

CALL SOUNDS

The Newsletter of
The CENTRAL WESTCHESTER 99'ERS



AUGUST 1986

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEETING HALL - Our next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, August 21st, at St. Joseph's Rectory, 15 Cedar Street, Bronxville, N.Y. The meeting will be called to order at 8 pm sharp. Directions are on the special club business sheet enclosed. This sheet is sent to club members only as it includes a copy of the Treasurer's report given at the July meeting.

The new hall is due to the efforts of **Bob Sweeney**. It has many advantages and one disadvantage (for some). #1 - it is **FREE!** #2 We won't freeze in Winter or sweat in Summer. #3 We won't have the elephants dancing over our heads for the first hour of our meeting as we often did at the Legion Hall. Unfortunately, it is at the South end of the county and means a much longer drive for those of us at the North end and in Rockland.

PROGRAM for the August 21 meeting: After a **SHORT** business session, we will have a Q & A session about the "disk map" program from the July Meeting, plus any other Q's. Then Art Byers will Demo some of the very clever user written Call Subprograms from the Tigerclub **NUTS AND BOLTS** disks. After the coffee break, we will examine the TI Tax Investment Recordkeep Module. Possibly, we will compare it with Software written by Al Trudeau for his personal Stock and Investment record keeping.

Programming for the next few months will take a very practical and utilitarian course. As per above, Tax and stock record keeping, September and October will feature a two part series on Multi-Plan. For those who do not yet have multiplan, it is available via mail order for about \$39.00. That is **CHEAP** for a professional spread sheet. For those who still will not have MP by the September meeting (and do not intend to get it) we have at least three small and simpler spreadsheets in the club library. At least one may be demo'd briefly during one of the Multi-Plan Meetings.

XB-SIG the Extended Basic Special interest group will meet August 11th at the home of Charles Willoughby, 322 Brighton Ave, Hawthorne. It is only a few blocks from the Legion Hall and Charlie gave out Maps at the last meeting. Work will continue on our special project. You do not have to be a SIG member to attend. All club activities are open to everyone.

Telecom-SIG: Having accomplished almost all of the original purposes for which the SIG was formed, The final meeting of the Telecom SIG will be combined with a regular meeting, in the future, as part of a program. We will send a **WHOLE DISK** of programs from one member's home to the meeting, via phone. At the July 24th meeting, the group exchanged programs and files Via XMODEM and text files via the capture buffer method.

Attending the SIG meeting: At Art's home - Pat Leigh, Steve Nickerson, and Art Byers. At Carney's home - Charlie Biller, Bob Sweeney and Carney Mims.

THE LENDING LIBRARY: As usual, each month a binder of over 40 exchange newsletters goes into the lending library. We now have about 8 in circulation. We also have Home Budget Management Module in the LL. **Remember!** The LL cannot work if you do not return what you have borrowed.

DISK LIBRARY: Bob Sweeney has many programs in his personal Library that were not in the club's library. In addition, he has obtained an additional whole library of programs. Little by little he will review them and carefully add selections for our library. Our policy has always been not to add programs just so we can say we have a zillion program library. We have always stressed quality first.

Bob has been spending a lot of his own money to add programs, so to repay him we have ordered 25 disks, mail order, at 53 cents each. This will come from the amount budgeted for the Disk Library.

FREE SOFTWARE: Bob will put together a disk of programs from various sources including some of the programs Art has received from other Newsletter editors. Remember, you must give Bob a formatted replacement disk when you pickup your software.

IN THIS ISSUE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS and club business -----	page #1
Turbo 99/4A console. 32k on 16 bit bus -----	2
News of new hardware for the 99/4A -----	2
The new RAVE keyboards for the 99/4A -----	2
Super Mail List - a software review -----	3
Assembly lesson #7 by Steve Royce WNY 99'ers -----	3
File transfers with XB or EA (via modem) by Larryprikockis, Cleveland area ug -----	4
Attention All Newsletter Editors -----	4
Club Officers and committees -----	4
Specifications and information on the new NYARC computer on a card w/keyboard -----	5
Comment -----	5
MAX-FILE Graphics a brief article and picture on the new graphics program written and donated to public domain by Travis Watford -----	6
Cartoons -----	2, 3

TURBO 99/4A -BY ART BYERS

I just received my consol from Sun Sufficiency (Bret Kropf) with the 32k memory expansion installed inside the console on the 16 bit data bus. When considering the following, please remember that I got it for one specific purpose, to use on our dedicated word processor because the extra speed was reported to eliminate the occasional dropping of letters on word wrap with TI WRITER or Fun! WRITER etc. (It is reported to speed up Multi Plan by 2/3).

