

TI BASE UTILITIES by Jim Leshar

Did you know there are many utilities available for TI BASE?

MICRODEX VOLUME I, a four-disk set, indexes information from MICROpendium, Computer Magazine, 99er Magazine and Home Computer Magazine; \$15. Volume II is a 2-disk set which indexes Byte, Computer Shopper, Mini Mag99, Popular Computing, R/DTech News, Super 99 Monthly, and the Smart Programmer; \$10.

TI SORT: Using the Quick Sort method, can sort not only TI BASE files but delimited files, fixed length files and Basic or Extended Basic files; \$15.

MAILING LIST MANAGER: Written in TI BASE for TI BASE. All the command files included with MLM can be viewed using the TI BASE editor and altered to suit you; \$15.

THE ORGANIZER: Electronically it works just like a filing cabinet. Each cabinet consists of four drawers which can store up to 16,129 folders. Each folder has a subject line to identify the folder by 6 text lines. Each folder can be searched for: displayed; changed; printed; deleted and sorted by subject. Each drawer can be labeled and all operations are menu driven; \$15.

PUBLICATION INDEX: Develop, organize, and maintain your own personal index of publication references in a single centralized database. Create indexes for magazines, newspapers, books, newsletters, video tapes etc. The program also has all the editing and printing capabilities of THE ORGANIZER; \$15.

TML BEGINNERS by Jim Leshar

We continue our exploration of The Missing Link program with another short program. It is truly amazing how powerful even short programs can be made to be. This one is called 4 SIDES. Obviously it has 4 sides; that is, when it starts. But what a surprise!

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5  ! TML Tutorial by Jim Leshar
10 ! 4 SIDES/A
20 CALL LINK("COLOR",16,05)
30 A2=5
40 A1=85
50 A1=A1+5
60 A2=A2-5
70 FOR R=1 TO 04
80 CALL LINK("FWD",00040,A1,0)
90 CALL LINK("FWD",00040,A2,0)
100 NEXT R

110 FOR D=1 TO 100
120 NEXT D
130 CALL LINK("CLEAR")
140 GOTO 50

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THE FRENCH CONNECTION

BY THIERRY WEBER

Hi, every one and welcome again to another edition of the French Connection

A lot of things have happened in our group since the last edition. For one we had a masterful presentation at INFOMART which was followed a little less than two weeks later by an extremely successful Next Step meeting at Wadley's.

But the most significant event that happened these last few weeks is the nomination of a new officer of the Dallas TI Home Computer Group. John Buie was appointed by executive order of yours truly, to the position of Member-at-Large following the resignation of Walter Pearson. Walter resigned his post due to professional reasons. Of course, he remains Newsletter Editor.

John Buie comes from the ranks of our membership with a freshness and candor that should be most beneficial to our club. Please help me congratulate him on his key position. Remember that he now is YOUR voice in the Executive Committee; as such he is your way of letting us know how you think the club should be run. So please feel free to converse with him at any of the club's meetings to express your thoughts on club matters.

One other point to note in the life of DTIHCG, is the Ram Disk Raffle that went under way last month. You still have time to purchase ticket or chances at any of the club's functions.

We are gearing up for next month visit by Chris Bobbitt. Please note that like this month, September's INFOMART meeting will be held on the third Saturday of the month (the 15th), with October's meeting also on the third Saturday (the 20th). Of course all INFOMART meetings start at 9:00 AM.

If all this seemes confusing, just refer to the calendar of event on the first page.

I will now leave you again with a small word puzzle created on the TI with words that relate to summer. Hope to see you all at INFOMART, remember to come early.....

PUZZLE

by Thierry Weber

Enjoy this word search puzzle created on our trusted TI.

