

THE GUILFORD 99^{ER} NEWSLETTER

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JUNE

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OUR NEXT MEETING

DATE: June 4, 1985
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: Glenwood Recreation Center
2010 S. Chapman St.

across an actual calculation program that sounds good and is reasonably priced. It's called Texas Taxes and will calculate a form 1040 with schedules A, B, G and W. It also has all the tax tables including the sales tax table for our state.

AGENDA

The programs requires only a cassette player or a disk drive and costs only \$10.95 plus \$2.00 postage. If you send it back each year with \$5.00 they will give you and updated version with all law and form changes! You can get this program from Steven Karasek; 855 Diversey Dr.; St. Louis, MO. 63126. This tax calculation program, along with the tax data storage programs that were demonstrated at March meeting should create a complete tax system for you.

The June meeting will feature graphics. The TI is really quite impressive in this area and there are two exceptional library programs for graphics that will be demonstrated. One is bargraph. You'll have to come to the meeting to find out about the other one. See you there!

Dave Cohen

PROGRAM EXPLANATION

PROGRAM REVIEW
BY DAVE COHEN

This program is called "Disk List". It will give you a listing of all your disks on either the screen or a printer. As you can see, it is written in Basic so it will run in either Basic or Extended Basic. All you have to do is follow the directions as they appear on your screen and the program will do the rest. Incidentally, it is in the club library if you don't want to go through the trouble of typing the program listing in yourself.

A TAX CALCULATION PROGRAM

At our recent meeting dealing with tax programs the question arose as to a tax calculation program. At the time the programs I knew about were very expensive, and the programs in the library only saved tax data. However, I have just come

TI SHOPPER

This is the first column in a new series. The old "Hardware Shopper" and "Software Shopper" columns will be combined to give you the best prices that we can find on various items for the TI 99/4A.

We will start off with a few software items that might be of interest to you. If you haven't gotten the newest catalogue from Triton, you may want to take a look at one. They have the TI produced Extended Basic cartridge for \$49.95, and Personal Record Keeping for \$15.75. Both of these prices are the best I have seen anywhere!

Of course, there also a number of game cartridges available for \$5.95 but most of them are the "old" ones like TI Invaders, Parsec, and Munchman. Most of you probably already have these titles but, if you haven't, now might be the time. Triton has a minimum order of \$20.00 so you have to order that much or they send back your order.

Triton also has a real bargain in the hardware section. They are offering the FEB at \$299.95. That includes the box itself, 32K memory expansion, the disk controller, and the built-in disk drive. That is about \$200.00 less than what you can find anywhere else. They also offer a wide variety of printers and "stand-alones" if you have opted to expand that way.

The "Spell-Checker" from Dragonlayer has been updated to a faster version (1.1). The old program would take 21 minutes to check the spelling on a document that occupied 100 disk sectors. The new version does the same job in 6.5 minutes. It is available from both Triton and Tenex. The price is still a little bit high -- \$49.95 but it may be worth it if you do a lot of writing with the TI-Writer. It has an expandable 20,000 word vocabulary.

The "Cartridge Expander" from Navarone Industries has also come down significantly in price. Once again, Triton has the best deal at \$29.95. It will probably reduce "cartridge switching" by quite a bit. You could keep Extended Basic and Disk Manager parked in the first two slots and use the last one for switching the various game or other cartridges.

The "Diagnostic" program from Miller's Graphics is getting rave reviews from some of the newsletters. It will allow you to check just about everything that you would like in your system and it gives you direct access to a disk on a sector-by-sector basis. This will allow you to repair blown files and repair a directory that has been messed up and makes the contents of the disk unreadable. The information about this item is in the "Mini Sample" that we passed out several meetings ago. It is available from Triton or from Miller's Graphics for \$19.95.

There are a number of new programs for the TI that have just been introduced or are just now getting publicized. XB-Forth is a LOAD program that allows you to load TI-Forth from Extended Basic instead of having to use the Editor/Assembler module. Since we already have the public domain version of TI-Forth in the library, it might be worth while for you to think about this program if you want to get into Forth programming. It is about \$17.95 and is available from several sources.

Well, that about does it for this month. We will try to cover more hardware and software items as the months go by. If you have any suggestions about a specific area that you would like to know about or any category of programs or hardware to cover, let us know by dropping us a line at the P.O. Box.

FORTH SCREENS

SCREEN 92

```
0 ( Sound Routine - 3 notes, 1 Noise Vol 1-16 by Rex Nielson )
1 BASE->R HEX
2 80 VARIABLE OPER
3 3001 VARIABLE SDTAB
4 0 VARIABLE TIME 0 VARIABLE NOISY 2 ALLOT
5 049F VARIABLE SDOFF 4 ALLOT BFDF SDOFF 2+ ! FFOO SDOFF 2+ 2+ !
6 : OTEST BEGIN 83CE @ 0 = UNTIL ;
7 : +SDTAB 1 SDTAB +! ;
8 : +OPER 10 OPER +! ;
9 : DUR ABS 4 SRL DUP 1 < IF DROP 1 ENDIF TIME ! ;
10 : TONE1 0 3000 VSBW 1B4F5. RUT U/ DUP F AND OPER @ +
11 SDTAB @ VSBW +OPER +SDTAB 4 SRA 3F AND SDTAB @ VSBW
12 +SDTAB DROP OPER @ + SDTAB @ VSBW +SDTAB +OPER ;
13 : TONE2 TIME @SDTAB @ VSBW SDTAB @ 3001 - 3000 VSBW +SDTAB
14 SDOFF SDTAB @ 6 VMBW 3000 83CC ! 83FD DUP @ 01 OR
15 SWAP ! 0100 83CE ! ; R->BASE -->
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SCREEN 93