I can report that it works very well with the WRITER software. The cursor seems faster on Fctn s/d/e/x and the lost letter problem seems to be cured. It works with all the game modules I tried: Qbert, Popeye, BurgerTime, etc. Parsec seems slightly faster, not much, but it is definitely easier to hit the swoopers etc., tho the shots seem to still go thru those nasties that attack you from the rear. The refueling tunnel is a slight shade touchier.

HOWEVER, a lot of game type disk software is definitely a problem. The Apesoft Graphics demo has bits strewn all over the screen tho the figures are still recognizable. Ceberus game from Apesoft is unplayable as the space ship explodes as soon as it appears on the screen. A lot of other disk game software also did not work properly. Some just locked up the works. Fast-Term seems to boot O.K. There seems to be a slight increase in speed, but nothing material. I have not yet tried it on multiplan.

This Turbo 99 console will be a "Show and Tell" at the September meeting.

As I have said, here, previously - I own a Percom standalone drive with built in disk controller. Having 32k in the console gives me a sort of portability as the whole works fits inside a SMALL suitcase, and I can use any TV wherever I go, ie a hotel room. Now if I can put an RS232 either inside the Drive case or the console, I would be able to do the telecommunications bit too. - Art



"SEE--I FOLDED, SPINDLED, AND MUTILATED THIS COMPUTER CARD-AND NOTHING HAPPENED!"

NEWS OF NEW HARDWARE FOR THE 99/4A

From the Grand Rapids area 99'ers "CALL SAY" comes news of one Mr. John D. Wilforth, RD #1, box 73A, Jeannette PA 15644. John is selling a kit to put 32k in the console projected price about \$40.00 Send him your name address and phone if you are interested. He is also working on 156K RAM disk that will be installed INSIDE the console, plus a disk controller and RS232 -also inside the console. To which all I can say is "WOW"!!

But John is not through, in the West JAX 99'er he has an article on how to intall the 32k in the Speech Synthesizer. He also mentions he has put it into TI's stand alone disk controller. He apparently puts 32k everyplace EXCEPT inside the PEB.

From the NUTMEG TI 99'ers: Two club members are preparing to market a new keyboard for the 99/4A. It will come with a cover to the present keyboard, five foot telephone type coil cord, full numeric keypad, separate function keys. It will support all non-standard TI keypresses such as simultaneous FCTN/CTRL FCTN/SHIFT plus a key (a la FAST TERM). For more data see a quick note elsewhere in this issue

FROM COMPUSERVE: John Gould of Farmington Minn has come up with two nifty add-ons. #1 is a stand alone 32k box which is UPGRADEABLE in 8k banks wit a limit of 128K. It fits the usual daisy chain on the console side. #2 is a MINI PEB Kit that hold three cards. The usual would be Disk controller, Memory Expansion, and RS232/PIO. This kit comes complete with everything except the case, but instructions are included on building and mounting in a case. For more infor call or write:

John Gould, 17290 Chippendale Ave, Farmington MN 55024
612 460-6348 Or John Alderson 5550 glenwood Ave Golden Valley MN 55422 612 546-4878

TWO NEW KEYBOARDS FOR THE 99/4A

Quick note from Art Byers

In my july 15th mail I received an announcement from RAVE 99 Co., 23 Florence St, Bloomfield CT 06002, phone after 6pm Eastern time 203 242-4012 203 872-9272 - an announcement of two new keyboards for the 99/4.

They come full numeric key pads, separate function keys, and normal access to '?'\'. Prices: 84 key \$124.95 (IBM type); 101 key \$149.95. Custom key assignments can be built in for \$15.00 additional. plus shipping cost. The fully detailed four page brochure is posted on the club's cork board at meetins. However, if you send a SASE envelope to the above with a request, you will receive a brochure copy of your own.

SUPER MAIL LIST

Fairware program by
Jurgen Switalski
Review by Art Byers

Here is yet another data base program to add to a still growing list for the 99/4A. It is, as the name suggests, designed as a mailing list program. First let me tell you it's good points:

- (1) Because the whole base is loaded into RAM it sorts lightning fast on any field - 180 names in a few seconds.
- (2) It can convert a name/address file into a TI WRITER Value file.

