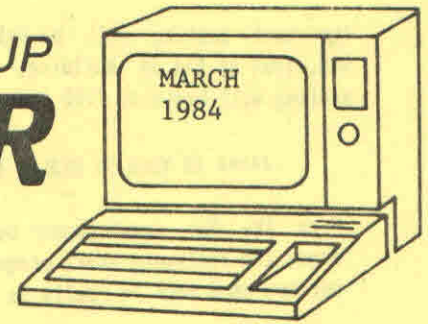


CEDAR VALLEY 99'ER USER GROUP NEWSLETTER



***** MINUTES FROM MARCH MEETING *****

The meeting was called to order by President Chuck Moats at 7:00 p.m. Old business included acceptance of the previous meeting minutes (February's meeting) as printed in the February newsletter. Gary Bishop gave a report on the activities of the Technical Committee, which included some minor computer and rf modulator repairs. Jim Green gave a report on his successful swap of consoles with the T.I. Service Center in Los Angeles. For a price of \$30.00 T.I. swapped Jim's malfunctioning console for a repaired one, and also provided a six month warranty.

Pat Hoyt brought up a question pertaining to possible copyright infringement by the club. There appears to be a possibility that some of the programs in the club's software library might be copyrighted. A motion was made and passed to investigate the library's programs and delete any that are copyrighted.

The meeting was turned over to the Chairman of the Nominating committee, Gary Fish, for the election of officers for the coming year. The results were as follows:

President-	Jim Green
Vice President	Bryan Hawkins
Secretary	John Elam
Treasurer	Ed Hayek

A committee was formed for the purpose of debugging the programs in the software library. If you have trouble getting any programs to work properly, please contact Bryan Hawkins with the name of the program and the nature of the problems.

Two programs were presented at this month's meeting. One was the discussion by Dave Fitkin on printers (which had been delayed for one month while his wife gave birth to a new baby girl), and the other a presentation by Roger Sokoloski on the uses of modems.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P. M.

Bryan Hawkins
Secretary

***** THE TREASURY *****

	THRU		
	JAN 1984	FEB 84	TOTAL
INCOME			
Memberships	\$1502.00	\$ 40.00	\$1542.00
Sales of software	526.95	62.00	588.95
Sales of cassettes	430.95	50.00	480.95
Basic class	130.00	0	130.00
Dividend	5.77	2.93	8.70
TOTAL	\$2595.67	\$154.93	\$2750.60

DISPERSALS

Receipt book	\$ 6.00	\$ 0	\$ 6.00
Meeting rent	87.00	4.00	91.00
Postage	147.50	20.60	168.10
Checks charge	5.92	0	5.92
Cassettes purchase	500.90	0	500.90
Software purchase	64.00	0	64.00
Subscriptions	24.50	0	24.50
Basic class salary	250.00	0	250.00
Basic class refund	5.00	0	5.00
Address labels	24.18	0	24.18
Recorder purchase	109.19	0	109.19
System purchase	838.21	0	838.21
Advertising	54.60	0	54.60
Group s/w buy	0	512.75	512.75
TOTAL	\$2117.00	\$ 537.35	\$2654.35

ASSETS

Savings account	\$ 5.00	\$ 0	\$ 5.00
Cash on hand	29.25	33.40	62.65
Checking account	444.42	(415.82)	28.60
TOTAL	\$ 478.67	\$(382.42)	\$ 96.25

Bruce Graves
Treasurer

***** MEETING REMINDER *****

The next meeting will be held on the second Monday, April 9th, 1984 at the JA building, 330 Collins Rd. N.E. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

***** IS YOUR TV REALLY GOOD ENOUGH?? *****

From the Sun Coast Beeper User Group in St. Petersburg, FL comes the following short program that can be used to check out how good your tv really is for computer use:

```
100 CALL CLEAR
110 CALL CHAR(32,"FF8181818181")
120 PRINT :::::::::::
130 CALL HCHAR(10,1,88,5)
140 CALL HCHAR(10,28,88,5)
150 END
```

This program will make your tv screen have 32 perfect vertical lines (columns) and 24 horizontal lines (rows). In the top 12 rows, you should see five X's on the left and right sides. In the last 12 bottom rows, column 1 and column 32 should be missing.

***** THIRD PARTY CARTRIDGES *****

Also from the Sun Coast Beeper comes the following information regarding the use of third party cartridges. After turning on your computer, check the date located in the bottom left-hand corner of the bar screen. If the date says "1981", you can bet that your computer will run almost all cartridges. If the date says "1983", chances are that it won't. TI changed the last production models so that only the TI and its licensees products would work.

***** BLANK SPECIAL FUNCTION KEY STRIPS *****

Again from the Sun Coast Beeper comes some neat information regarding how to write on those blank (blankity-blank) special function key strips. Try using a Sanford (brand name) SHARPIE Extra Fine Point Marker. It works great on this type of finish, even on glass!!

