

THE GUILFORD 99'ER NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2 NO. 2

FEBRUARY

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OUR NEXT MEETING

DATE: February 5, 1985
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: Tax Investment Planners
218 N. Eugene St.

The question is often asked about what is available to us in terms of support groups, software suppliers, magazines, newsletters, and other guidance on how to make the most of our computers. Well, this question will be answered at our February meeting. There is a vast wealth of material out there for us. For example, there is a newsletter called "Super 99 Monthly". It costs \$12.00 per year and is full of useful tips and programs. There are software clubs and users' groups like ours all over the country.

In this meeting there will be some samples of what is available, as well as addresses and costs. Hope to see you all there!!

D. Cohen
Program Chairman

Club member Larry Spohn has brand new Speech Synthesizers for \$50.00. He also has TI-Writer and TI-Logo for \$70.00 each. His phone number in Kernersville is 996-4133 or 373-7077 at work.

Incidentally, check with Mark Sowell at Brendles on E. Bessemer Ave for help in locating software. He has helped club members locate software at various store locations around the area.

COMPUTER CLASSES

We would like to thank you for returning the educational questionnaires. It looks like we will be starting BASIC, EXTENDED BASIC, and FORTH classes at the beginning of March. Look for the schedule of classes in the March newsletter. A full schedule and the meeting places will be published then. If you haven't turned a questionnaire in, contact Bob Carmany at the next meeting.

We have also learned that K-Mart in Eden has TI-compatible G.E. tape recorders for \$25.00. That is an exceptional price!!

There is still a relative abundance of some types of TI cartridge-based software around. The mail-order companies are still saying that it is available. There are licensed (Micro-pal) and unauthorized versions of TI Extended Basic being produced and 3rd party games and utilities. If any of you comes across a bargain in the program availability area, please contact us through the P.O. Box so that we can let the rest of the club members know as soon as possible.

At the end of the newsletter is a tear-off list with all the officer's phone numbers. There has been an expressed need for them so we are going to include it in this month's newsletter. All we ask is that you call at reasonable hours.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As those of you know that attended the January meeting, we re-structured the dues for our club. Effective immediately, the dues are now \$12.00 per family per year. And, all dues are payable on the date of our January meeting. The changes accomplished two things: first, we are now able to meet the rising cost of running the Users' Group and, secondly, we will be able to prepare a budget on an annual basis.

Everyone will be credited with the amount of money they have paid for 1985. For example, if you have paid until July 1985, you will be credited with \$3.00 toward your total 1985 dues and owe \$9.00. The amount of pre-payment will be credited to you at the rate of \$1.00 per month and you will then owe the balance. Please catch your dues up at the next meeting or mail your check to the P.O. Box as soon as possible. If you have any questions about the status of your membership, contact Andrew Small at 855-1847. You can check the mailing label on your last month's newsletter to see when your original membership expired.

Hopefully, the entire program library will be up and running in March. George Von Seth is getting it catalogued and ready and we anticipate having most of it ready then. We are still looking for programs of all types to put in the library. If you have some programs at home that you would like to share with the other members of the group, send a list into the Users' Group address or call George to make arrangements.

Of course, we are always looking for newsletter material. Remember, it is YOUR Users' Group and participation helps!!

I am sure that Dave Cohen would appreciate any program suggestions that you may have for future programs. In fact, anyone who would like to present a program at one of our meetings is heartily invited to contact Dave and get it set up.

HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE has supposedly gotten itself straightened out. After publishing only 5 issues (the last one came in January) during 1984, they promise 10 in 1985. Gary Kaplan, the Editor, says that anyone who renews or subscribes before the deadline for Vol. 5 No. 1 (which should be out at the end of January) will get 12 issues. Any subscriptions after that date will be for 10 issues and the subscription price will be adjusted accordingly. Based on past performance, I'll believe it when I see it!!

