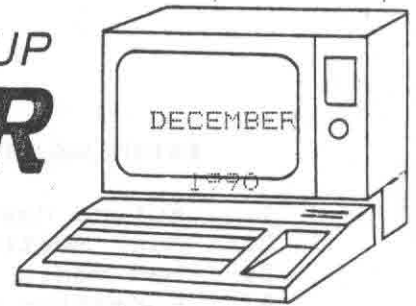


# CEDAR VALLEY 99'ER USER GROUP **NEWSLETTER**



CEDAR RAPIDS/MARION, IOWA

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## \* IN MEMORIAM \*

We are sad to report the passing of a long time member of the Cedar Valley 99er User Group, Mr. Paul Mortensen. Paul died Thursday, November 29, at the age of 73. He has been sharing his time and talent with us for many years, most recently as our Publicity chairman. He and his wife, Mary, have faithfully labelled and mailed our newsletter each month, always eager to help us whenever asked. Paul and Mary were involved in several volunteer groups in the Cedar Rapids area, and I'm sure Paul will be missed by many.

Our condolences go out to Mary. She should take comfort in knowing that we share her loss, and that we wish there were many more kind and involved people in the world like Paul.

\*\*\*\*NEWSLETTER TOPICS\*\*\*\*

1. Future Meeting Dates
2. Next Meeting Notes
3. Ham Radio & the TI-CW Program
4. Formatter Gotcha
5. The Library Blurb
6. President's Corner

\*\*\*\*FUTURE MEETING DATES\*\*\*\*

Please mark the following dates on your calendar for future meetings: DECEMBER 11, JANUARY 8, FEBRUARY 12.

\*\*\*\*\*NEXT MEETING\*\*\*\*\*

The regular monthly meeting will be TUESDAY, December 11, at West Music Store in Cedar Rapids. Open discussion will start at 6:30 PM. Holiday greetings will be shared, along with the latest news from the TI world. If you borrowed exchange newsletters, please be sure to return them for someone else to read.

## HAM RADIO AND THE TI-CW PROGRAM

This is an answer to the questions Gary Bishop had in the November NEWSLETTER about the cw program that I purchased. The program was purchased from ACSD COMPUTER PROGRAMS, SAM H. MOORE, SR. P.O. BOX 368, STIGLER, OKLA. 74462. The version that I ordered was for use with the Mini-Memory, another version available was for use with memory expansion, disk drive and editor/assembler. At the time I ordered it the Mini-Memory and cassette version was the only one I was able to use.

The way the program gets your transmitter keyed for CW is to use the earphone output jack on the t.v., or connect across the speaker. This signal then switches a relay which then keys the ham rig. This lets you see your transmission on the screen as well as hear the code transmission. I added a one transistor amplifier circuit before the relays and this seemed to make things work better.

At the time I purchased this program I got in on a half price offer which got the price down to \$10.50 plus postage and handling. The program will work ok but you will need to be receiving a fairly strong signal with a minimum of interference.

Bob Wahlstrom

EUREKA! I FOUND IT! I have been looking for new printer ribbons for my Gemini 10-X printer, and Target has stopped carrying the all-black generic ribbons that I have used for several years. Today, I discovered the new Wal-Mart in Cedar Rapids, and there in the Electronics department were several ribbons marked for use on Star, Gemini, and Okidata printers! For only \$2.50 each, I bought two! Thought this might be useful information for many of you. jcg

**\* FORMATTER GOTCHA \***

I have been editing our NEWSLETTER for about three years now (or is it longer?), and I still get caught by some of the "gotcha's" of TI Writer. It happened last month, and I just figured out why, so this article was written to remind all of you what not to do.

Look at the front page of the November issue of the NEWSLETTER. Notice in the listing of officers and chairmen that my address is missing, and that there is no "NE" after Jerry Canady's street address. Also note that in several of the others' addresses, there is a double space in the street line, and some of the addresses are offset one space from the name above it. Both of these errors are due to the lowly, seemingly innocent period (.) and how it is handled by the Formatter. Take note, as this information is easily overlooked or forgotten (at least, easy for me!), but is very important for using TI Writer correctly.

LESSON 1: Any line beginning with a period will be considered to be a command line by the Formatter, and the line is not printed. This is the reason that my street address is missing from the November issue. All the name and address information is typed in my file in two lines, as the line handles 132 characters in condensed print. I was trying to get Jerry Canady's address to print out correctly, with no extra spaces as in previous issues. It happened that the period following "Dr." in his address fell into the first column of the second line on the screen. This period was followed by "NE" and then my street address, which completes the printed line. Unfortunately, I did not notice the period as the first character in the line, but the Formatter did! It thought that the information was a command or comment, and it therefore did not print the rest of the line. Thus the result that you see on the November issue. That has now (hopefully!) been fixed.

LESSON 2: The Formatter always places two spaces after a period and space, because it is programmed to consider a period to be the last character of a sentence. Look again at last month's cover, and notice that the double spaces in the address lines are where I used a period to abbreviate part of an address. The Formatter treated those periods as the end of sentences, and put a second space after each of them. How did I fix the problem, you ask? The rule here is to insert a caret (^) symbol where you want to have a single space after a period. This caret is designated as a "required space" character for the Formatter. By typing an address as "102^N.^Davis^St.^", the Formatter will place only the indicated number of spaces in the printed text.

I knew both of these rules for TI Writer, but I had forgotten them. In my rush to get out the NEWSLETTER last month, I didn't take time to figure out what was going on with page one. Now that I have some calmer time over this holiday weekend, I am able to make the proper changes. I hope that this reminder of the rules for using the Formatter will keep you from making similar errors.