SUMMERTIME

* WETTAWNFUNQGMUPPHJVNPQAE *	BEACH
* EPORUEFIKDZBYFMURDXRYPMBB *	VACATION
* OQFXNEYCAMERAOTYOEJYWSBNA *	TRAVEL
* JLBASBALLSGLDCJKGEGRTNRQ *	MOUNTAIN
* AREDFEWLXTUNJCNLTHGNOMUME *	HIKING
* QIYASOLXFRGIBPGMFPXARSWKL *	ITINERARY
* TQRIZEAKVDPESEMOUNTAINVUW *	SURF
* LLUPVRSSWPBRTJZUQVIFCMJHU *	HOLIDAY
* HRBALSHRBXPOSJGWTRIVASIWT *	TOURISTS
* CERNZAZUXLUFIXYRAMJXKEUAH *	PASSPORT
* CTVONSWACVFFRRJFLTFRIZOXT *	CRUISE
* RZADFNPEBZPGUWAJTVADLARWF *	AIRPLANE
* WACLGOLAXEUGOSWXIGLADUTI *	FISHING
* HJAWNRCMSILOTNRHNRBEACHKK *	BASEBALL
* DLTLIKEASSDGYVHUBIGDMHSHH *	SAILING
* QXIHHLINFGPMOHVUPNBPGEAO *	FOREING
* SFOFSITITVTOIFYOIFWVKWTBH *	TRAIL
* OHNSIN:IHKWKRYQLUCYIPEFBX *	HOTEL
* FRUSFGILAPIRLTIHZASSLDMLJ *	EUROPE
* HACPVTEQINI IDAXVDZXIZOXOB *	SNORKLING
* RECWWARXGAMRSKKIODYTOPHNT *	VISITING
* DEUEAWAJJARITJLEEMYIYGOMP *	SAFARI
* OSGSZQRQFGUTQDRFKALNHCEOX *	CAMERA
* JDYNDVYCAWWSHFQZTJKGAGIWR *	FAMILY
* FALBTYXXWILHJQYZAQKKOXEP *	TRIP
* * *	

CASSETTE IN CARTRIDGE**BILLY MONROE****CARTRIDGE LIBRARY**

Did you ever wonder if a cartridge was worth turning loose of your hard earned money? Then stop by the cartridge library and **TRY BEFORE YOU BUY!** Over 70 different firmware cartridges are available for a one month check out from our cartridge librarian! This service is an excellent way to try out some of the titles that are not available in any other format. See the cartridge librarian during normal group meetings to get a list and check out a cartridge.

TAKE IT FOR A SPIN AROUND THE BLOCK!**CASSETTE LIBRARY**

If you are a novice user of the TI-99/4A or a master of the keys, the cassette library offers it's members over 50 different selections to check out on a one month trail basis. Many titles are not available in any other media format. Stop by the cassette library to get a list of this fine collection of cassette media, most of which are accompanied with a users manual. See the cassette librarian during normal group meeting. **CHECK IT OUT!**

CONTRIBUTIONS

As with all BTICG libraries, members are encouraged to contribute modules or cassettes that they find are in need of a good home. Dust them off and donate them to the club. I'm sure they will be enjoyed by all the members of our group.

THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT WORK!**PLEASE THINK OF OTHERS!**

If you check out any material from the cartridge or cassette libraries, make sure these are **RETURNED AT THE NEXT INFOMART MEETING** in the same condition as issued, so that others may have the chance to enjoy the software packages also. If you are unable to attend the next meeting, please notify **BILL MONROE** and we will make some kind of arrangements. You will find my phone number in the back of the news letter. Please think of others!

HARDWARE CORNER

BY BUTCH SPILL

A REVIEW OF COMING EVENTS

Hello everyone, welcome to the hardware chairman's contribution to the August Newsletter. I have plenty of exciting news to share, so read on!

We have reached the mid-point of the club's raffle of the Horizon 1000 Ram Disk. Now is the time to get your chance at this wonderful device, so part with those greenbacks and buy a ticket today! Just a reminder: tickets are available for five dollars each. Please see me at the meeting or Next Step.

In the month of August we will have a live demonstration of the Myarc Hard Floppy Drive Controller. I will be presenting the program and have planned a comprehensive demonstration of the HFDC and related hardware. Please be prepared to have a question and answer session before lunch to rid yourself of those burning questions you may have about this topic. I will try to do my best to answer the questions that arise and make the mystery surrounding the HFDC just a little bit clearer. There will be handouts available that will give you a better understanding of the topics and features that will be covered. Come on down to the Super Saturday meeting! It may be your last chance to see me cry if my drive goes up in smoke!

Well, it had to happen sooner or later. The interest in assembly language just won't keep from resurfacing. In an attempt to test the waters concerning assembly, I will give a very simple demo on the use of Funnelweb when editing, assembling and running assembly language programs. Please understand that this is hinging on the time factor of the previous presentation. In any case I will have some tutorials to recommend.

I hope there is adequate interest to start a SIG style informal group that can share and learn together. I doubt if we will have any volunteers to guide interested members in the SIG, due to the nature and dedication needed for the study of assembly language. I have an interest, but poor understanding of the subject, so let's see what happens.

