



ROCKY MOUNTAIN 99ERS TIC TALK

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FROM THE EDITOR

Well, another month gone by. Where does the time go? It seems that only last week we were getting ready for the new year, and now it's nearly half gone.

Included in this month's newsletter is a letter to the club from RYTE DATA in Canada. They say they have sent previous correspondence, but it has not passed this way if they did. Some of the other Users Groups have been discussing this at length for a few months, now, but this is the first "OFFICIAL" information that has passed before this editors eyes. The bulk of the comments from other newsletters have implied that there was another rumor going around, and I saw no reason to spread it any farther.

To those members that have expressed the desire to sell some (or all) of their equipment, please contact me when you DO sell something so I can remove it from the list that I have.

4A/TALK IS COMPLETED!!! Bring your latest copy in to the meeting this month for your final update.

JUNE MEETING

June 11

Jefferson County Fairgrounds

Auditorium 7:00 PM

6th Ave. West to Indiana Ave.

SIG MEETINGS

The EDITOR/ASSEMBLER SIG will meet on Wednesday, Jun 5th, 7:00 PM at Unique systems located at Bates and Broadway behind the Oak and Pine store.

Downloaded from the Star Board.

The following is a description of a disk protocol developed for use with the TI-99/4A. This protocol will be implemented for use with the XMODEM file transfer protocol in the program 4A/TALK. Additional information on 4A/TALK will soon be available from Triton, Micropendium and other sources. The XMODEM protocol will not be discussed here.

The first 128 byte record of an XMODEM file transfer will consist of the following information. Subsequent records will each contain the data from one half of a disk sector. Bits within a byte are numbered from 0 to 7 from left to right. Bit 0 is the most significant bit and bit 7 is the least significant bit.

>>> Record 0 of the file transfer. BYTE 1 >07 Length byte for the following string.

BYTES 1 to 7 Text String 'TIFILES' identifies the following as a TI-99/4A program or data file.

BYTES 7 AND 8 Word containing the total number of disk sectors occupied by the file.

BYTE 10 Flag Status Byte. Interpreted bit by bit.

BIT 0 Record type 0=Fixed Length, 1=Variable length.

BITS 1 to 3 Not used.

BIT 4 Disk Manager File Protection 0=Not Protected, 1=Protected

BIT 5 Not used.

BIT 6 Basic File Type. 0=Display, 1=Internal.

BIT 7 0=Data File, 1=Program File.

BYTE 11 Contain the number of records per sector for fixed length record files only.

BYTE 12 End of File Offset.

BYTE 13 For Fixed length files - Logical Record Length
For Variable length files - Maximum Record Length

BYTES 14 and 15 Word containing the total number of records in a data file bytes reversed.

BYTES 16 TO 25 Suggested file Name - Right Justified, Space filled.

BYTES 26 and 27 Carriage Return, Line Feed. (>0D,>0A)

BYTES 28 TO 125 Optional Text, File description.

BYTES 126 AND 127 Carriage Return, Line feed (>0D,>0A).

A further description of bytes 8 through 14 above can be found in the TI Terminal Emulator II Protocol Manual. This information is a new standard disk protocol for use with the TI-99/4A, when transferring data under protocols other than that supplied by the Terminal Emulator II.



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JUNE 1985

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This printer has both PARALLEL & SERIAL Interfaces

TIPS FROM THE TIGERCUB

#21

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The entire contents of Tips from the Tigercub Nos. 1 through 14, with more added, are now available as a 5 1/4" disk of 50 programs, routines and files for just \$15.00 postpaid!

Nuts & Bolts is a diskfull of 100 (that's right, 100!) XBasic utility subprograms in MERGE format, ready for you to merge into your own programs. Contents include 13 type fonts, 14 text display routines, 12 sorts and shuffles, 9 data saving and reading routines, 9 wipes, 8 pauses, 6 music, 2 protection, etc., and now also a tutorial on using subprograms. All for just \$19.95 postpaid!

And I have about 140 other absolutely original programs in Basic and XBasic at only \$3.00 each! (plus \$1.50 per order for cassette, backing and postage, or \$3.00 for diskette. PPH) Some users groups charge their members that much for public domain programs! I will send you my descriptive catalog for a dollar, which you can then deduct from your first order.

I thought that my 28-Column Converter, as published in Tip #18, was

finally foolproof, but someone found a way to print a program incorrectly with it!

