
POP SALE	10.00		
TOTAL RECEIVED IN JUNE	\$95.00	TOTAL PAID	\$50.00
JUNE BALANCE IS	\$503.93		

THE POEM BELOW WAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE WEST PENN 99'ER BY MR. SCOTT
COLEMAN(President).

*T'was the night before implementation and all through the house,
Not a program was working; not even a mouse.
The programmers all hung by their tubes in despair
In hopes that a miracle soon would be there.*

*The users were nestled all snug in their beds
while visions of inquiries danced in their heads.
When out of the COPE there arose such a clatter
that I sprang from my desk to see what was the matter.*

*And what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a super programmer (with a six-pack of beer).
His resume glowed with experience so rare,
He turned out great code with a bit pusher's flair.*

*More rapid than eagles, his programs they came,
And he whistled and shouted and called them by name:
On Update! On Add! On Inquire! On Delete!
On Batch Jobs! On Closing! On Functions Complete!*

*His eyes were glazed over, fingers nimble and lean,
From weekends and nights spent in front of a screen.
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know that I had nothing to dread.*

*He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
Turning specs into code, then turned with a jerk;
And laying his finger upon the "enter" key,
The system came up and worked perfectly.*

*The updates updated; the deletes, they deleted;
The inquiries inquired, and closing completed.
He tested each whistle, and tested each bell.
With nary an ABEND, and all had gone well.*

*The system was finished, the tests were concluded.
The clients' last changes were even included!
But the client exclaimed with a snarl and a taunt,
"It's just what I asked for, but not what I want!"*

Author Anonymous

GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR CASSETTE SYSTEM
BY MICKEY SCHMITT
NUMBER 3
KEEPING YOUR CASSETTE TAPES AND PROGRAMS ORGANIZED
PART I

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU WANTED TO FIND A SPECIFIC PROGRAM THAT YOU HAD BUT...

1. YOU CAN'T REMEMBER WHICH CASSETTE YOU PUT IT ON.
2. OR...YOU CAN REMEMBER WHICH CASSETTE YOU PUT IT ON BUT NOW YOU CAN'T REMEMBER WHETHER YOU PUT IT ON SIDE A OR B.
3. OR...YOU CAN REMEMBER WHETHER YOU PUT IT ON SIDE A OR B BUT NOW YOU CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT THE COUNTER READING WAS FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM.
4. OR...YOU CAN REMEMBER WHAT THE COUNTER READING WAS FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM BUT NOW YOU CAN'T REMEMBER IF THE PROGRAM WAS WRITTEN IN BASIC OR EXTENDED BASIC OR...MAYBE IT WAS THAT YOU NEEDED TEII...OR WAS IT MINI-MEMORY?

IF ALL OF THIS SOUNDS WAY TOO FAMILIAR TO YOU...DON'T PANIC. YOU ARE NOT ALONE! THE SAME SITUATIONS HAVE HAPPENED TO ALL OF US WHO USE A CASSETTE RECORDER - AT LEAST AT ONE POINT OF TIME OR ANOTHER.

* THE SOLUTION - GET ORGANIZED! *
* STOP WASTING ALL OF YOUR VALUABLE COMPUTER TIME *
* HUNTING FOR PROGRAMS! *

NOW THAT YOU SEE THE NEED FOR SOME "ORGANIZATION" - LET ME BE ONE OF THE FIRST TO TELL YOU THAT THERE ARE ALOT OF DIFFERENT WAYS IN WHICH TO GO ABOUT ORGANIZING YOUR PROGRAMS. KEEP IN MIND THAT WHILE ONE METHOD MAY SEEM TO WORK THE BEST FOR YOU IT MAY NOT BE THE BEST METHOD FOR SOMEONE ELSE. ONLY YOU KNOW WHAT METHOD WILL BEST MEET YOUR OWN NEEDS!

IF YOU ARE NOT USING ANY SYSTEM RIGHT NOW I WOULD SUGGEST ORGANIZING YOUR PROGRAMS WITH THE USE OF 3 X 5 INDEX CARDS - WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS A GUIDELINE:

1. CASSETTE TITLE AND/OR CASSETTE NUMBER
2. CASSETTE SIDE
3. PROGRAM NAME
4. COUNTER READING
5. LANGUAGE USED
6. PERIPHERALS NEEDED
7. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO GET YOU STARTED AND KEEP YOU QUITE BUSY FOR AWHILE. I KNOW THAT IT ALL SOUNDS LIKE ALOT OF WORK BUT IT WILL BE APPRECIATED IN THE LONG RUN - WHEN YOU NEED TO FIND A SPECIFIC PROGRAM AND YOU DON'T HAVE ALL DAY TO HUNT FOR IT!!!