For those of you who missed the last meeting, we have a few of the sample packages from MILLERS GRAPHICS available and we will have them at this meeting. I have been getting their newsletter from day one and it is one of the best values around. If you are interested in the memory maps of the TI, I would suggest requesting all the back issues when you subscribe. Otherwise, you will be lost when he continues. Incidentally, they too are behind in their publication schedule but he promises to make sure that you get the full 12 issues.

Well, that's it for this month. So long 'til the "Ides of March".

Bob Carmany

Bob Stitz has informed us that he has given up on the Super Sketch II. It is fine to doodle with but you just can't save the drawings. TEX-COMP says that it can't be done but TENEX and TRITON are still advertising it with the SAVE option. Based on Bob's experience, I would hesitate to buy it without some sort of assurance from the manufacturer.

TI REVIEW
BY LARRY SPOHN

With the tax season here (and it's accompanying paper avalanche), some of you may be contemplating buying the TAX/INVESTMENT RECORD KEEPING command module. It's a good program for keeping the records neat and it will even give you automatic print out tapes of entered data. IF . . . and it's a big if. If you have the TI thermal printer or an RS232 serial printer.

It will not work with a parallel printer via the PIO command to the RS232 card in the PEB. Very frustrating for those of us who took the introduction page at face value. It states the cartridge will function with the "thermal printer (or another printer connected via the RS232 interface)."

Apparently, the cartridge was designed before parallel printer compatibility was engineered or contemplated. One would think the programmers might have reprogrammed it to eliminate this annoying and costly deficiency.

There are at least a couple of ways around this glitch. One, vigorously complain to TI via it's toll free number. Club member Buddy Cato did just that and was offered his choice of an alternate cartridge in exchange for the tax module. This doesn't help next year's taxes any, but at least you aren't stuck with a lemon! Incidentally, TI acknowledged to Buddy that there is no way to use the PIO command with it.

Two, Steve Sallee, outgoing President of the Winston-Salem Users' Group, says the Axiom RS232 interface (which plugs directly into the side of the TI console) permits a user to access a parallel printer via the RS 232 command. Cute! Steve sells 'em through his Discount Computer Sales, but this is one gun-shy consumer who will demand a demonstration!

WANTED: Vol. 1 No. 1 through Vol. No. 5 of 99^{ER} MAGAZINE -- either on loan or to buy. Contact Bob Carmany at the next meeting!

Third, some printers have built-in serial and parallel ports, so it would appear to be merely a matter of switching cables in these cases. (In my experimentation, the cartridge did appear to access the RS232 card in the PEB; it just wouldn't accept the PIO address.)

If you have had satisfactory experience with this module, please let us poor unfortunates know, especially if you can fathom any way to get it to understand PIO, or a better detour around it. Perhaps by reading a file created by the TAX module off a disk or cassette; then, printing via Basic or another data-compatible cartridge? (Or is that just a number cruncher's nightmare!)

Otherwise, I'll entertain a motion to sic the IRS on TI.

For those of you who have had the unfortunate problem of being disconnected or losing data when hooked up to a BBS or another user when someone else in the household picks up the extension, there is hope!

CONTROL INDUSTRIES, Box 6292, Bend OR 97708, makes a product called Dataguard. It creates a dedicated line that prevents accidental disconnect and gives the modem user priority when another phone is picked up. It retails for \$39.95.

One of the more common problems encountered by beginning computer users is to have the computer "lock up" for no apparent reason. They usually encounter the problem when they press ENTER (it always happens at the end of a long program). One of the causes is a power surge on the same circuit that the computer is on. It is usually caused by an appliance being turned on (or coming on). Furnaces, vacuum cleaners and washers are common culprits. The solution is simple --- buy one of the power strips with built-in surge control protection. They usually cost about \$40 and will also increase the number of available outlets.

PROGRAM REVIEW
BY DAVE COHEN

Like me, many of you have a printer with which TI-Writer won't work. For example, TI-Writer won't work with a thermal printer ("TP") at all. This lack of word processing capability is bothersome and, like me, you could only use the printer for program listings or other limited functions. Well, relief is here at last!!

