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**CEDAR RAPIDS/MARION**

Supporting the TI-99/4A and Geneve 9640 in Eastern Iowa

**NEXT MEETING: 6:30 PM AUGUST 11, 1992**

**WEST MUSIC, COLLINS ROAD SQUARE**

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**SUMMERFEST '92**

*Sponsored by the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club*  
 Teamster Hall; 5000 J Street S.W. Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52404

***Sunday August 16, 8am to 4pm***

Vendor/Flea Market set up: Saturday 4pm to 9pm & Sunday 7am to 8am

Vendor tables: \$13; Flea market tables: \$10

For table reservations call Deb Harrah @ 319/848-7481

No Table fee for outdoor flea market with admission ticket

Air conditioned hall/catered lunch and snacks/FREE coffee

Grand prize and door prizes AMERICAN made

\*\*\* EIDX/ARRL/EIRC forums \*\*\*

ARRL VE testing starts @ 10am (20wpm)

Call Tom Heifner @ 319/377-7629 for preregistration

Admission \$4.00 @ the door (no advanced ticket sales)

**Talk-in: WØGQ (146.145/.745)**

**CU there OM 73**



## The Prez's Blurb

Trivia..Does the Milwaukee UG have a BBS?

Misc..I tried the new Ymodem file for TELCO and had excellent results on a lightening fast download but an upload attempt yielded only error messages from the BBS. I don't remember which one it was but I will try again and report the results. Shareware is really catching on. At the HyVee Store on Mt Vernon Road I saw a rack of it for around \$5 a program. As I stated at the last meeting, I have successfully dezipped the joke file and hope to have them in a series of files that can be printed from TIW. Also, as discussed at the last meeting, I have eliminated the adult ones. It will include "The Hackers Test" that I found hilarious and very easy to relate to. A small sample of it is found later in this article. Last of the miscellaneous items is a blurb in the July Popular Science about the amount of data storage they expect future satellites to need. One will have two terabytes. They get this by putting all kinds of cassette tapes on the inside of a drum and have a robot arm remove them one at a time.

TIW..While working with the 4,107 line IBM file the jokes are in, I found out something about TIW I was not aware of. TIW (with 32k) will hold about 675 lines at a time. This does not mean you can't work with a larger file however. It will load whatever range of lines you request. Thus I was able to extract the last 1000 lines that have the Hackers Test. To learn this procedure consult page 72 of your TIW manual on loading certain line numbers. Be prepared to wait a while as it reads through the whole file searching.

Clearing House..Also as noted at the last meeting I have managed to get into the Clearing House section of the Spirit of 99 BBS and download one of the file catalogs. I got no further. I am waiting for an answer to my message requesting info. I noted in the Cleveland UG newsletter that they and many others are having similar problems. I did see many messages praising the Clearing House the one time I got on. Lets hope we will be able to do so soon.

Dezip..I will bring to the next meeting. It is a version I got from the Boston Computer Society BBS. This version is old and will not handle imploded files. I think they are the IBM version of a compressed and archived file. My oldest son tells me there are about four different ways they do that over there. Anyway, this version does have the address to sent your \$12 to for the good one. I believe this is as good a bargain as you will see this year. It will make all IBM text, MIDI, and graphics files on BBS's available to you. Thank you Ben Yates.

## Prez's Blurb Cont

Battletek..While in Chicago for the CUG's swap meet, my oldest son introduced my younger son and me to a video arcade called Battletek. It consists of two groups of 15 simulators that allow you to blast each other to bits. Some fun. It is supposedly run by a bunch of C128s linked together. The sign up procedure was done on a couple of Apples as far as I could see. This place is in the North Point Mall and was popular enough that you had to wait about a half hour to get into it.