Now let me list its bad points:

- (1) Because it loads the whole database into RAM it can only handle about 185 names and addresses.
- (2) You have zero flexibility on the fields, you must use the fields given and cannot make your own as in most other DB available.
- (3) There is only one name field so if you list a name in the normal way - first name then last name, it sorts on the first name. Therefore if you want to sort on last name, you must list the last name first ie Smith, John.
- Yes, some might say, but you have a flag field of four characters and by listing the first four letters of the last name there and listing the name field in the normal way, you will get a last name sort. Not quite True, by sorting on the flag, all the Smiths would be sorted together but not then sorted by first name in Alpha order. For Example Zyl0 Smith might be Listed before Aardvark Smith.
- (4) If you sort by zip code, there is no easy way to then sort by alpha within the zip.
- (5) The telephone field only allows one number. Many names on lists require two or more: Home #, Work #, second home phone, BBS #, etc or even extension number, etc.
- (6) There is no provision for extra fields to store vital information such as job titles, company affiliation, relationship -is this person your sister or just another name on the list.

This is a poor excuse for a data base, severely limiting the user in many more ways than those I have listed. There are so many better data bases available both as Fairware and commercially that I cannot, in good conscience, recommend Super Mail List at all. -AJB

CARTOONS FROM
"CODEWORKS" A
MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE "BASIC"
LANGUAGE

**TMS 9900 ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE TUTORIAL
PART 7 - SCREEN BIAS IN BASIC
BY STEVE ROYCE**

Edit the following code and assemble it using the R option, calling the object code "BIAS0".

```

DEF PR
REF VSBW      USE VSBW EQU >2024 FOR X-BASIC
PR LI R0,>02E5  ENTRY POINT IS PR
LI R1,>4100    >41 IS THE LETTER A IN ASSEMBLY
AI R1,>6000    ADD BASIC OFFSET
BLMP @VSBW    WRITE TO VDP
RT            BACK TO BASIC
END
    
```

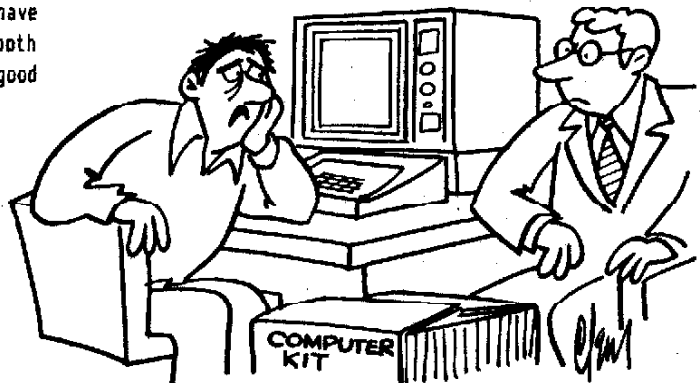
Now type in the following BASIC program onto the same disk as your object code, and run it. The letter A will appear in the lower left corner of your screen.

```

100 CALL INIT      LOAD UTIL'S FROM E/A CARTRIDGE
110 CALL CLEAR     CLEAR SCREEN
120 CALL LOAD("DSK1.BIAS0")  LOAD THE OBJ CODE
130 CALL LINK("PR")  LINK TO THE ROUTINE
140 GOTO 140       HOLD SCREEN
    
```

The very simple example given above helped me to overcome one of the most poorly explained issues in the E/A manual...what does TI mean by the "SCREEN BIAS OF >60" that must be added to every character that you wish to generate in Assembly but print on the screen from a routine called by BASIC or X-BASIC. A nice simple example like the one above, if it had been in the E/A manual, would have saved me hours.

The reason for the offset is that the pattern descriptor table is located in a different area of VDP RAM when running a pure Assembly program than when running a BASIC program. The difference must be taken into consideration when running Assembly from BASIC.



"It took 8 hours to assemble, but so far, over 3 months to debug it."

FILE TRANSFER USING X-BASIC OR E/A

Editor's note: This article supplied to us by the WNY 99'ers. Original authors: Larry Prikockis, Cleveland Area 99/4A NEWSLETTER.

When transferring files over the telephone, the easiest and most reliable way is to use the Terminal Emulator Module (or some other terminal software). The price we pay for this ease and error checking is that the process is very slow. Fortunately, there is a method to transfer BASIC and Extended BASIC programs at five times the speed of the TE2 module.

First, call the receiver on the telephone. Then, both sender and receiver must select TI BASIC. Then the sender loads the file to be transferred and types SAVE RS232, but do not press ENTER yet. The receiver then types in OLD RS232. When both are ready, switch over to modems and both press ENTER, the receiver waiting about five seconds before pressing ENTER. Both users should then see a number on their screen, representing the number of blocks remaining to be transferred. When this number reaches zero, the transfer is complete. Since the program is transferred directly into the memory of the receiver, it must then be saved to disk or cassette.

Obviously, this method is limited to programs which can run in BASIC or Ex-BASIC. The procedure for transferring Assembly programs or text files is a bit more complicated, but still faster than TE2.