The club library now has a program in it called "Word Processing" by S. Franz. It is in EXTENDED BASIC but it will work with any and all printers. All you have to do is change line 3730 to fit the specifications of your particular printer. For example, I changed the line to read:

```
OPEN #1:"PIO" and I can now
```

modify it even more for other commands dealing with line feeds, carriage returns, page sizes, etc.

This program has instructions to start off with which are fairly complete. I'm still learning how to make margins but maybe the problem is with my printer, which is a 40-column Alphacom 42.

The program itself, however, does have its own limitations. Only one line at a time can be entered and that line can't exceed the maximum length of 80 characters. Also, it's hard to correct spelling errors because, as the instructions state, a correction is made to all similar spelling situations in everything that you have typed, even if it's not wrong. All in all, though, this program is a good utility for you to add to your collection.

For some of us, it's the only word processing program available to us. Since it's in the club library, the price is certainly right!!

See "The Software Shopper" for commercially available word processing programs -- Ed.

PROGRAMMING TIP

Here is a little tip that we will call the "Lazarus" technique. It effectively brings a "dead" program back to life. If you have EXTENDED BASIC and 32K you can use this procedure. Load a short Extended Basic program and then type in the following line in the immediate mode:
CALL PEEK(-31952,A,B,C,D)::PRINT A;B ;C;D

Four values will appear on your screen -- write them down! The first two are the beginning of the line number table and the second two are the end of the table. Now, PRESS FCTN = (QUIT). Go ahead and enter Extended Basic in the usual manner. Then type in the following line:
CALL INIT::CALL LOAD(-31952,W,X,Y,Z)

W will be the first number that you wrote down, X will be the second, etc. Now, type in LIST and your program has been brought back from limbo!!

Volume 4 No. 5 of HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE has another tip in the continuing series of "Doing Without Extended Basic". The issue has a subroutine to allow the user to emulate the Extended Basic ACCEPT AT command in basic. Let's hope that the series keeps on going -- it might have some interesting tips in the future!!

It is sometimes interesting to read some of the older issues of magazines. While looking through some of the older versions of HCM I noticed a plaintive letter from Craig Miller (CEO of MILLERS GRAPHICS to the Editor. A mysterious REGENA (later C. REGENA of COMPUTE MAGAZINE) made some contributions in the earlier issues.

THE SOFTWARE SHOPPER

This month, we are going to look at what is available in the realm of word processing software packages. In most cases, the prices quoted are the best that we could find - retail prices may be a few dollars more.

TYPEWRITER is produced by Extended Software Co. and requires EXTENDED BASIC. It allows the user to input or output text for storage to cassette or disk or a combination. Editing is by cursor control. It features right justification, page forward and backward, insert or delete lines, and can handle a variety of formats depending on your printer's capabilities. The line length can vary from 28 to 254 characters and it will address ANY printer. It is \$27.95 for cassette and \$29.95 for disk.

CONSOLE WRITER is a module available from TENEX that requires only the console and a printer. It features insert/delete lines and characters and will address both cassette or disk for text storage. It sells for \$39.95.

TI PROCESSOR II is a word processor from TISOFT that justifies, centers and can double space text. It will address any printer and is available on both cassette or disk. TI PROCESSOR III is an enhancement to utilize 32K memory. The program is \$31.95.

DCEB WORD PROCESSOR is produced by DC Software Writers and requires only EXTENDED BASIC and a cassette recorder. Its features include quick scan, line moving, line copying, segment inserting and deleting, etc. The disk version requires 32K memory expansion. It sells for \$39.95.

There are several other packages available but the current prices were not available.

DIRECT WRITER II is a disk-based word processor that features right justification, line centering, line insert/delete, block text move, and character insert/delete. It is produced by Dynamic Data & Devices. It also requires 32K memory expansion.

TEXTIGER is a series of word processing packages that are available on either disk or cassette and offer all of the features of DIRECT WRITER except for the block move feature. TEXTIGER also doesn't require a 32K memory expansion.