Jokes..OK. Here goes the most of the rest of this page. How many computer programers does it take to screw is a light bulb? Eleven. One to screw it in and ten to write the program. Or..None. That is a hardware problem. Here are the "Hackers Test" questions I promised. Do you know how many days old you are? Have you talked to an acoustical modem. Did it answer? Do you have a separate line to your modem? Is it legal? Do you have a job? Have you ever been logged into two different time zones at once? Do you log in before breakfast? Have you ever had an out of CPU experience? Is your phone bill more than \$100 a month? Do you..get..a phone bill? cn u rd ths? f u cn rd ths u cn gt a gd jb n cmpt prgmng. There are only two methods of error free programming. Only the third one works. Here is an example of one of the regular jokes. A man with no ears was very sensitive about it. One day a neighbor said "I've noticed something about you." "What's that?" "You wear contacts." "How did you guess?" "If you had ears you could wear regular glasses like everyone else." That's enough.

Trivia Answer..Yes the MAUG has just started a BBS. Dial 414-529-9659. Also the TIABS has changed to 614-851-0708. I am told. I have not been able to get in on it yet.

And Etc..Here is a belated official congrats to Gary Bishop who passed his Masters Exam in Electrical and Computer Sciences. His idea of not having a business part to our meetings in the summer seems to work fine so far. That brings me to an idea I want to throw out for your consideration. The September meeting will be our first regular meeting of the Fall season. The November meeting is our membership renewal. Normally some of us can make it to some of the meetings and not others. How about everyone who possibly can making it to one or both of these two meetings. This would get the new club year off to a good start.

Chicago TI Faire..is October 31 this year. Miss it and you miss a lot.

EOF..Jack Johns..CR

## Epson (Son Of "EP")

by John Owen JSC Users Group (JUG)

I have always wondered why my MX80 printer got the name "EPSON" when it is made by the SEIKO watch people from Japan. This is the same printer that TI sold under the name of "TI Impact Printer" and IBM sold as the first printer for the IBM PC in 1981.

A recent article in "PC NOVICE" magazine (April '92) gives an in depth story on the Epson printers and explains why it is the industry standard. All printer manufacturers "emulate" the Epson printer codes in some manner. The good dot matrix printer makers are usually 95 to 100% compatible with the equivalent Epson Printers (i. e.-9 pin, 24 pin, color, etc.).

I recently bought a Panasonic KX\_P2123 Color printer (Cost \$289) and use Epson 24 pin Color software drivers to run the machine on my IBM PC. Panasonic does not have any "drivers" out yet for their own machine. I haven't connected it to my TI99/4 yet but know it will work for TI software that has 24 pin color codes in it. I have been using my MX80 for 10 years on my TI and on a PC and it has never failed me (when I took time to learn the printer codes and issued correct codes to the printer.). I have screwed up many times but it was always because I was too lazy to read the printer manual (or too dumb to understand it). The last 10 years has been a learning experience and thank God I had the TI99/4 to learn on!!! You just don't learn much about computers by operating a IBM PC. You never have to learn about printer codes or programming.

**Back to the story!**— In 1964 the SEIKO watch people built a "Electronic Printer" (EP) TIMER for the Tokyo Olympics. It was the worlds first electronic dot matrix printer. In 1968 SEIKO started selling this printer to calculator and cash register manufacturers. In 1975, SEIKO started a company in the USA (Torrance, CA.) to sell these printer components. They named the company "EPSON" (son of EP) following the old Swedish custom of naming their sons after their fathers first name (i.e. John's son = Johnson)

In 1978 Centronics built the first dot matrix printer that sold for <\$1000 and established the parallel port interface that is now "standard" on almost all printers. Epson built the TX-80 which had 9 pins and is still in use by some people. In 1979, Epson built the MX-80 and sold it for about \$800. Sales "went thru the roof" and the dot matrix codes standard was established. I payed about \$400 for my MX-80 FT in 1982. All software writers adopted the EPSON codes in order to sell software. Other dot matrix printer manufacturers had to do likewise in order to sell printers. Even TI and IBM chose to put their name plates on the MX-80 rather than build their own printer. Since 1986, Epson printers have been built in Portland, Ore and are sold worldwide. If you are buying a printer, make sure it is EPSON compatible and you will not have any "insurmountable" problems in making it work with your TI99/4 or IBM PC Clone.

*Happy Printing- John O.*

## WANTED:

Jim Harrington would like to hook up a printer to his trusty old TI, and he has the expansion box, but is having difficulty in locating an RS232 card. He could use a Parallax or Axiom style adapter, if one could be found. He also is in need of a relatively inexpensive printer; dot matrix would be OK. The original Epson MX series would serve him well. If you have any of these spare items, give him a call at 319-377-1865 to negotiate. He needs these items to stay in the TI world, so let's look around.