NEXT MONTH I WILL CONTINUE WITH THE TOPIC OF KEEPING YOUR CASSETTE TAPES AND PROGRAMS ORGANIZED USING THE INFORMATION GENERATED BY THE 3 X 5 INDEX CARDS AS A FOUNDATION FOR A PROGRAM WHICH CAN BE SAVED ONTO CASSETTE.

IF YOU NEED ANY HELP IN STARTING TO GET YOUR CASSETTE TAPES AND PROGRAMS ORGANIZED JUST GIVE ME A CALL (412-335-0163) AND I'LL TRY TO HELP.

MICKEY SCHMITT

FUNNELWRITER

Programs for loading TI-Writer without the TI-Writer module have been real popular over the last year or so. First (to my recollection) was Tom Knight's TK-Writer. It did a pretty good job but crashed if you tried to Show Directory. Next we have New Writer which will show directory, but has to be reloaded each time you want to switch between Editor, Formatter or Utility (Spell-checker). Now, from the software wizards in New South Wales, we have Funnelwriter, a program that eliminates the need to reload the program -- and a whole lot more. The two writers, Tony & Will McGovern of Funnelweb Farm at Kotara, NSW, developed the program to allow the Extended Basic module provide an environment for TI-Writer, Editor/Assembler and Disk Manager. This was done for insurance from a failure of the TI-Writer cartridge, and as a protest against the pricing practices of Imagic Australia on TI-Writer and Editor/Assembler. The program fills the bill real well.

The Funnelwriter disk comes with the following files:

LOAD -	The Extended Basic loader
CHARA1 -	a slightly modified character set for TI-Writer
EAU -	Editor/Assembler utilities
EDITA3 -	Two files to replace EDITA1 & EDITA2 from TI-Writer. The documentation states they will work only with Funnelwriter
FORMA3 -	Replacements for FORMA1 & FORMA2
MGR1 -	Two files for Disk Manager 1000 version 2.3
DPK -	DISKO

In addition you will have to add ASSM1 & ASSM2 from your Editor/Assembler disks. They could not be included with Funnelwriter because TI never placed them in public domain like they did with TI-Writer.

The first screen you get when you boot Funnelwriter is similar to the TI-Writer main menu. You have your choice of Editor, Formatter and Utility. Editor and Formatter work in the normal manner. Selecting Utility pulls up a new menu, Editor (E/A editor (not to be confused with the TI-Writer editor) Assembler, DM1000, 3 openings for entries of your own that can be filled by modifying the Load program, Dpatch, TI-Forth and Enter Name. Selecting Enter Name brings up yet another menu, Text Mode, GPLWS, Program and Load/Run. With all these options, you should be able to run nearly all your disk based programs.

The TI-Writer editor has several enhancements. The color selections you have by pressing <CTRL 3> may be altered from the Load program with a CALL COLOR statement. The printer name is preloaded, also changeable from Load. Show Directory brings up a paging (rather than scrolling) directory that, get this, can tell you whether your programs are Basic/Extended Basic or Editor-Assembler!!! It will also tell you if a file is fractured (stored in one continuous group of sectors on the disk or scattered around in pieces.

The Formatter also has a default printer name, changeable from the Load program. It

will also display the last filename used by the Editor if you call Formatter immediately after leaving Editor. Back <FCTN 9> will take you back to the main menu if you find you are in Formatter by mistake.

The Editor/Assembler editor is slightly different than the TI-Writer editor. Word wrap is off to prevent scrambling a source code file. Tabs are not appended to the end of a file when you Save File.

Disk Manager 1000 version 2.3 is patched by the Load program so the selection screen DM1000 option will only work with the MGR1 and MGR2 files included on the disk. **DO NOT** place your DM1000 version 3.1 files on this disk as MGR1 and MGR2. The result can be catastrophic!!! DM1000 ver 3.1 will load and seem to operate just like normal, but it will scramble the disk you try to copy any files to. Fortunately, I tried this out on a blank disk first to see what would happen so I didn't lose any files. If you want to use 3.1, it can be loaded from the program load option.