To use this method, both users must have an E/A module. First, select the E/A and press 1 for EDIT. The receiver should do the same, making sure his E/A disk A is in Drive 1. The sender then selects option 4 for PRINT. The sender will then be prompted to enter a filename to be transferred. Enter the filename. Then, when asked for a device name, enter RS232.BA=300.CRLF, but don't press ENTER yet. The receiver selects option 3 from the Editor menu, for LOAD. When asked for a file name, type in RS232.BA=300. Now both parties switch to modem and the sender presses ENTER. Five seconds later, the receiver presses ENTER. With this method, there is no counter telling you how much longer the transfer will take. Sit back and relax. Again, the file is transferred directly into the memory of the receiver, so save it to disk using option 3, SAVE, on the Editor.

TIPS FROM THE TIGERCLUB

Are only given out at meetings. Pick yours up from the pocket on the club cork board.

As in the past, Jim Peterson has mailed us two issues at the start of July so he can take a bit of time off during the Summer, so you will find both issues 36 and 37 stapled together into one set.

Attention: all Newsletter Editors BEST 99/4A ARTICLES OF 1986

In January of 1986, the Central Westchester 99'ers put together a "flippy" disk of 715 sectors of the very best articles gleaned from 1985 99'ers newsletters from coast to coast. We send it out FREE if you provide the postpaid mailer and a new blank disk, or for \$3.00 if you want us to provide the mailer and disk.

However, the purpose of this notice is to let you know that for 1986 we will put out about 1400, sectors available on either flippy or as DSSD.

We ask that you send us the REST from your club, to be included.

RULES: The article must be an original by a member of your club that appeared or will appear in 1986 in your club's newsletter. It can cover any computer related topic, such as copyrights, programming in any language useable on the 99/4A, product reviews, etc. and more etc. If a program is part of the article, a separate "runnable" copy must be submitted. All material should be on disk with articles in DIS/VAR 80 format. A return postpaid mailer must be included.

In the past, we made the selection ourselves. This year we intend to impanel a group of editors of 99'er newsletters as judges. If you are interested in acting as a judge, please let us know. Selection of Judges will be closed Sep 1st. Already volunteering to be judges are: Jack Shattuck of the Delaware Valley UG, Dee Turner of Omaha, and Johnathan Zittrain of Pittsburgh who is a Sysop on Compuserve's TI Forum and Deanna Sheridan of Rocky River, Ohio. We still need several more. How about it out there?

Judging is very simple. Each judge will receive a copy of all articles submitted, and will rate them from #1 to the number of articles. The ones receiving to lowest points are the winners and the one with the highest scores, will be left out!

Deadline for receipt of material on disk is December 10th 1986.

Address Mail to: The CW 99'ers c/o Art Byers, 1261 Williams Drive, Shrub Oak NY 10588. CIS #73547,2014

Come on you editors, get your members articles in for the "Best Articles" Disk. -and- remember! It will be free! Let us hear from you!!

CLUB OFFICERS 1986/87

Carney W. Mims - President
Al Trudeau - VP/Programs
Charles Willoughby -Secretary
Art Byers -Treasurer

COMMITTEES

Ed Bornemann - Hospitality
Robert Aments - Lending Library
Robert J. Sweeney - Disk Librarian
Art Byers - Newsletter
Pat Leigh - Equipment
Al Trudeau -XB Special Interest Group
Carney Mims - Telecommunication SIG

MYARC COMPUTER SPECIFICATIONS

Down load from Comuserve

EQUIPMENT:

A plug in card to be placed in a TI Expansion box or a Myarc Expansion system. An IBM Keyboard.

SPECS:

- 512K Ram for CPU.
- 128K Additional Ram for Video. Can add an additional 512K to reach 1 kilobyte.
- 32K Rom.
- 6-8 times faster than the 99/4A.
- Supports a Joystick with a mouse and light pen port.
- Supports a video modulator.
- Supports an RGB Monitor.
- All modes compatible with 99/4A.
- Will run 95% of all TI software.

GRAPHICS:

- 26 Lines down.
- 80 Column Text Mode.
- Hi-Res 512 X 424. definable to 16 colors.
- Res 256 X 424. definable to 256 colors.
- Black & White monitor mode. 32 shades of gray.
- Line drawing commands.
- Dot plotting.
- Move video memory from one block to another.
- Move blocks of colors.
- Color Point command.

