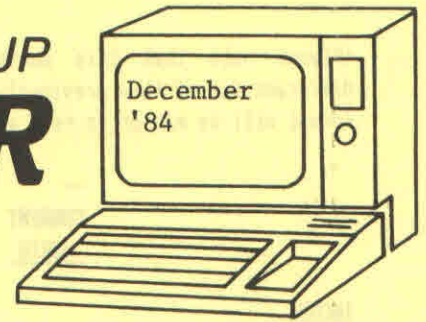


CEDAR VALLEY 99'ER USER GROUP **NEWSLETTER**



NEWSLETTER TOPICS

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***** NEXT MEETING REMINDER *****

The January meeting will be held on the second Thursday, January 10th, at 7:00 p.m. at the JA building, 330 Collins Rd. N.E. This month Mike Bonifazi will present a program on auto maintenance. This is a program that Mike wrote for basic car care.

***** MINUTES FROM DECEMBER MEETING *****

The December meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Vice President Bryan Hawkins. There were 51 members present. Minutes from the November meeting were approved as printed in the November newsletter. The Treasurer's report was also approved as printed in the same newsletter.

For the first order of business, our Publicity Chairman, Paul Mortensen, asked each member present to print their names in a notebook so that name tags could be made up. The name tags will be handed out at every meeting and returned at the end of the same meeting. This will help everyone to get to know each other easier.

New order of business covered a show of hands of members interested in buying the Extended Basic module. It was determined that three members wanted to buy the module.

Jim Trainor asked that anyone interested in attending an extended basic class notify him at their earliest convenience.

We had seven more members sign up for renewal during the December meeting.

An excellent demonstration of RS232 was given by Jim Trainor (and aided by Bryan Hawkins). The members were shown how two TI-99/4A computers can communicate with each other, and how files are transferred from one computer to the other.

The door prize was won by **Bobby Reinhart**. Unfortunately, we have not received our order yet, so Bobby won't receive the door prize until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Dean Helander
Secretary

FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1984

Those of you with the Extended Basic module may want to try making graphics using display statements. An example follows (a flag should appear on the screen):

(Please note that this month's treasurer's report is a different format than previously used. We hope this new format will be easier to read and follow.)

```

100 CALL CLEAR :: A$="FFFFFFFFFFFFFF" ::
    B$="10187E3C3C244200"
110 CALL CHAR(97,A$,104,A$,112,A$,114,B$) ::
    CALL COLOR(9,9,1,10,6,1,11,16,6) :: FOR I=1
    TO 18
120 ON I GOSUB
    170,180,150,160,170,180,150,160,170,200,190,
    190,200,200,190,190,200,200
130 DISPLAY AT(I,1):C$ :: NEXT I
140 GOTO 140
150 C$="hhhhhhhhhhhhhhpppppppppppp" :: RETURN
160 C$="hhrrrrrrrrrrhhpppppppppppp" :: RETURN
170 C$="hhhhhhhhhhhhhhaaaaaaaaaaaa" :: RETURN
180 C$="hhrrrrrrrrrrhhaaaaaaaaaaaa" :: RETURN
190 C$="pppppppppppppppppppppppppp" :: RETURN
200 C$="aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa" :: RETURN
    
```

	<u>CURRENT</u> <u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u> <u>TO DATE</u>
INCOME		
Memberships	\$ 392.00	\$ 392.00
Cassette/Disk Sales	9.00	9.00
Software Sales	2.00	2.00
Magazine Sales	7.50	7.50
Programming Classes		0
Group Purchases	93.50	93.50
Dividend Income	-----	----- 0
TOTAL	\$ 504.00	\$ 504.00

DISPERSALS

Meeting Rent	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00
Postage		0
Bank/Check Charges	1.00	1.00
Cassette/Disk Purchase		0
Software Purchase		0
Subscriptions		0
Class Teacher Salary		0
Advertising	21.60	21.60
Group Purchases		0
Supplies	-----	----- 0
TOTAL	\$ 26.60	\$ 26.60

ASSETS

	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Savings Account	\$ 0.00	\$ 155.54
Cash On Hand	0.00	20.50
Checking Account	477.40	570.79
TOTAL	\$ 477.40	\$ 746.83

Ed Hayek
Treasurer

The advantages and disadvantages I have found for this method are listed below:

Advantages

1. It will put the entire picture on the screen at one time in about 1 second.
2. You can display the picture from top to bottom, vice versa, center to top and bottom, or scrambled.
3. It is easy to see each line of the picture since it corresponds to a line in the program.
4. If you make a key for the picture, it can be easily read. My key for the flag is as follows: h=blue square, a=red square, p=white square, and r=star

Disadvantages

1. You can't use the spare characters (128-143) since the picture elements must be available on the keyboard.
2. Pictures without much detail may take more memory than CALL HCHAR statements.
3. The picture width is 28 characters, not 32.