Here is a listing of the addresses of the software suppliers mentioned:

EXTENDED SOFTWARE COMPANY
11987 Cedar Creek Dr
Cincinnati, OH 45240

TENEX COMPUTER EXPRESS
P.O. Box 6578
South Bend, IN 46660
(Mail-order supplier)

TISOFT
535 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10017

DC SOFTWARE WRITERS
P.O. Box 335651
Northglenn, CO 80233

DYNAMIC DATA & DEVICES
P.O. Box 912
Stafford, TX 77477

TEXTIGER
24433 Hawthorne Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90505

Of course, there are many other packages out there ranging from simple BASIC programs to TI-Writer. You should be able to find something to suit your needs among the varied offerings.

THE HARDWARE SHOPPER

What are some of the best bargains in printers, modems, etc. that are currently on the market? Let's take a look and see what is readily available.

In the realm of printers the GEMINI 10X for about \$260-\$280 is one of the better buys. This printer combines quality and performance in an economical package --- the price is excellent. For that price, however, you only get the printer. If you don't already have a parallel or RS232 interface, you might be better off with one of the "direct connect" printers.

The SEIKOSHA GP 100 TI is one of the "direct connect" printers that retails for \$280. It doesn't have the features of the GEMINI but for those of you who don't have an interface, it has the advantage of not needing one. It plugs into the side port on the console. SEIKOSHA also makes a GP 500 for about \$300 that features nearly all of the features of the GEMINI and it too is "direct connect".

The EPSON RX-80 is also available for about \$300 and it has much to recommend it. This printer bears the EPSON name and has many of the enhancements found in the more expensive EPSON printers. It also requires an interface.

A good letter quality printer will probably cost in the neighborhood of \$400. STAR makes the POWER TYPE and there are many others available in the same price range. You should remember, though, that if you intend to use graphics, a daisy wheel, letter quality printer will NOT do the job. There are several that will and they are called "NLQ" (near letter quality) printers. Some have variable print speeds --- fast for drafts and slower (about 40 CPS) for "NLQ" documents. They are comparable in price to the letter quality printers but have the advantage of graphics.

Modems are one of the areas where you can get a real bargain. The SIGNALMAN MARK III is readily available for about \$90. It is one of the better modems around. Modems MUST have an RS232 card or interface to work. So, that may be an added expense for some of us.

Another excellent value is the VOLKSMODEM. It has been advertised for about \$70 in various publications.

Both of these modems are "direct connect". That is, they use wires to connect to the phone rather than an acoustical connection.

All of the products that we have mentioned require cables to connect them with the computer console. Printers are either parallel or serial. That means that they require either a parallel cable and parallel port to work or a serial cable and a centronic standard RS232 port (the TI card and several of the third party cards have one of each). The cables that you need for the printer will cost you about \$25 in either case.

The modems also require a cable to connect them to the RS232 card or stand-alone. The price of the cable can vary from \$12 to \$25.

There are other peripherals that are available for the TI but they are of somewhat limited application. OSCAR is an optical scanner that allows the user to "read" programs into the computers memory in the same manner as the computer at the supermarket reads the prices. There are not many programs available for the system, however. As a result, it probably is not worth the price. Until the SUPER SKETCH II proves to be workable, it is little more than a curiosity. There are light pens, data links, and a myriad of other questionable peripherals as well. So, choose carefully!!