***** BLANKETY BLINKING CURSOR *****

Again from the Atlanta 99/4A Computer Users Group Call Newsletter is a very short entry you can make to prevent the cursor from blinking. This won't work in Basic, but if you're in Extended Basic try this:

```
10 CALL COLOR(0,11,1)
```

***** JOYSTICK CONTROL *****

From the Central Iowa Users Group Newsletter comes the following short program that can be used to speed up your joystick controlled graphics:

```
10 REM JOYSTICK **JEB** 3/82
20 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREEN(16)
30 CALL CHAR(96,"CEFC7078DFCE8C08081933FFFF
331908088CCEDF7870FCCE18183CFEDB183C7E")
40 CALL CHAR(100,"7E3C18DB7E3C1818733F0E1EF
B7331101098CCFFFC9810103173FB1E0E3F73")
50 CALL MAGNIFY(2) :: CALL SPRITE(#1,99,7,96,
128)
60 CALL JOYST(1,X,Y) :: Z=.75*X-.25*Y :: IF
Z THEN CALL PATTERN(#1,99+Z-(Z 0) ELSE 60
70 CALL MOTION(#1,-Y*5,X*5) :: GOTO 60
```

It is important to note that this program is for extended basic users only. Ensure you type zero (0) in the CALL CHAR lines.

***** SOFTWARE DEBUGS *****

Several members have complained about the game of "Night Blockade". It seems that when some folks try to run it they get a MEMORY FULL error message, while others don't.

The problem seems to be only associated with some tapes. After much fiddling around, I have discovered what the problem is, but I still don't understand why.

It seems that if you load the program into your computer from the original tape, all is well. But, if you first load the program onto disk, and then onto tape, as we have been doing lately when making copies for the members, it somehow now requires more memory to run correctly.

The solution is fairly easy. If you have a copy of "Night Blockade" and get the MEMORY FULL error message when you try to run it, just go through the program and delete all the REM statements. This will free up enough memory so that the program will run.

In the meantime, if some one can explain this "program growth" phenomenon to me, I would appreciate it.

On a different program, "Match-em", the shapes that are supposed to appear when you play the game have not been showing up properly. That has now been corrected. If you have a bad copy, please let me know and we'll arrange for a good program.

Bryan Hawkins
Secretary/Tape Librarian

**** PARALLEL INTERFACE ON THE RS-232 CARD ****

From the Washington DC Area TI Home Computer Users Group Newsletter comes the following article pertaining to the latest from TI on how to connect the PIO output to a printer:

Connect TI pin 1 to CEN connector pin 1, TI pins 2-9 to CEN pins 2-9, TI pin 10 to CEN pin 11, TI pin 11 to CEN pin 29, and TI pin 16 to CEN pin 16. This should work for many printers (including TI and Epson). When outputting to a Smith-Corona model TP-1, the signal on pin 1 has to be inverted with the use of an electronic circuit or you may buy a special cable with this inverter built-in. To use with an Okidata printer, two lines require the inverted signals. There is also a special cable for this printer. These cables are advertised in the HOME COMPUTER magazine (old 99'er magazine).

If any of you have had your computer interfaced to a printer and special connection considerations were used, please let me know so that I can share the information. Please include the make of the printer, the model number, and how the connections were made.

**** PRINTERS ****

At our last meeting we had a very good presentation on printers from Dave Fitkin. With that thought in mind I would like to share with you an ad I noticed (with a little help from a few other members!) in the COMPUTER SHOPPER newspaper. The ad was for a new parallel printer interface for only \$89.95. No expansion box is required; the interface plugs directly into the side serial port; and the interface is compatible with Epson, Okidata, NEC, Star Gemini and other parallel printers. Or, you can purchase a GP-100 printer with built-in interface for only \$259.95.

The printer specs are as follows:

50-CPS, 5x7 dot matrix, graphics, double width characters, standard characters, and tractor feed.

Contact: MULTI VIDEO SERVICES, P.O. Box 246, E. Amherst, N.Y.; or phone them at area code 716, 688-0469.

**** A NEW LOOK ****

This month's newsletter has a new look---the letter-head! I would like to thank a very inspired artist by the name of Sue Heffernan for her help in the design. She is not a member of our group, but was more than willing to give her free time to help us out.

Chuck Moats

**** TI'S SUPPORT IS STILL STRONG ****

I recently had to solve the problem of what to do with a broken 99/4A, and I want to pass on the information I gained from Texas Instruments. (The first lesson to learn, by the way, is to NEVER put a metallic foreign object into the cartridge slot!)

TI has a straight-forward method of replacing a broken console. Units out-of-warranty are swapped with a factory reconditioned machine for only \$28.25 plus return shipping. In-warranty units are exchanged free. A phone call to 800-TI-CARES gets the shipping address in Lubbock, TX where you may send your computer.