The last plea I would like to make concerns the fact that we need more hardware in the club's hardware treasure trove. Specifically dual disk drive cables for the PE box, cables for printers, modems. Your old unused hardware is also needed. Remember that you help yourself and the club when you turn over that unused hardware to the group.

"Using TII"

"Butch" Spill

THE 80 COLUMN

BY DAVID AXBERG

The reaction to last month's program, the "TI/IBM Connection", had some interesting twists. For one thing it proved the old adage: "never assume anything." I didn't realize how many of our users were not aware of the modifications that could be made to the console to increase its speed and its "connectivity" (that's an AT&T word for "you can plug it in") to an 80 column system.

The follow-up to that information is that there aren't many TI Tech's who can perform those modifications. The installation of the 32K and the 8-bit simplexer by-pass on the primary bus are projects that should not be attempted by a novice. I was fortunate in that my console was modified by the best (jPg).

However, I am not aware of anyone locally that can or will attempt the installation of these modifications commercially. But, I am aware that we have members who are either current or past employees of TI who may be capable of accomplishing modifications. It would be at their option, if they chose to attempt these modifications.

As for the installation of the RAVE99 keyboard interface board... even I did that without assistance. That is a matter of 8 screws and 2 clips. That is one modification that I have found to be extremely helpful, especially since I use a DOS machine at work everyday. The added convenience of the separate numeric keypad, the separate cursor keys, the single keystroke for escape "ESC"-Fcnt 9, insert, delete, home, page up, page down, help, tab, backspace and many others; plus the luxury of a full size AT/XT keyboard made it worth the \$200.00 I spent.

The decision on the 80 column card is not one that can be made lightly. Now you are talking real money - even by DOS standards. The decision to go to 80 columns is going to cost approximately \$200.00 for the card and another \$250.00 - \$300.00 for the RGB monitor. This expenditure can be split into two events. I would suggest that if you purchase the monitor first and then purchase the 80 column card you would get the maximum use from the expenditures.

In the past, I have reviewed for you the installation of a number of peripherals and the functional and financial impact on the user. Now with the latest series of reviews dealing with the co-existence of the TI 99/4A and the DOS machine and indeed the integration of the input/output (I/O) devices; I had hoped to illustrate that there is a place for both machines in our computer needs and uses.

To highlight this duality, let me share with you a program that I discovered last week... DISKREVIEW as a subprogram of FUNNELWEB version 4.3. This program, in the 80-column display mode, is as good as any of the programs found in the DOS world. This program is very similar to the Norton Utilities or PC Tools used by the DOS users. The main display of DISKREVIEW identifies the disk's basic information such as the number of sectors used and unused, disk name, and the traditional filename listing. However, this filename listing also identifies (if it is a program) what language, i.e., XB, EA, and BS. There is a facility to select and mark a specific file - this is done in 3 COLOR reverse video!. This section of the display is autonomous from the other 2 sections that deal with working files, print files, transfer files and a SECTOR EDITOR.

IS MY FACE RED!

by Jim Stewart

Last month I asked for programming help, since I could not get a change to SAVE on a children's program I did some time ago. Butch Spill graciously helped me at the Next Step meeting. It took him about 3 seconds to see I was trying to change a "Protected" program. I was calling up one program from within another, and had forgotten I had used disk protection as well as write protect tabs, to avoid children erasing the program. SORRY! I hope you don't ever do dumb things like me. Thanks, BUTCH, for another save.



**Membership Renewals
are important to the
support of our group
activities.**

DON'T FORGET

Following NEXT STEP, Shawn Hackworth and Tim Althar worked till after midnight on making those modem connections across town. They managed to transfer a few files, but were unable to play Modem TIC-TAC-TOE. Does anyone have any suggestions to give these 2 fellows??? Any other games that can be played by 2 players via modem??? Please upload an answer to the 99'er Connection.

LATCHKEY by Jim Stewart

July was a good month for new members and renewals as well. L. W. CRAIG of Lindale, Texas, was our first new member. KENNETH AURIEMME, from Garland joined as a family membership. Tom Hall located BILL NORLANDER of Ft. Worth and persuaded him to come and join us. BILL WHITE of Arlington was our last new member, making this a memorable number of new members in one month. In addition we were very glad PHIL SMITH of The Colony, DOUG GARRETSON of Rowlett, and TERRY NOTLEY, our Disk Librarian, all faithfully renewed their memberships for another year.