The open slots on the menu can be filled with your own choice of utility programs. The documentation tells you how to modify your Load program accordingly. You can probably call DM1000 ver 3.1 in a slot here although I have not tried it. I noticed in the message base on CompuServe that someone was having problems with PRBASE running correctly. The only note in the documentation is that Editor, Formatter, Assembler and TI-Forth can be loaded successfully only from their selection screen entries.

In the Program Load Environment, Program and Load/Run work like they do with Editor/Assembler with a few exceptions. Files which load over Funnelwriter in the top of high memory lock up the computer. RUN in the Load and Run option gives a screen display of the DEF table. The DEF table has the program name in it which is selected by moving the cursor to the correct entry and pressing <ENTER>. This sure beats having to remember the names of programs you seldom use.

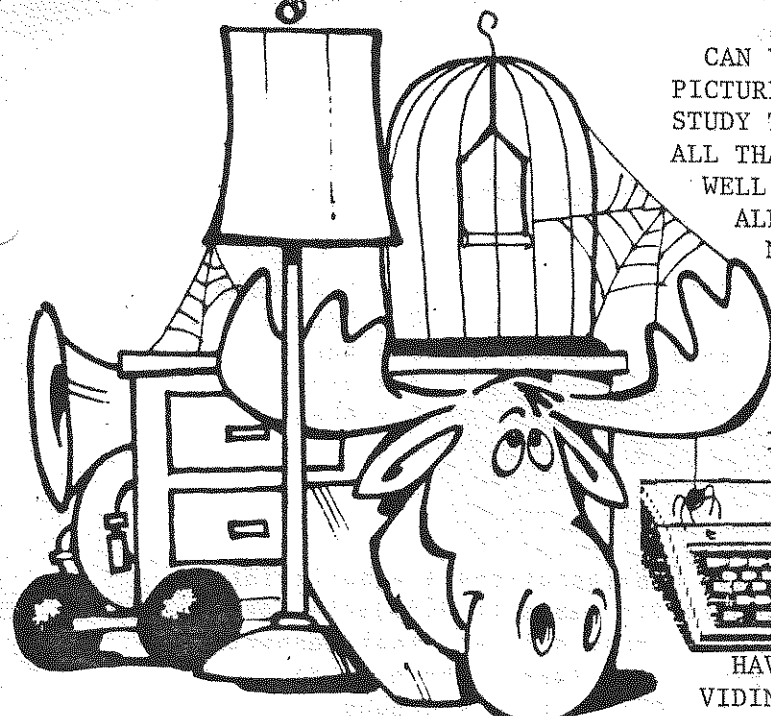
Backing out of a program take you back to yet a different menu. The documentation does not describe this menu; however it has 4 fewer selections than the main menu (menu selections you created, DISKO and TI-Forth are no longer present). It may be that this area in memory is normally overwritten by programs so an alternative had to be written in a safe place.

All in all, this is a top notch program. If you normally do a lot of cartridge switching, it can save a lot of wear and tear on your cartridge port. The documentation tells of problems with some programs that use undocumented features of the computer, but programs adhering to Editor-Assembler manual specs should run okay. The program has been tested with TI and CorComp disk controllers, but people with Myarc controllers have a problem. It's a new enough program that I am working cautiously until I am familiar with it, but I go by the saying, "If it ain't got bugs, it's obsolete."

(reviewed by Mike Enzmann)

THIS PARTICULAR LIST OF PEEKS IS REPRINTED FROM THE "CALL SAY" NEWSLETTER OF THE GRAND RAPIDS 99'ER USERS GROUP AND THE MUSKEGON 99'ER SUB-GROUP. THERE ARE MANY MORE, SO AS THE SPACE PERMITS, I WILL INCLUDE THEM