Following are some modifications you may want to try on your flag:

1. Bottom to top:

Change line 110 to read: FOR I=18 TO 1 STEP -1

2. Scrambled:

```
At the end of line 110, add:  :: RANDOMIZE
Add line 115: 115 J=INT(RND*18+1)
Change line 120 to read: ON J GOSUB
Change line 140 to read: FOR L=1 TO 300 :: NEXT
L :: GOTO 110
```

3. Middle out:

```
At the end of line 100 add: M=1 :: J=9 :: L=1
Add line 112: 112 N=I-1 :: J=J+M*L :: IF J=0
THEN J=18
Change line 120 to read: ON j GOSUB
Change line 130 to read: DISPLAY AT (j,1) ::
M=M+1 :: IF M>1 THEN M=0
Add line 135: 135 IF M=0 THEN L=-1 ELSE L=1
Change line 140 to read: NEXT I "" FOR K=1 TO
300 :: NEXT K :: GOTO 100
```

Remember to change back to the original program between modifications of the program.

John Johnson

***** LUNAR LANDER HINTS *****

Having recently revised Lunar Lander for extended basic, I would like to offer the following hints.

To make the game easy, learn the metering. The roll position shown by the ship itself is only accurate to 20-degrees. The metering must be used for good landings.

Firing the spin or landing rockets takes effect slowly. Watch the vertical and horizontal speeds to see how much the ship is affected. The ship's weight changes due to fuel useage, and is figured in on the speed calculations. Therefore, you must always watch the effect the rocket blasting is having on the ship.

The altitude, vertical and horizontal speeds, and fuel meters are self-explanatory. The time meter (which is a computer loop timer) varies in the program, but is about 1 second long. The spin metering tells the ship's rotation in degrees-per-second and jumps in 3-degree steps. Roll metering displays the attitude of the ship and reads 0-degrees when the ship's nose is down. I think of the arrow keys as being the nose of the ship!

To land the ship, roll it counterclockwise (left arrow) to 162-degrees. Wait for the vertical speed to

get to 120-feet per second, and then blast with the L or K buttons until the ship is just under the I in the time display. The ship's vertical speed should be about 50-feet per second, and the horizontal speed less than that. Continue to blast to get the ship over the center of the landing zone, and get the horizontal speed to less than 2-feet per second. Now, use the arrow keys to get the roll to 180-degrees, exactly. The ship will now go straight down to a landing. All you have to worry about is vertical speed from there on.

John Johnson

***** SOFTWARE AVAILABLE *****

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mortensen were more than kind enough to send me a letter (back in November for heavens sake!) pertaining to a store advertisement they had noticed in the Des Moines Register. However, after receiving their letter, I placed it in a perfect (?) location so that I would not forget to put it in the newsletter. Hmmm, here it is December and I'm finally remembering to reference the ad in the newsletter. My apologies to the Mortensen's. Now for the ad:

The Children's Palace, 2900 University Ave, Clocktower Square Shopping Center, Des Moines, IA, has over 25 software programs for the TI-99/4A. These programs range from Early Learning Fun @ \$5.97 to Star Trek @ \$10.97.

***** TERMINAL EMULATOR II BAUD PROBLEM *****

Have you ever called a long distance BBS (bulletin board system) phone number and wanted to output every little thing to a printer, especially so you would remember what to do the next time you signed on? So, you type CTRL-2 to output data to your printer and you discover that the baud rate is 300, the printer is going at the same slow speed, and your phone bill is running sky high?! If your printer can go as fast as 9600 bits-per-second like mine can, here is what you can do:

1. Type CTRL-2, then press ENTER.
2. The Terminal Emulator will then ask for the output device.
3. Type RS232.BA=<baud rate>
(Use one of the following rates:
RS232.BA=9600
RS232.BA=4800
RS232.BA=600)

Your printer will now go at the speed you require.

****** TI PROGRAM RECOVERY ******

IMPORTANT: Remember that you must physically set the printer's dip switches (consult the printer's owner manual for location) to the baud rate at which you intend to use. Otherwise, the printer will just sit there.

I haven't tried the following tip, which is in the current issue of HCM (letters to the editor section). If you have Extended Basic and 32K memory expansion, you should be able to retrieve a program lost through an accidental QUIT.

Dave Dalton

Type: CALL PEEK(-31952,A,B,C,D) :: PRINT A;B;C;D.
The first two values point to the start of the line number table, the second pair point to the end. Write down the numbers, press QUIT, and re-enter Extended Basic. Next type: CALL INIT followed by: CALL LOAD(-31952,W,X,Y,Z). Use the values you wrote down earlier instead of W,X,Y,Z! Check to ensure that you recovered the lost program by typing LIST.

****** TI BULLETIN BOARD ******

Jim Nanneman, who owns the Apple BBS, has informed me that the TI bulletin board will be taken down unless greater interest is shown by the TI users.