An alternative to shipping your malfunctioning computer, and the method I chose, is to carry your machine into a TI Exchange Center. There are apparently several around the country; I took mine to Los Angeles during a business trip. For \$30.00 (including Calif. tax) I received a working computer and a six-month warranty.

The L.A. store manager didn't know of an exchange center in Iowa, but he had the following phone numbers: Minneapolis 612-830-1615; ST. Louis 314-569-7620. There also is an exchange center in the Chicago area but I do not know the phone number.

I hope you never need the above exchange service, but it sure is comforting to know TI still has it available.

Jim Green

**** HELP SPREAD THE WORD ****

The last page of this month's newsletter contains two clip-out notices of our group meetings. There are probably many new 99/4A owners (thanks to Santa Claus) who don't know about how much help is available to them right here in the Cedar Rapids/Marion area. We can correct this situation! Just clip out a meeting notice and place it in a public place of your choosing. Bulletin boards in grocery stores, laundromats, and drug stores make excellent locations to help spread the word! Thanks!!

Jim Green

**** WHAT'S HAPPENING? ****

In the April, 1984 issue of the COMPUTER SHOPPER is a new column written by Randy Holcomb that will be dedicated to ALL TI products (99/4A, CC-40 and the TI professional). I'm not going to copy his very informative article, but I am going to share with you some of the more interesting information.

"Funware, one of the few makers of cartridge-based software for the 99/4A is phasing out all its remaining TI-based cartridges and will no longer publish software for the 99/4A. Some of Funware's more popular cartridges include Demon Driver and Henhouse."

"Infocom, publishers of the dreaded Zork series and other fantasy-type games have said they will produce versions of their games for the 99/4A as well as the TI professional."

"AJ International and Doryt Systems, makers of peripheral add-ons for the 99/4A, have gone under. Price erosion of TI's peripherals for under \$100 and TI's leaving the market are the probable causes of their demise."

**** BUY AND SELL ****

For sale: Brand new TI peripheral expansion box for \$110.00. (I'm not sure what the box contains-if anything.) Contact Gary Schweitt at 337-2957, Iowa City.

For sale: Home budget program, including manual, for only \$12.48, including tax. (This program is advertised in the latest Home Computer magazine at \$18.00. This is the same program demonstrated to our club by Pete Bradbury last year.) This price is for club members only! Contact: Pete Bradbury at 365-6303, or any club officer.

For sale: Dual cassette cable -\$10.00. Fifteen (15) back issues of 99'er Magazine-\$20.00. Number Magic cartridge-\$5.00. Addition and Subtraction #1 cartridge-\$5.00. Contact Bruce Graves at 377-9115.

**** REM ****

The CEDAR VALLEY 99'er USER GROUP NEWSLETTER is published by the Cedar Valley 99'er User's Group in the Cedar Rapids/Marion area. Members are encouraged to contribute articles. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and are not necessarily those of the Cedar Valley 99'er User's Group, its Officers, editor, or members.

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***** SURVEY TIME!! *****

Our group is approaching its first birthday, and thanks to you, our members, the group is still getting better. It's again time to evaluate the computing power of our membership, and we ask that each of you take time and answer the questions below. Your answer sheet may be turned in at the April 9th meeting or mailed to a club officer. Simply circle the appropriate answer for each question. Thanks for your help!

1. I own the following hardware:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Speech Synthesizer | e. Printer |
| b. Peripheral Expansion Box | f. Modem |
| c. Expanded Memory | g. Disk Controller |
| d. RS-232 Interface | h. Disk Drive |
| | i. 2 or More Consoles |

2. I own the following software:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Extended Basic | e. Multiplan |
| b. Terminal Emulator II | f. Logo |
| c. Mini-Memory | g. Editor-Assembler |
| d. TI-Writer | |

3. Most of my computer time is used for (one only):

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Education | d. Data Storage/Handling |
| b. Games | e. Word Processing |
| c. Evading spouse | f. Other (Specify) |

4. The second most common use of my computer is (one only):

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Education | c. Data Storage/Handling |
| b. Games | d. Word Processing |
| c. Total evasion | e. Other (Specify) |

5. I subscribe to Home Computer magazine:

- a. Yes
- b. No

6. I do/can do my own program writing:

- a. Yes
- b. No

7. I would be interested in attending an 8-week programming course:

- a. Yes, Basic
- b. Yes, Extended Basic
- c. No

8. I would be glad to help with the following committees:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| a. Library | d. Program |
| b. Newsletter | e. Education |
| c. Technical | f. Not Interested |

9. My PRIMARY reason for attending the monthly meeting is:

- a. To learn about available software.
- b. To learn about available hardware.
- c. To learn about additional uses for my computer.
- d. To learn how to get started with my computer.
- e. Socialize

10. My second most important reason for coming to the group meeting is:

- a. To learn about available software.
- b. To learn about available hardware.
- c. To learn about additional uses for my computer.
- d. To learn how to get started with my computer.
- e. Socialize

Jim Green