ADDRESS	VALUE(S)	MEANING IN EXTENDED BASIC	ADDRESS	VALUE(S)	MEANING IN EXTENDED BASIC
8192	P	CALL VERSION(X) IF X=100 100= NEWEST VERSION OF X/D CART	-31931	0	UNPROTECT X-D PROTECTION
8194		USE (PEEK,P) IF P< 70 OR (>)21 THEN DO A CALL INIT	2		SET "ON WARNING NEXT" COMMAND
8196		FIRST FREE ADDRESS IN LOW MEMORY	4		SET "ON WARNING STOP" COMMAND
-28672	P	LAST FREE ADDRESS IN LOW MEMORY	14		SET "UNTRACE" COMMAND
-31572	0 TO 255	P=0 SPEECH NOT ATTACHED P=96 OR P=255 SPEECH IS ATTACHED	15		SET "UNTRACE" COMMAND "NUM" COMMAND
-31740	P, 0	VARY KEYBOARD RESPONSE	16		SET "TRACE" COMMAND
-31744	0 TO 15	PUT IN DIFFERENT TO CHANGE BEEPS, WARNINGS, ETC	64		SET "ON BREAK NEXT" COMMAND
-31748	0 TO 255	CONTINUATION OF LAST SOUND (0=LOUD AND 15=SOFT)	128		PROTECT X/D PROGRAM
-31780	160	CHANGE THE CURSOR FLASHING AND RESPONSE TONE RATES	-31952	P	PEEK P=55 THEN 32K EXPANSION MEMORY IS OFF (>55 MEANS (
192		BLANK OUT THE SCREEN (MUST PUSH A KEY TO ACTIVATE)	-31962	32	RETURN TO THE TITLE SCREEN
224		NO AUTOMATIC SPRITE MOTION OR SOUND	-31974	P, 0	RESTART X/D W/DISK.LOAD
225		NORMAL OPERATION	-32112	8	END OF VDP STACK ADDRESS (PA+Q)
226		MAGNIFIED SPRITES	-32114	2	SEARCHES DISK FOR ?
227		DOUBLE SIZE SPRITES	13		RANDOM GARBAGE
232		MAGNIFIED DOUBLE SIZED SPRITES	119		SCREEN GOES WILD
-31794	P	MULTICOLOR MODE (48 BY 64 SQUARES)	-32116	2	PRODUCE LINES
-31804	X, Y	TIMER FOR CALL SOUND (COUNTS FROM 255 TO 0)	4		RANDOM CHARACTERS ON SCREEN
-31806	0	RETURN TO THE TITLE SCREEN (USE "PEEK (2,X,Y)")	-32187	0	GO FROM X/BASIC TO BASIC
16		CHANGE THE CURSOR FLASH RATE (0 TO 255)	2		UNPROTECT X/D PROGRAM
32		NORMAL OPERATION	4		SET "ON WARNING NEXT" COMMAND
48		DISABLE QUIT KEY (FCFM =)	9		SET "ON WARNING STOP" COMMAND
64		DISABLE SOUND (USE NEG DUR FOR CONTINUOUS SOUND)	14		SET 0 LINE NUMBER
80		DISABLE SOUND QUIT KEY	15		SET "UNTRACE" COMMAND
96		DISABLE AUTO SPRITE MOTION	16		SET "UNTRACE" COMMAND "NUM" COMMAND
128		DISABLE SPRITES QUIT KEY	64		SET "TRACE" COMMAND
128		DISABLE SPRITES AND SOUND	128		SET "ON BREAK NEXT" COMMAND
-31808	P, 0	DISABLE ALL THREE	-32188	1	PROTECT X/D PROGRAM
-31860	4	DOUBLE RANDOM NUMBERS (0 TO 255) NEED "RANDOMIZE"	127		CHANGE COLOR AND RECEIVE SYNTAX ERROR
8		GO FROM EI-BASIC TO CONSOLE BASIC (NEED "NEW")	-32630	128	CHANGE COLOR AND RECEIVE BREAKPOINT
8		AUTO RUN OF DISK.LOAD	-32699	0	RESET TO TITLE SCREEN
-31864	P, 0	END OF CPU PROGRAM ADDRESS (P6+B)	2		UNPROTECT X/D PROGRAM
-31868	0	NO "RUN" OR "LIST" AFTER "BREAK" IS USED	4		SET "ON WARNING NEXT" COMMAND
0		TURNS OFF THE 32K MEMORY EXPANSION	14		SET "ON WARNING STOP" COMMAND
255, 231		SCREEN COLUMN TO START AT WITH A "PRINT"	15		SET "UNTRACE" "NUM" COMMAND
3		P32 = SPRITE COINCIDENCE P64 = 5 SPRITES ON A LINE	16		SET "TRACE" COMMAND
3		HIGHEST NUMBER SPRITE IN MOTION (0 STOPS ALL)	64		SET "ON BREAK NEXT"
P		TIMER FOR VDP INTERRUPTS EVERY 1/60 OF A SEC (0 TOP 255)	128		PROTECT X/D PROGRAM
P		RANDOM NUMBER (0 TO 99) NEED "RANDOMIZE"	-32700	0	CLEAR SCREEN FOR AN INSTANT
P		CHANGE KEYBOARD MODE (LIKE "CALL KEY(K,...)")	-32729	0	RUN "DSKI.LOAD"
63, 255		DISABLE ALL DISK DRIVES (USE "NEW" TO FREE MEMORY)	-32730	32	RESET TO TITLE SCREEN
55, 215		ENABLE ALL DISK DRIVES (USE "NEW" TO FREE DRIVES)	-32961	51	RESET TO TITLE SCREEN
			149		SETS "ON BREAK GOTO" LOCKS SYSTEM