The following are the capabilities of the new Gene've computer as written in the Myarc literature:

- * 99/4(A) compatible. Runs over 100 existing TI cartridge programs.
- * 99/4(A) compatible. Runs over 95% of all assembly language programs & utilities.
- * Basic 3.0
- * TI-Writer, Now a full 80 columns
- * MultiPlan, Also 80 columns
- * Faster, at least 2-3 times
- * Larger, Standard 640K RAM, 2 Megabytes addressable RAM, Myarc memory card compatible with Myarc 512K card, supplies 1.1 Megabytes RAM.
- * IBM Type keyboard included
- * Phone type cable, replaces old Hex Bus [sic] cable
- * Mouse Support
- * Separated Function keys
- * Incredible graphics capabilities
- * Composite video output
- * RGB Output
- * 40 column display
- * 80 column display
- * Joystick port
- * Compatible with existing peripheral cards: Disk controllers, Myarc, TI, Corcomp. RS232 Cards, Myarc, TI, Corcomp. Myarc memory expansion cards add directly to RAM (modification required)

- * Two megabytes addressable memory.
- * 128K VDP RAM Memory
- * True hardware utilities, Sprites, Fills, Lines, Data Moves.

- * TI 9995 Processor Chip - 12 MHz
- * 256 Bytes ULTRA High Speed on Chip RAM.
- * Pre-fetch on instructions
- * Post-store on instructions
- * Sound compatible and expandable
- * Speech included

GENE'VE may be ordered through Disk Only Software by the following methods:

- * Go to our electronic order form on Page TDG-44.
- * Send to P.O. Box 4170, Rockville, Md. 20850.

For more information call 800-446-4462 + 897335 at the tone. In the Washington D.C. Metro area call 301-369-1339. Our Comuserve ID # is 70007,1635.

COMMENT

After reading the foregoing on Comuserve, I asked the vendor, who posted the data, Disk Only Software, if the new Gene've would run plain old TI Basic programs, of which there are thousands floating about, as well as Extended Basic programs.

I inquired because the "specs" say nothing about 28 column or 32 column screens. The reply was an emphatic "YES!".

In discussions during coffee break or after meetings, the point has been raised that you can now purchase an IBM XT clone, complete with monitor, 640 k on the mother board, keyboard, I/O card (PIO and RS232 -sometimes with clock calender and game port), monochrome graphics card, 2 360k disk drives, ready to run for about \$900.

Gene've will cost about \$500 and you will have to buy, at least, a good quality monochrome monitor to take advantage of the 80 column screen. If you add shipping, etc. your total will be about \$650. There is only a \$250 difference between that and the wide open world of an IBM compatible with its massive pool of software.

Unless the dropping dollar will materially raise the cost of the imported IBM clones, this may well pose a severe stumbling block in the path of 99'ers who might want to upgrade their computer.

To The Exchange Newsletter Clubs

Just about everything in this newsletter is available on disk as a DV/80 file. The exception is the picture of Jacqueline Bissette which requires the program MAX-RLE.

You are welcome to use any article here. Please give credit to the ORIGINAL source.

**MAX-RLE GRAPHICS of
JACQUELINE BISSETTE**



This picture is via a remarkable new program by Travis Matford. It is called MAX-RLE. The purpose is to allow 99/4A owners to download all the nice graphics from Comuserve and GENie or other telecom services.

These have been only available to IBM, Apple Commodore etc. users via a program called Vidtex

which until MAX-RLE was not possible with the 99/4A. The club library now not only has MAX-RLE but also has the documentation and the above sample graphics. Required: disk drive and 32k. printer optional.

There are loads of remarkable graphics on these services. MAX-RLE also can make these pictures compatible with TI-ARTIST and GRAPHX. We have asked Bob Sweeney to include the set on one of the disks of free software to be given out at meetings. In addition, this subject will be discussed at the next business meeting. If the club has enough interest, we can chip in money to pay for the on line time to download additional graphics.

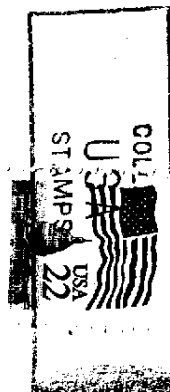
While on the subject of graphics, Some time ago Jim Peterson's Tips from the Tigercub printed a program that will print out large vertical streamers with anything you want to say in Jumbo letters. We have also just added a Banner printer to the library. There are about five or six around, This one is in XI and so is a bit slower than those written in Assembly. -But it works!

DATABIDTICS NMP currently on hold.

We do not expect our sample 5:2K RAM disk for Beta test until the fall - PILOT also. As soon as it arrives, you will be notified and it will be part of a show and tell at a regular meeting.

The CW 99'ers Newsletter Exchange
c/o A Byers
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AUGUST 1986