 FREE PROGRAM

The following program is one that will produce a cassette tape label. It allows for five inputs per side. It has been used with the Star Micronics STX-80 printer and makes use of the built-in block graphics characters used by the printer. Lines 240 and 260 can be changed to allow you to use whatever characters that you wish for the borders. Once the label is printed, it can be trimmed with a pair of scissors to fit inside of the plastic cassette box.

```

110 CALL CLEAR::A$="SIDE A":B$="SIDE
B":INPUT "CASSETTE TITLE ":C$
120 INPUT "TITLE A/1 ":D$:INPUT
"TITLE A/2 ":E$:INPUT "TITLE A/3 ":F$
::INPUT "TITLE A/4 ":G$
130 INPUT "TITLE A/5 ":H$
140 INPUT "TITLE B/1 ":I$:INPUT
"TITLE B/2 ":J$:INPUT "TITLE B/3 ":K$
::INPUT "TITLE B/4 ":L$
150 INPUT "TITLE B/5 ":M$
160 FOR DELAY=1 TO 500::NEXT DELAY
170 DISPLAY AT(2,1)ERASE ALL:C$:
DISPLAY AT(4,1):A$:DISPLAY AT(4,14):
B$
180 DISPLAY AT(6,1):D$:DISPLAY AT
(6,14):I$:DISPLAY AT(7,1):E$:
DISPLAY AT(7,14):J$
190 DISPLAY AT(8,1):F$:DISPLAY AT
(8,14):K$:DISPLAY AT(9,1):G$:
DISPLAY AT(9,14):L$
200 DISPLAY AT(10,1):H$:DISPLAY AT
(10,14):M$
210 FOR DELAY=1 TO 500::NEXT DELAY
220 DISPLAY AT(17,1)BEEP:"IS THIS
LISTING CORRECT?":ACCEPT AT(17,26):X$
::IF X$="Y" THEN 230 ELSE 110
230 OPEN #1:"PI0":PRINT #1:C$
240 PRINT #1:CHR$(15);"GGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG
GGGGGGGGGGGGGG";CHR$(18);CHR$(10)
250 PRINT #1:A$,B$
260 PRINT #1:CHR$(15);"XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX";CHR$(18);CHR$(10)

```

```

270 PRINT #1:D$,I$,E$,J$,F$,K$,G$,L$
:H$,M$
280 PRINT #1:CHR$(10)::CLOSE #1
290 DISPLAY AT(12,1):ERASE ALL:"DO
YOU WANT TO CONTINUE?":ACCEPT AT
(12,26):Z$:IF Z$="Y" THEN 110 ELSE
300
300 FOR DELAY=1 TO 500::NEXT DELAY::
END

```

For example, line 240 could be changed to read:

```

240 AA$=RPT$("+",28)::PRINT #1:AA$;
CHR$(10)

```

and line 260 could be changed to:

```

260 BB$=RPT$("-",28)::PRINT #1:BB$;
CHR$(10)

```

These changes will print 28 +'s across for the first border and 28 -'s for the second. The label would look something like this:

```

UTILITIES 1
*****
SIDE A          SIDE B
-----
CALL SOUNDS    TYPEWRITER
SCR DUMP        BAR GRAPHER
SPRITES        TIMER
LINKER          HEX/BINARY
TELETUNES      CHAR. DEF.

```

The borders within the program can be changed to conform to any enhancements your printer may have and line 230 can be changed to conform to your printer OPEN statement.

 Does anyone out there have any good LOGO II programs? If you do, please send them in -- we can print them in our next newsletter!!

BITS & BYTES

Remember, if any of you have anything (software, hardware, or accessories) that you would like to sell or "swap" you can send the ad into the newsletter and we will pass the word on in the next copy of the newsletter.

Or, if you are looking for a particular item for your system, we will try to help you locate it by bringing it up in the form of a "want" ad. You never know, someone may either have what you want or know where you can get it.

We are still looking for hardware and software reviews to print in the newsletter. If you have run across an exceptional program or one that maybe Fido should have eaten, drop us a line. The editorial deadline is the 15th of the month at the present (it may be moved up to take advantage of the bulk mailing).

George Von Seth has advised us that the library is rapidly coming "on line". He is going through the block of programs that we got from the Raleigh Users Group and they should be sorted out sometime in February. It looks like we will have about 700 programs available once we delete the duplications. Bob Stitz has been helping George down-load and catalogue what we have gotten and of course Dave Cohen is responsible for making the contact and securing the programs for us. Our thanks to all three of them for the time they have taken and the effort they have expended for our Users' Group. When we get the total library assembled, it should be one of the biggest around.