CAN YOU GUESS WHAT DOES NOT BELONG IN THIS PICTURE? I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE YOU ALL DAY TO STUDY THE PICTURE, COME ON NOW, IT CAN'T BE ALL THAT HARD.

WELL I GUESS I SHOULDN'T KID WITH YOU, AFTER ALL YOU ARE GETTING THIS NEWSLETTER, SO YOU MUST AT LEAST KNOW THAT YOU HAVE A T.I. "COMPUTER" SOMEWHERE IN THE HOUSE.

WELL IF YOU DO, AND YOU NEVER USE IT FOR ANYTHING BUT AS A GAME MACHINE, YOU ARE REALLY MISSING OUT ON MORE FUN THAN RUMMAGING THROUGH THE ATTIC AND IT IS NOT TOO LATE. THERE ARE MORE EXCITING THINGS THAN EVER BEFORE COMING OUT FOR THE T.I.

USER. WE WILL TRY TO KEEP YOU ABREAST OF ALL THE NEW THINGS OUT. I'M SORRY I

HAVEN'T DONE EVEN AN ADEQUATE JOB OF PROVIDING YOU WITH WHAT'S NEW. I PROMISE THAT (oops!) IMPROVE EVEN MORE ON THE CONTENT OF THIS

WITH ALL OF YOUR HELP, WE WILL NEWSLETTER. I THINK THAT WITH THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS THAT MAKE UP THE WEST PENN 99'ERS, WE HAVE THE MAK'INS OF A REALLY "GREEAAATT" CLUB, AND WE ARE WELL ON OUR WAY!

THE OFFICERS DID HAVE AN EXECUTIVE MEETING TO LOOK AT A NEW SITE FOR OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS. THE SITE WAS GREAT, AND WAS DISCOVERED FOR US BY ONE OF OUR MEMBERS, BOB SADUSKY. THE ONLY PROBLEM WAS THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR US TO HOLD THE DIFFERENT CLASSES, BECAUSE OF THE FACILITY HAVING ONLY ONE LARGE ROOM. THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO DECLINE A MOVE TO THIS FACILITY. I DID COMMUNICATE FURTHER WITH REV. PRESSLER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRWIN CONCERNING THE USE OF THEIR MEETING ROOMS IN THE BASEMENT AND ELSEWHERE IN THE BUILDING, AND AT THIS TIME AM TRYING TO WORK OUT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SCHEDULE.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE NEXT MEETING.....

THE NEXT MEETING WILL STILL BE HELD AT:

THE NORWIN Y.M.C.A.

AT 7:00 P.M. JULY 21

SIG'S WILL MEET AT ABOUT 8:30. THERE WILL BE A 15 MINUTE PERIOD (starting at about 8:15), FOR SWAPPING OF ITEMS BETWEEN MEMBERS, OR THE SALE OF ARTICLES TO OTHER MEMBERS.

THE SIG'S THAT ARE IN OPERATION AT THIS TIME ARE THE BASIC/EXBASIC CLASS TAUGHT BY CHUCK STRINK, AND THE ASSEMBLY CLASS, TAUGHT BY GENE KELLY, ASSISTED BY CLYDE COLLEDGE. BOTH CLASSES ARE AS INFORMATIVE AS POSSIBLE. I'VE NOT HEARD ANYTHING BUT PRAISES FROM THOSE ATTENDING.