Effective July 1st, the Executive Committee approved a welcome gift for all new members. If disk based, they will be entitled to place a one time order from our top 40 library disks. For each one purchased at \$3.00, they can order a second one Free. We think this is a good way for new members to enlarge their library with proven programs at a very low cost. For those who are operating only a console and cassette recorder, they will be entitled to any 2 cartridges that we have duplicates of in our Cartridge Library without any charge.

Welcome to the Dallas TI Home Computer Group. We may lean on our older members for help, but future growth and vitality depend on our newer members. Please greet these new members, and make them welcome. Help them get started within our unusual group of wonderfully supportive people.

The increased functionality of the DISKREVIEW program may be accessed through FUNNELWEB and subordinated to the word-processor applications or may be accessed directly from MENU or BOOT and supersede the word processor applications. In either case it is a must for the ease of operation and the interoperability of the associated applications, i.e., Spellchecker, DM1000, ARCHIVER, and any other frequently used program loaded into the access menus. There is one other application of this particular program I am interested in discovering. It is the SPLIT SCREEN function that allows you to view two different files at the same time. These files may be up to 64K EACH!!!! This can be accomplished by adding additional memory chips to the DIJIT Systems' (A)dvanced (V)ideo (P)rocessor (C)ard. As soon as I get the chip installed I will report back on the performance of the FUNNELWEB 4.3 on the AVFCARD.

DISPLAY MASTER
BY JIM STEWART

If you have not used last month's DOM by David Axberg on Display Master, you are missing a great tutorial opportunity. There are about 19 commands to learn, so it is real easy, and you end up with real professional results. One obscure limitation is that each command file segment can only be 25 sectors long, but you can daisy chain them together, so you are not aware of the restriction. Remember a "picture" is a whole 25 sectors, so pay careful attention how David handled pictures in his outstanding Program Presentation Review. You will also learn more about TI Artist and actually use your own TIA creativity....This can be a lot of fun.

NEXT STEP REPORT by Charlice Althar

Wow, what a great NEXT STEP we had in July! Several new faces were present, plus a few that we hadn't seen in a while. Probably about 40 people in all!

We had the opportunity of meeting Bill Rister, who has been a member of DTIHCG for some time, but known to us only via our 99er Connection. Bill lives in Houston, where he is sysop of the Phoenix BBS. We enjoyed visiting with him, and he said it's great to be able to put faces with all the names that he's been reading about for so long!

We also had an out-of-town visitor, Lance Parr, with us for the evening. Lance has been part of the User Group in Corpus Christi. He's now a student at A&M, and is working in Dallas for the summer. We're glad to have met you, Lance, and hope you'll consider DTIHCG your "home away from home"!

While munching on Jim Lesher's cookies, we did a whole lot of visiting and discussing, and got a lot of things accomplished:

1. John Clary tried 4-A FLYER, to see how it compares with Dow4, Red Baron, and Spad XIII.
2. The Guions received a "good copy" of the June Disk of the Month
3. Tom Hall took photos; they'll be at the back of the room at INFCMART on Super Saturday.
4. Louis "almost" aligned a disk drive after 2 hours of work, showing its owner what the problem was.
5. We admired the great looking 4/A T-shirts that Mattie and Mary were wearing, and that Mary created.
6. We worked on TI-WRITER transliterate commands.
7. Bill Rister made a video tape of the meeting to take back to Houston!

8. Two members renewed their memberships.
9. Butch Spill fixed one program to print from PIO, and broke his printer (now recovered) with the crazy transliterate commands.
10. Corrected a member's mailing address.
11. Sold quite a few raffle tickets for the club's Horizon Ram Disk (\$5 per ticket, in case you've forgotten!).
12. Solved problems with E/A loaders.
13. Admired (?) Butch's hard drive enclosure (Greg rates it right up there with Jim Stewart's dog carrier monitor enclosure!).
14. President Thierry Weber accepted Walter Pearson's resignation as Board Member-at-Large, and appointed John Buie to serve in that position.
15. Shawn, his cousin Paul, and Tim played games and discussed modem connections and transferring files by modem.
16. Sold a few hardware parts from the club's stock.
17. Of course, we copied disks!
18. Demo'd using TI-WRITER.
19. Demo'd recovering files with DM-1000.

Lots more than this was going on--we were so busy, I didn't have a chance to get it down on paper! We had 6 systems up and running, plus others which were being worked on. This is truly the place to get your difficulties resolved, and get that "hands-on" help you often wish you had.

There were so many of us, we overflowed our usual window seating area at Dunston's and took half a dozen extra tables to eat our hamburgers after the meeting. But there's still have room for more--if you weren't there, you missed a great one! Come join us in August!