(JIM: Try calling John DeCock at 309-755-8105 and ask him if he still has his Axiom printer interface for sale at \$25. He also had some printers for sale. -Editor)

I've been looking for a manual or instructions for a Mannesman Tally MT-160 printer for some time. If anyone out there has one, or has access to one, please contact me. It seems like a sturdy printer, but I don't know what control codes it expects or what all the buttons are for. Gary Bishop 319-377-9574.

## FOR SALE:

Console with spare keyboard, original Epson TI printer, speech synthesizer, extended Basic, P Box, 32K, disk drive and controller, RS232, tape recorder and cables, TI Writer, many books. He wishes to sell it all, and his asking price is \$350. Negotiations can be started by calling John Finical, 515-484-6205. He is in Tama.

## GET WELL SOON

Our librarian, Bob Heiderstadt from Manchester, will have to undergo or has already started extensive treatments and therapy. Our best wishes to him on a speedy recovery.

Ed Edwards brought us some goodie disks, information, and cassettes that Sister Pat received as a donation, and couldn't use. Some of the software was commercial, and was purchased outright as a contribution to her. A complete set of the Genial Traveler from Vol. 1 No. 1 to Vol. 3 No. 1, along with bonus disks, is still in there. These disks alone would make a great purchase, with the proceeds going to Sister Pat.

Some of the disks were backup copies of commercial software, but the original versions or instructions were not in the box. I erased all such disks I could find. Finally, there was a large number of disks containing shareware/public domain stuff, mostly from the Chicago UG library. There were even disks with the winners and losers of the last several programming contests their group held. Some mighty good stuff in there. I will try to review as much of the software as possible, and include a description in this and future newsletters. I will bring the box back to the next meeting, for further perusal. -Gary Bishop



The following message clearly demonstrates the editor's slant toward ham radio. The article also would interest many shortwave listeners, and anyone remotely connected with radios:

SPECIAL BULLETIN 30 ARLX030  
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS  
NEWINGTON CT JULY 27, 1992  
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

ARLX030 HALLICRAFTERS FOUNDER SK

(Editor's note: the abbreviation SK comes from Morse code communications, and is sent at the end of a communication. In this context, it means the ham has passed away.)

WILLIAM HALLIGAN, W9AC, THE FOUNDER AND FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE HALLICRAFTERS CO., DIED JULY 14 IN MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA. HE WAS 93 YEARS OLD.

HALLIGAN WAS BORN IN BOSTON AND, ACCORDING TO MAX DE HENSELER IN HIS BOOK THE HALICRAFTERS STORY, WAS LICENSED AS 1AEH IN 1914. AFTER SERVING AS A SHIP-BOARD RADIO OPERATOR AS A TEEN-AGER AND THEN WITH THE U.S. NAVY ON CAPE COD DURING WORLD WAR I, HE ENROLLED AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY.

UNABLE TO AFFORD THE TUITION AT TUFTS, AFTER A YEAR HE WON AN APPOINTMENT TO THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT. HE LEFT THERE AFTER TWO YEARS, TO GET MARRIED, AND THEN WENT TO WORK AS A WRITER FOR THE BOSTON TELEGRAPH.

AFTER OPERATING A RADIO SUPPLY COMPANY IN BOSTON AND THEN MOVING TO CHICAGO AND FORMING A PARTNERSHIP CALLED CHAMBERS-HALLIGAN THAT SOLD RETAIL RADIO PARTS, HALLIGAN FORMED HIS OWN COMPANY, HALLICRAFTERS, ON NEW YEARS EVE, 1933, ACCORDING TO DE HENSELER. HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMPANY UNTIL IT WAS BOUGHT BY A SUBSIDIARY OF THE NORTHROP CORP., AND HE RETIRED IN 1967.