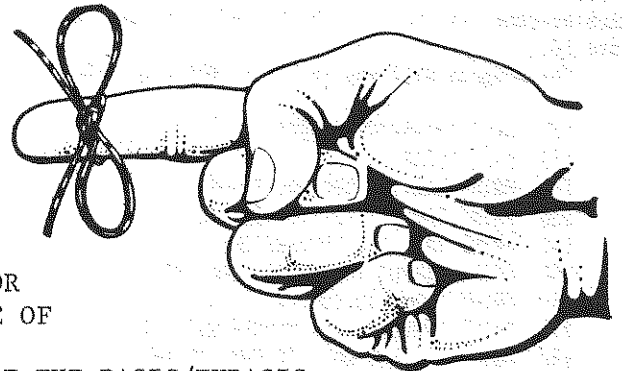
THE NEW MYARC COMPUTER IS FINALLY IN THE ADVERTISING STAGE. THOSE OF YOU WHO RECEIVE THE MICROPENDIUM (JUNE ISSUE), WOULD HAVE SEEN THE ADVERTISEMENT, AND A BRIEF ARTICLE BY SOME WHO HAVE SEEN IT. I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE IT'S FEATURES AT THIS POINT YET, BECAUSE THERE ARE STILL DESCREPTANCIES. BUT IT IS LOOKING VERY POSITIVE!

ED BITTNER HAS KEYED IN MANY PROGRAMS FROM PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS, AND HAS MADE THEM AVAILABLE AT THE LAST MEETING FOR \$1.00... YES THAT'S RIGHT.... ONLY \$1.00..... WE STILL HAVE SOME LEFT SO COME TO THE JULY MEETING AND GET A GREAT DEAL. HE HAS ALSO PLACED ONE OF HIS OWN ON THE DISK.

IF YOU HAVE ANY ARTICLES FOR THIS NEWSLETTER, OR WOULD LIKE TO JOIN, JUST CALL OR WRITE TO EITHER MYSELF, OR TO SCOTT COLEMAN. SCOTT-(412) 271-6283, JOHN-527-6656.

SCOTT COLEMAN
823 NORTH AV.
N. BRADDOCK, PA

JOHN WILLFORTH
R.D.#1 BOX 73A
JEANNETTE, PA

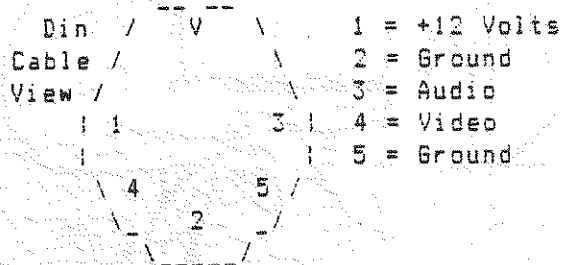


by Jack Mathis

Parallel Printer Cable Pin-out

Monitor Cable

RS232		Printer
1	Handshake out.....	Strobe 1
2	Data (Least Significant Bit)	2
3	Data.....	Data 3
4	Data.....	Data 4
5	Data.....	Data 5
6	Data.....	Data 6
7	Data.....	Data 7
8	Data.....	Data 8
9	Data (Most Significant Bit)	9
10	Handshake in.....	Busy 11
11	Logic Ground....	Logic Ground 16
12-16	Not Used	



These configurations are built into standard Din cable to RCA jacks for stereos. Wrap RCA jack that connects to pin 1 with tape. The outside of all four RCA jacks are ground.

A SMALL BASIC PROGRAM

Working with the 'innards' of computers as I do, I typically work with HEXADECIMAL numbers (these are numbers in the base 16 while most people are more familiar with base 10). This is really a method of compacting the BINARY data of the computer into a more compact string.

Naturally I am very lazy, and would like to let the computer perform the conversion from one form to the other when it is required. The following program is a method of using the BASIC language to do this conversion. This is very useful when you are using 'peeks' and 'pokes' from BASIC where DECIMAL is the required base but all of the machine-code listings give both 'address' and 'data' in the base 16.