If you haven't already done so, you might want to make back-up copies of that favorite program of yours. You never know when a near-sighted relative may sit down on that "irreplacable" disk or the dog may decide to have a sudden craving for cassette tapes. If you have ever typed in 400+ lines of program, you can appreciate how absolutely necessary it is to have back-up copies of your programs.

You might want to make a special effort to attend this meeting. In addition to the regularly scheduled program, we will have a little something "special" planned. No, we won't tell you what it is except to say that we found a glaring error in the TI Extended Basic manual. It will definitely be worth while to attend.

If you have anything to submit to the newsletter, please make sure that you address it to THE GUILFORD USER USERS' GROUP, P.O. Box 21691, Greensboro, N.C. 27420. The Post Office Department does some strange things when they see a name on the envelope other than our Users' Group logo. Please don't address the items to any of the individual club members in care of the P.O. Box or it will very likely get lost or you will get it returned!

DON'T FORGET TO PROTECT YOUR COMPUTER FROM STATIC ELECTRICITY! Use one of the commercially available anti-static sprays on the carpet around the computer or get an anti-static mat. It might save you some money later on!

FREE PROGRAMS RE-VISITED

Here are three programs that have appeared in previous issues of the newsletter. Two of them were sent to us by Vaughn Software to be used by the Users' Group. All of them are written in Extended Basic.

```

100 REM *****
110 REM * SNAKE DANCE *
120 REM *VAUGHN SOFTWARE*
130 REM *****
140 REM
150 REM
160 REM EXTENDED BASIC REQUIRED
170 REM
180 RANDOMIZE::CALL CLEAR::CALL
SCREEN(2)
190 B=RND*190::CALL MAGNIFY(1)::CALL
CHAR(96,"B")::FOR A=1 TO 28::CALL
SPRITE(#A,96,8,95,10,10,SGN(95-B)*A)
::NEXT A
200 D=RND*20::FOR A=1 TO 28::CALL
MOTION(#A,D,A*SGN(10-D))::NEXT A::
C=C+1::IF C<25 THEN 200
210 FOR A=1 TO 28::CALL
COLOR(#A,RND*14+2)::NEXT A::C=0::
CALL MAGNIFY(2)
220 FOR A=1 TO 28::B=RND*14+2::CALL
PATTERN(#A,96)::CALL POSITION(#A,U,U)
::CALL MOTION(#A,SGN*(96-U)*9,
SGN(10-U)*9)::NEXT A
230 FOR A=1 TO 28::CALL PATTERN
(#A,96)::NEXT A::CALL DELSPRITE(ALL)
::GOTO 190

```

```

100 CALL CLEAR::CALL SCREEN(4)::
CALL MAGNIFY(4)::FOR I=1 TO 28::
CALL SPRITE(#I,64+I,16,80,80,3*I,8)
110 NEXT I::FOR J=1 TO 5000::NEXT J

```

```

100 REM *****
110 REM * TELETUNES *
120 REM *VAUGHN SOFTWARE*
130 REM *****
140 REM
150 REM
160 REM
170 CALL CLEAR
180 DIM TN$(9)
190 DATA 948.01331.7,699.11215.9,
699.11331.7,699.11471.9,766.21215.9,
766.21331.7,766.21471.9
200 DATA 847.41215.9,847.41331.7,
847.41471.9
210 FOR A=0 TO 9
220 READ TN$(A)
230 NEXT A
240 INPUT "PHONE NUMBER?":PH$
250 FOR A=1 TO LEN(PH$)
260 C=VAL(SEG$(PH$,A,1))
270 CALL SOUND(50,VAL(SEG$(TN$(C),
1.5)),0,VAL(SEG$(TN$(C),6,6)),0)
280 NEXT A
290 GOTO 240

```

Here is a tip for rounding off numbers that can be used in your programs:

```

100 X=5.6583
110 DEF ROU(X)=INT(((10^2)*X)+0.5)
/(10^2)
120 PRINT X,ROU(X)

```

To change the formula to round the number to more (or less) than 2 places, change the "2" in each place in line 110 to the number of places desired.

USERS' GROUP PHONE LIST

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