Dave Dalton

Ed Hayek

****** MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ******

Membership renewals continue at a good rate. During the December meeting, and through the mail, I have received 13 renewals and one new member. I understand the other officers have received additional renewals. We now have over 65 paid members for the 84-85 year. If you still haven't renewed, please do so before you are dropped from the newsletter!!! You can renew by mail. Send \$8.00 to Ed Hayek and you will get your membership card by return mail.

Ed Hayek

****** IT'S A GOOD MACHINE ******

In the current issue of HCM a reader asks about making his C-64 a slave to his TI-99/4A. Apparently, this gentleman has both computers but has decided that the TI is a much superior machine to work with. He does miss the additional memory which the C-64 provides, and would like to access it with the TI. The point is, here is a person who has both machines and prefers the TI. This should make those of us who didn't run out and buy other machines (when TI abandoned the TI-99/4A) feel good. We do have a good machine!!!

Ed Hayek

****** NEW MEMBERS ******

We'd like to offer a hearty welcome to our newest member:

Dominique Greene, of Cedar Rapids.

****** HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE ******

According to the folks at Home Computer Magazine, Volume 4, Number 5 is in the mail! I called them after receiving the issue on my current subscription. Previous experience was that our group bulk offer should have arrived first. The Christmas mail may be the culprit. The issue will be available at the January 10th meeting. Those members on the sign-up list will get first choice. Those of you who don't pick up your issue at the meeting, or make other arrangements with me prior to the meeting, should note that the issue will be sold to another member on a first-come first-serve basis.

Ed Hayek

****** TIGERCUB SOFTWARE ******

As indicated in the article above, we do have a good machine in the TI-99/4A. However, a computer is only as good as the software that will run on it. I want to make a plug for some of the people who are supporting us with software at very little cost. We've all read Jim Peterson's tips in our newsletter. His TIGERCUB SOFTWARE sells a catalog for \$1.00 that provides listings of his software that sells for \$3.00 each!! In addition, he offers a disk containing his tips (over 50 programs) for \$15.00. If you are interested, the address is:

TIGERCUB Software
156 Collingwood Ave.
Columbus, OH 43213

Ed Hayek

***** SUNDISK SOFTWARE *****

I recently placed an order with SUNDISK Software. They have many public domain programs available at just a little more than the cost of the disk. As an example, they have a disk of Extended Basic Utilities for \$2.50. There are some good utilities here!!! I found the Screen Dump, which is included, to be superior to one which I had purchased for \$10.00. They also have a set of 3 disks on TI tips and demos for \$5.00. The public domain disk-based Terminal Emulators I mentioned at the last meeting are available from SUNDISK for \$2.50. When my budget allows, I will definitely send for more of their software. If interested, their address is:

SUNDISK Software, Inc.
P.O. Box 1690
Warren, MI 48090

There are many other vendors out there who support the TI. They will only do this for as long as we, the TI users, show interest in their products and efforts. Let's support them!!!!

Ed Hayek

***** MONTHLY LOAN PROGRAM *****

The following short program can be used to determine the monthly payment for loans you may be considering. It may not be exact, but it gives you a very close ball park figure!!

```

10 CALL CLEAR
20 INPUT "AMOUNT BORROWED $":P
30 INPUT "ANNUAL INTEREST %":I
40 INPUT "NUMBER OF MONTHLY PAYMENTS ":N
50 I=0.01*(I/12)
60 M=(P*I)/(1-((1+I)^(-N)))
70 PRINT
80 PRINT "MONTHLY PAYMENT IS $";M
90 PRINT
100 PRINT
110 PRINT
120 INPUT "TO DO ANOTHER, PRESS ENTER":KY$
130 GOTO 10
    
```

Dave Dalton

***** DISKS FOR SALE *****

Anyone interested in obtaining disks for their systems can contact Richard Arensdorf at 393-6764. He offers both single sided, single density; and dual sided, dual density 5³/₄-inch disks. Single density disks (Maxell, 3-M, Wabash) sell from \$15.00 to \$20.00 for a box of ten. Double density disks are higher. (Since I don't use disks, I can't say if this is a good deal or not. However, I'll suggest to anyone interested in buying disks to shop around. You may be able to beat these prices!----Ed.)

Dave Dalton

***** BUY AND SELL *****

For sale: Protocol Manual for TE II =	\$ 2.00
Mash cartridge =	\$10.00
T.I Invader cartridge =	\$ 5.00
Chisolm Trail cartridge =	\$ 4.00
Demon Attack cartridge =	\$ 9.00
Carwars cartridge =	\$ 5.00
Teach Yourself X-Basic	\$ 5.00
Printer to RS232 25-Pin	
Cable =	\$10.00
Y-Cable for Modem and	
Printer =	\$11.00
Cassette Recorder, Emerson	
Model CRC-200 =	\$20.00

Contact Dave Dalton at 377-1715, or at the meeting!!

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***** REN *****

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