The program will run in either BASIC or X-BASIC.

```

100 H$="0123456789ABCDEF"
110 CALL CLEAR
120 PRINT TAB(7);"DECIMAL-TO-HEX": :
130 PRINT TAB(7);"HEX-TO-DECIMAL": :
140 PRINT TAB(7);" CONVERSIONS ": :
150 PRINT "INPUT THE NUMBER THAT YOU"
160 PRINT "WANT TO CONVERT.": :
170 PRINT "PRECEDE THE NUMBER WITH '#'"
180 PRINT "IF YOU WANT TO CONVERT HEX"
190 PRINT "TO DECIMAL."
200 INPUT "N = ":I$
210 IF LEN(I$)<1 THEN 200
220 IF SEG$(I$,1,1)<>"#" THEN 290
230 N=0
240 FOR I=2 TO LEN(I$)
250 N=16*N+POS(H$,SEG$(I$,I,1))-1
260 NEXT I
270 H$=STR$(N)
280 GOTO 350
290 N=VAL(I$)
300 H$=""
310 H$=SEG$(H$,N-16*INT(N/16)+1,1)&H$
320 N=INT(N/16)
330 IF N>0 THEN 310
340 H$="#"&H$
350 PRINT : ;I$&" = "&H$
360 PRINT : ;"PRESS ANY KEY TO CONTINUE"
370 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
380 IF S<1 THEN 370
390 GOTO 110
  
```

This is a programming approach that I developed on my -41C calculator because I didn't have access to machine vel code. It should be useful as an example of indexing thin a text string. Number systems in other bases can be sily handled with simple modifications to the conversion ring 'H\$' and the multiply/divide factors (currently 16).

--- Ron Springer

BEGINNERS PROGRAMING

by Ernie Chervier

Want to change those organ like sounds that you get from "CALL SOUND" to something different. You can change the sound to a "piano string" like sound by adding some volume decay. The minus sign on the duration lets you update the "CALL SOUND" as fast as you can loop through it.

Try this:

```

100 FOR X=0 TO 24 STEP 2 ::
    CALL SOUND(-99,440,X) ::
    NEXT X
Now try this well known song
which I've started. Listen
to it and if you like it you
can finish it. All you need
is more z's and more data.
100 FOR Z=1 TO 2
110 READ NOTE1,NOTE2
120 FOR Y=1 TO 6
130 FOR X=0 TO 24 STEP 3 ::
    CALL SOUND(-99,NOTE1,X,
    NOTE2,X) ::NEXT X
140 NEXT Y :: NEXT Z
150 DATA 262,294,247,294
  
```


IT WORKS!!!

On Wednesday night, June 10th, the Boston Computer Society held its monthly meeting. One of the guest speakers was Paul Charlton with the new Myarc computer. This computer has two names: Geneve and the 9640.

As promised it is a card that fits into the P-Box and has an IBM-type keyboard connected to it. There are a few plugs on the back of the card including ones for composite video, RGB video, a mouse and light pen, a joystick, and the keyboard. The joystick port is presently the II-type but might be changed to the Atari standard.

The Geneve comes with a standard 512K of memory and 128K of video ram. Its memory can currently be expanded to 1 1/2 megabytes and the video ram can be upgraded to 192K. These changes can be easily done by the owner.

It is compatible with just about everything that you own now. All of the cards in your P-Box will work with it except your 32K and, if you own one, a Triple-Tech Card. The reason that the Triple Tech won't work is that Cor-Comp didn't follow the II standard when it designed it. Sorry. Contrary to earlier reports the P-Code card will work though.

Just about all of your old programs will work too. The only ones that won't are ones that use their own keyboard scanning routines. These include Fast Term, 4A-Talk, Funnel Writer, and a few more. Most of them should be modified though to work with the Geneve.

"What about my cartridges?", you say. Well they will have to be transferred to disk. Paul Charlton said Myarc will provide a program for you to do this but it might not come as standard with the Geneve. That means you might have to cough up a few more bucks for the honor of using you cartridges.

But don't get too upset yet, you might not even need them. Paul Charlton has been modifying some of these programs to work in the Geneve environment. One that he demoed at the BCS meeting was TI-Writer. Not what you're used to though, this one has 80 columns and was extremely fast. Multipian is next on his list for modification.

The graphics are amazing. He ran a graphics demo program that did the standard scrolling lines bit. He also ran one that drew blocks and filled them in. The speed was indescribable. You'll just have to see it yourself to appreciate it. Paul said that the graphics speed is faster than the Amiga and a bit slower than the Atari 520ST. The processing speed is three times faster though.

Forth runs between 18 and 20 times faster than on the 4A. That'll be very interesting to see and work with.

Now your two obvious questions: When and How Much? Myarc is shooting for an early August release date (about six weeks from now) and the cost should be around \$500. That means September and about \$400 in my opinion.