```
0 ( Sound Cont - Syntax = 0 VN -N V3 F3 V2 F2 V1 F1 DUR SOUND )
1 ( freq's F1 F2 F3 are like BASIC'S )
2 ( vol's VN V1 V2 V3 are from 1 through 16 )
3 ( dur is also like BASIC'S - positive or negative )
4 ( you can use from 1 to 3 notes and/or 1 noise )
5 ( note: first item on the stack MUST be a 0, zero, or the )
6 ( empty stack error message will come up. )
7 BASE->R HEX
8
9 : NOISE ABS 1 - 7 AND E0 + NOISY ! F0 + NOISY 2 + ! ;
10 : T3 NOISY @ 0 > IF 3 0 DO NOISY I + @ SDTAB @ VSBW +SDTAB
11 2 +LOOP ENDIF ;
12 : -TEST DUP FFF7 UK IF TONE1 ELSE NOISE ENDIF ;
13 : SOUND DUP 0 > IF OTEST ENDIF DUR BEGIN -TEST DUP 0 = UNTIL T3
14 DROP TONE2 80 OPER ! 3001 SDTAB ! 0 NOISY ! ;
15 R->BASE
```

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Another month has passed and it is time for me to crank up the "old" word processor for another column. This month, I'm using the library equivalent of the "QS-Writer" program that is in our library. Not only does it work like a charm, but it will save Joe Martin a lot of work in reformatting the text. It is TI-Writer without the TI-Writer module. It runs in Extended Basic. It really does the job!!

If you are a HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE subscriber, it looks like the latest issue was what they promised. They appear to have the magazine on track time-wise and if you take care to look at your subscriber label, they have also adjusted the subscription expiration dates to account for the lapse in publication and the extension of the new publication schedule. They might finally be publishing on some sort of reasonable schedule. Let's hope so, anyway.

For those of you who missed the last meeting, we now have a color television (monitor) to go with the console that we bought last year. We hope to add to the Users' Group owned hardware as the funds become available. We would like to come up with a PEB and then try to fill it up with memory expansion, the disk system and whatever else we can afford. The PEB is something to plan for in the future--right now, we don't have the money in the treasury to afford it at the present time. If any of you hear of a good deal on a PEB or a series of "stand-alone" peripherals for the TI, let us know so that we can consider purchasing them to complete our system.

The Basic classes are over for this cycle. There seems to be a problem getting enough people to come to the classes (this includes the Forth classes, too). It might be that Forth could best be

handled as a discussion group at a time other than the meeting night. It just isn't reasonable to offer classes if there isn't going to be more interest than what we have had so far. I will be working with Forth on a regular basis here at home and it might be better if we meet here at my house two nights a month on a more or less informal basis. We are open to suggestions in this regard.

We are still in the business of trying to answer questions that you may have about both hardware and software. If you have any questions about either, bring them up at the monthly meetings or write in to the newsletter and we will try to answer them for you.

George Von Seth is still working tirelessly on our Users' Group library. We have recently gotten some 20+ disks from the Winston-Salem group to add to our library as well as the remaining 10 disks from the Raleigh Users' Group. This will bring the number of programs available to almost 1,000 when we get the duplications and copyrighted programs removed. Anyone who has not taken advantage of the club library is missing a golden opportunity to drastically increase their own program library at no cost. We hope to have a catalogue of the available programs ready by mid or late June. We will have the program name, system requirements, and maybe some additional information about each one. Once we finally get the entire library organized, we will distribute the catalogue at one of the meetings (hopefully the July meeting). Incidentally, the acquisition of programs from the Winston-Salem Group was through the efforts of Larry Spohn.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Jackie Branch, the Director of Glenwood Recreation Center, for
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**BOOK REVIEW
BY HERMAN GESHWIND**

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"Programmer's Reference Guide to the TI-99/4A", Compute! Publications, Inc. PO Box 5406, Greensboro, NC 27403, \$ 14.95.

For anyone interested in TI Basic, this 358 page book is an absolute must. The author, C. Regena proves two points that ladies (housewives, school teachers?) can be excellent programmers and TI Console Basic can be used to create spectacular programs using color, sound and graphics.

Ms. Regena not only covers all the basic commands, statements and functions, but her many pointers on conserving memory alone are almost worth the price of the book and not to be found so lucidly covered in any other publication that I am aware of.

The program examples (and there are many of them in this book) are outstanding for two reasons, the program listings are preceded by several pages of line by line annotation which will give you a good understanding of the program logic and structure; and even otherwise commonplace programs are enhanced with excellent graphics and sound effects.

Many of the program examples are teaching aids in working with younger children and Ms. Regena shows how to capture the attention of a younger audience with color, graphics, motion and music.

All in all, an excellent buy for the money.

Walden Books and Atticus last have had shelf copies. Can also be ordered from Compute! by mail.

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WANT ADS

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Larry Spohn has the following for sale, all items are new in box.

- SPEECH SYNTHESIZER_____ \$45
- TI LOGO_____ \$40
- READING FLIGHT(cart)_____ \$10

Larry can be reached at his home number of 996-4133, or at the work number of 373-7077 (be sure to ask for Larry specifically!)

The GUILFORD 99'ER USERS' GROUP NEWSLETTER IS FREE TO DUES PAYING MEMBERS OF THE USERS' GROUP (ONE COPY PER FAMILY, PLEASE). DUES ARE \$12.00 PER FAMILY PER YEAR. SEND CHECK TO P.O. BOX 21691, GREENSBORO, N.C. 27420 THE SOFTWARE LIBRARY IS FOR DUES PAYING MEMBERS ONLY.