Now if I could just remember the rule for stopping that initial form feed before I print the NEWSLETTER....

Jim Green

## THE LIBRARY BLURB

Trivia- How big a clock does the program on disk number 444 make? Will a large banner saying "Merry Christmas to West Music From the TI 99ers" be hung from the glass doors in our meeting room? For the answers to these and other questions come to the next TI meeting....

Disk Label	434	A disk labeler and mail lister
Disk Cat	435	A disk cataaloger by W. Sharritt
Disk Print	438	Makes disk labels etc.
Columnizer	439	A DVBO columnizer
Fast Print	440	A printer prg with control codes etc
Catlib	441	Catlib vers 1.4.1
Catcom	442	Catcom vers 1.0.0
Cat/dsk	444	Catalog a disk
Sorts	444	Sorts items.
Shell	444	Sorts ?
Family	444	Do you your family tree.
Grading	444	Grade averaging based on final test etc.
Word total	443	Totals the number of letters on pages.
VCR Guide	443	Lists prgs on your VCR.
NLQ	443	Near letter quality printing.
MaxRLE-XB	443	MaxRLE with XB loader.
Disk files	443	Compresses disk files.
Supercart	436	Use with a super cartridge?
Calendar	444	A calendar
Easter	444	Calculates the date of Easter.
Smoker	444	Why smoke?
Letters	444	Prints large letters.
Dr Verne	444	Analyze your emotions.
Sound	444	Sound effects in merge format.
Clock	444	A really big clock.
Temp Conv	444	A temperature converter prg.
DOW90	433	As 431 but in SSSD
TIPS1/7	445	Latest tips & captions.
Inst-Prtr	437	Vers 1.5 of R. Coffeys prg. NG on Star NX 10

Misc- All the above prgs are new. I ordered the program 3D World and must report it disapointed me. It is the slowest assembly program I have seen in a long time. I have discovered how to make a birthday banner attractive to even a teenager. Just hang a \$20 bill from it. At the meeting that I demonstrated the Telco program for its many windows I got the impression most of you were not too impressed. Well some people are. On the very next Computer Chronicles program they listed the number one program for IBM compatibles. It was Windows 3.0. I rest my case.

End- I feel I would be remiss if I did not say a few words about the 500K ramdisk card I recently purchased from Gary. Many times in the TI word I have purchased an item and been disappointed in its quality or usefulness. This is not one of those times. The documentation was very good. The speed is as I expected and that is faaassst. The included menu program does 95% of what I want. Now I can now program and experiment in assembly at the same speed as basic. I almost oot rid of my widget when I oot the card. That would have been a mistake. They compliment each other beautifully. You may think this is the end. It is.

EOF....J Johnson CR

**\* PRESIDENT'S CORNER \***

Some time ago, I loaned out a disk drive power supply to someone. The power supply is black, and is about 4 by 4 by 7 inches. It has a power cord with it, along with a cable with two disk drive power connectors on it. If you have it, would you please return it to me; I need it for another project I'm working on. Thanks.

I am writing this on the eve of an impending snowstorm/howling snow squall/blizzard, and I hope I can beat out Mother Nature to get this to our newsletter editor in time. It looks like a real doozy is on the way. Anyway, I've been messing around connecting two TI computers together via the PIO ports. I've discovered some unusual things about our good old printer port. It is true that PIO can send and RECEIVE 8 bits of data at a time. However, there are certain precautions that must be observed. I tried the example in the RS232 book that came with the P box card, and I am surprised to find: it worked! The two handshake lines between the computers had to be interchanged, but sure enough, text could be moved between the computers this way. Now, all is not rosy in trying to use this as a general purpose port, however. It seems that any time the PIO is idle, or even between receiving data, it is in the output mode. Careful attention must be paid to prevent the output of the device you want to read from colliding with the PIO data. How does it work when two TI computers are connected together? It took me a lot of investigation, but I discovered that the PIO puts out CHR\$(10) when it is idle. Well, if both computers put out the same code, there is no problem in connecting the outputs together. This cannot be said for any other 8 bit data source. Words to the wise and adventuresome. By the way, CHR\$(10) is an end of line character.

I still have many brand new disks, just like the ones I was selling at the last meeting. I also have many used disks, mainly from an Apple user that moved on. There are about 200 of these. In short, I can supply the disk needs of the club for a while, at least until next year, when we will order some more disks in bulk. I will bring them to the next meeting.

I have a mint condition Epson RX-80 printer that was demonstrated at the last meeting, during the diagnostic demonstration. It comes with a manual, and an original TI parallel interface cable. This is the original printer TI offered with the system. \$75. See Gary Bishop, 319-377-9574.

Well, the lights are starting to blink due to high winds, so I better cut this out while I still have a file. Now all I need to do is brave the Iowa winter and deliver this to the editor. ----Gary Bishop.

According to Jim Peterson, Tenex has stopped supporting the TI 99/4A computer. This leaves Tex-Comp and the successor of Triton as the only full line mail order/phone order houses still available in the U.S. Thank goodness for the independent software companies, and for the shareware authors!

**NEXT MEETING**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11**

**6:30 PM --- WEST MUSIC, CR**

**SHARE SOME HOLIDAY SPIRIT**

**WIDE OPEN PROGRAM**

**MAYBE A SPECIAL VISITOR??**

**Cedar Valley 99'er Users Group  
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Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402**

**Send To:**

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