I see that Computer Monthly has dropped coverage of Classic computers, which are orphan computers such as our TI. This was hinted at for several months, and the change coincided with a format reduction from tabloid size to regular magazine size. The only reason I subscribed to it was its coverage of the TI; I will have to think seriously before I renew my subscription. It is very easy to find a glut of information and ads for PCs. We may have lost an outlet, but the former TI column writer for Computer Monthly was Barry Traver. He still graces us with his knowledge on the pages of Micropendium. -Gary Bishop

I have found that producing this newsletter has been interesting and instructional; but has one drawback: It consumes most of my scarce few hours of computer time per month, instead of permitting me to be creative with articles, programs, hardware stuff, etc. I still use the TI extensively, but the creative juices flow only into these pages, not into solving the world's problems with TI computers. Maybe I can find a balance someday, through improved scheduling, sufficient inputs for newsletter material, etc. -Gary Bishop

RECENTLY RECEIVED NEWSLETTERS

Byteline, Decatur, IL, April, May, June 1992, rcvd 7/13.  
 Cleveland Area TI UG, Jul/Aug 1992, rcvd 7/15  
 SNUGLETter, July 1992, rcvd 7/15  
 TIC TOC July 1992, rcvd 7/23  
 Spirit of 99 CONNI, Jul-Aug 1992, rcvd 7/23  
 West Penn UG, July 1992, rcvd 7/24

From the above newsletter, we learned of the marriage of Mike Cendrowski to Mickey Schmitt. Congratulations to both!

A Gary-ism: "Good times don't last forever; so enjoy them while they're here, and prepare for when they're not."

US POSTAL SERVICE BAR CODES DECODED  
 by Phil Van Nordstrand (JSC Users Group)

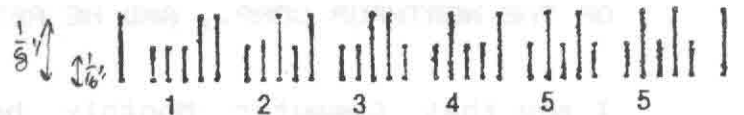
Have you wondered how to read the bar codes that show up on much of your mail envelopes these days? This bar code is used by the automated sorting machines in the larger postal facilities and is entirely different from the UPC bar code read by store scanners and which I do not understand at all.

The first and last long bars in the U.S.P.S. codes are just markers and the actual code starts on the second bar. Each digit in the ZIP code consists of 5 bars so a 5-digit ZIP code consists of 25 bars plus the two markers plus another 5 bars for a check digit or 32 total and a ZIP+4 code will have 52 bars. If we pretend each long bar is a ONE (1) and a short bar is a ZERO (0), the 5 bars can be rewritten as a binary number and can be read by us as a series of 2-digit Hex numbers. It would have been nice if the U.S.P.S. had used the real hexadecimal system at least for the numbers. Probably because some countries use alphabetical characters in their ZIP codes and they didn't want to use the ASCII system for that, they invented a different system. You have to forget logic and memorize their code or use a table. The following table does the translation of the bar code into a decimal number for you.

BINARY CODE	HEX CODE	ZIP CODE DIGIT	BINARY CODE	HEX CODE	ZIP CODE DIGIT
00011	03	1	00101	0C	6
00101	05	2	10001	11	7
00110	06	3	10010	12	8
01001	09	4	10100	14	9
01010	0A	5	11000	18	0

20 symbols  
PER INCH

EXAMPLE (Spaces inserted for clarity):  
 00011 00101 00110 01001 01010 01010



The check number can be found by adding up the 5 (Or 9) ZIP code digits and subtracting the last digit of the sum from 10. In the example the digit sum = 15 so the code = 10-5 or 5.

P.S.: I just noticed that each character has just TWO long bars! That is why they don't stick to the Hex numbering system. Letters probably would have more long bars (3, 4, or 5).

The above reprinted from JSCUG newsletter July-August 1991.

CEDAR VALLEY 99'er UG

AUGUST 1992

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday

August 11, 1992 6:30 PM

WEST MUSIC COMPANY  
COLLINS RD. SQUARE, MARION  
NORTH OF LINDALE MALL

Cedar Valley 99'er Users Group  
c/o Jim Green  
377 Cambridge Dr. NE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402-1446

FIRST CLASS

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3270 28TH AVE  
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