This computer is definitely worth waiting for. All of the bad vibes I got from it at the computer fair in April have been cured and Myarc has a future customer in me.

Arthur Prescott

```
100 *****CAT PRINT*****
110 by Warren Agee
120 (Wawa)
130 CIS# 72437,2550
140
150 This is a very simple program which will
any disk in teeny-tiny print which will fit
160 on a mailing label (4"x1 7/16" is best).
170 CALL CLEAR:: CALL SCREEN(15):: DISPLAY AT(10,1):"***ITSY-BITSY CAT-PRINT***"
:: DISPLAY AT(15,1):"INSERT DISK IN DRIVE 1, THENPRESS ENTER OR 'E' TO END."
180 ACCEPT AT(16,28):AA$:: IF AA$="E" THEN CALL CLEAR:: END
190 DIM B$(127),A$(127),J(127),K(127),J$(127),P$(127)
200 TY$(1)="D/F":: TY$(2)="D/V":: TY$(3)="I/F"
210 TY$(4)="I/V":: TY$(5)="PRG":: G=1
220 OPEN #2:"DSK1.":INPUT ,RELATIVE,INTERNAL
230 INPUT #2:X$ Y$,Z
240 FOR L=1 TO 127
250 INPUT #2:A$(L),A(L),J(L),K(L):: J$(L)=STR$(J(L)):: IF J(L)=0 THEN J$(L)=""
260 IF LEN(A$(L))=0 THEN 320
270 IF ABS(A(L))=5 THEN 290
280 B$(L)="&STR$(K(L))
290 IF A(L) > 0 THEN 310
300 P$(L)="Y"
310 NEXT L
320 CLOSE #2:: ADJ:=INT(L/3):: CORR=L-(3*ADJ):: ADD=ADJ+CORR
330 : ITSY-BITSY PRINTER ROUTINE
340 OPEN #1:"PI0.CR"
350 PRINT #1:CHR$(27)&"S"&CHR$(0) ! superscript
360 PRINT #1:CHR$(27)&"A"&CHR$(8) ! linefeed=7/72
370 PRINT #1:CHR$(15) ! condensed
380 CLOSE #1
390 LABEL=1
400 OPEN #1:"PI0"
410 PRINT #1:"DSK1 -- DISKNAME: ";X$; " AVAILABLE= ";Z; "USED=";Y-Z
420 FOR F=1 TO ADD
430 PRINT #1:A$(F);TAB(11);J(F);TAB(16);TY$(ABS(A(F)));TAB(21);F$(F);
440 PRINT #1:TAB(23);A$(F+ADD);TAB(34);J$(F+ADD);TAB(38);TY$(ABS(A(F+ADD)));TAB(
43);P$(F+ADD);
450 PRINT #1:TAB(45);A$(F+ADD+ADD);TAB(56);J$(F+ADD+ADD);TAB(60);TY$(ABS(A(F+ADD
+ADD)));TAB(65);P$(F+ADD+ADD)
460 LABEL=LABEL+1
470 IF LABEL=8 THEN PRINT #1:"" ELSE 490
480 LABEL=0
490 NEXT F
500 TOPFRM=9-LABEL:: FOR LNFD=1 TO TOPFRM:: PRINT #1::: NEXT LNFD
510 CLOSE #1::: RUN 170
```

The above program was written by Warren Agee, and did a very nice job of printing labels for disks, BUT with double sided and double density disks it would print out too many labels for each disk. It also was very cumbersome to print out multiple labels. I modified it to print 3 columns on a label (verses 2 columns), and removed the automatic 3 spaces that occurred when the printer received it's control characters, and also caused it to set up for the next label automatically.

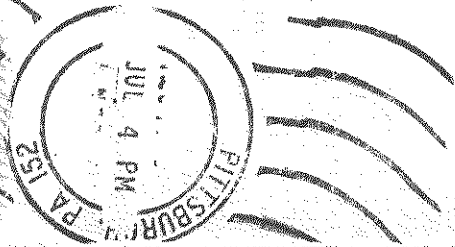
John Willforth

MICKY SCHMITT
196 BROADWAY AVE.
LOWER BURRELL PA 15068

JULY ISSUE

% John F. Williforth
R.D.# 1 BOX 73A
Jeannette, Pa.
15664

THE WEST PENN 99'ERS



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