I'm sure you know that characters 127-143, and on up to 159 in Basic, can be redefined and used in graphics. You probably also know that these redefined characters can be put into PRINT or DISPLAY AT statements, by holding down the CTRL key as you type them. If you load a program containing such redefined characters and LIST it, they will appear as blanks. If you RUN the program, so that they are redefined by the CALL CHAR statements, and then LIST it again, they will show up in their redefined form - but if you print out the program on your printer, they will still appear as blanks. So, before you publish a program, it's a good idea to RUN it and LIST it, and look for any of those gremlins.

If you do want to publish such a program, this fix will take care of it by underlining all characters that must be typed with CTRL down (except that lower case v is typed with FCTN down). It's slow, so only use it when you need to.

```
190 IF @="E" THEN 195 : PR
INT @2: ".TL 126:94:" : PKIN
T @2: ".TL 123:64:" : PRINT
@2: ".TL 125:38:" : PRINT @2
: ".TL 124:42:" : PRINT @2:
.TL 92:46:" : PKINT @2: .NF
"
```

```
195 PRINT "Does the program
contain redefined characte
rs above?" : ASCII 126? (Y/N)
196 ACCEPT AT(24,1) : VALIDATE(
"Y") : @2
202 IF @2="N" THEN 290
203 FOR J=1 TO LEN(L@)
204 A=ASC(SE6(L@,J,1)) : IF
A<127 THEN L2@=L2@CHR$(A)
: 6010 208
205 IF A=127 THEN A=118 ELSE
IF A=128 THEN A=44 ELSE IF
```

```
A=155 THEN A=46 ELSE IF A=15
6 THEN A=59 ELSE IF A=157 TH
EN A=61 ELSE IF A=158 THEN A
=56 ELSE IF A=159 THEN A=57
ELSE A=A-64
206 L2@=L2@CHR$(27)+CHR$(45
)+CHR$(1)+CHR$(A)+CHR$(27)+C
HR$(45)+CHR$(0)
208 NEXT J : L@=L2@ : L2@=
""
```

That should do it, unless the number of added control characters stretches the line beyond 80 characters. Such is the case with the following, which I had to type in manually (it also contains low ASCII characters which the printer misinterprets as controls).

TIGERCUB CHALLENGE

```
100!The Unprintable Unkeyabl
e Program!
110!To shuffle the numbers 1
to 255 into a random sequen
ce without duplication
120!The strings contain the
ASCII characters 1 to 127 an
d 128 to 255
130!Most of the ASCII charac
ters below 32 or above 159 c
annot be input from the keyb
oard
140!So how was this program
programmed?
150 M$=""
: ""@%Z%()!+,-./0
123456789:;<=>?@ABCDEFGHIJKL
MNPQRSTUWXYZ[\]^_`abcdefg
hijklmnopqrstuvwxyz{}"
160 M2$=""
```

```
170 M$=M$M2$
180 L=LEN(M$) : RANDOMIZE :
I=INT(L/RND+1) : N=ASC(SE6(
M$,I,1)) : M$=SE6(M$,I,I-1
)+SE6(M$,I+1,LEN(M$))
190 PRINT M$ : IF LEN(M$)=0
THEN STOP ELSE 130
```

GROCERY SHOPPING LIST

Are you desperate for some way to convince your wife that your computer and PEB and printer and all are not just a too-expensive plaything? Maybe this will do the job.

The first thing to do is to prepare a file of the grocery items she might want to buy. It will be especially useful if you can list the items in the sequence in which she will come to them in the aisles of her favorite store. This little program will set up the file. Type END when you are finished.

```
100 OPEN @1:"DSK1.BUYLIST",O
UTPUT
110 INPUT A$
120 IF A$="END" THEN 150
130 PRINT @1:A$
140 GOTO 110
150 CLOSE @1
```

If you have TI-Writer, you can also use that to create the file, edit it and add to it - but BE SURE to delete all the carriage return symbols and any blank lines at the end. Save it under the filename BUYLIST.

Next, this program will hopefully get your wife to actually sit down at the keyboard and try out your computer. It will go through the list and ask if she wants to buy. If she types in any quantity other than 0, it will output the item name and quantity to the printer. At the end, she will be given the opportunity to add any other items.

```
100 CALL CLEAR
110 OPEN @1:"DSK1.BUYLIST",I
NPUT
120 OPEN @2:"PI0"
130 LINPUT @1:A$
140 IF EOF(1) THEN 210
```


CALL LOADS

Then following is a list of CALL LOAD commands that can be used in extended Basic for various things (all listed). This list is by no means complete, or the only CALL LOADs that can do a specific thing. Anyone having more CALL LOAD commands, let me know, and I'll print them for everyone else.

- CALL LOAD(-32187,0) Unprotects an eXtended Basic program (SAVE "DSKX.XXXX",PROTECTED)
- CALL LOAD(-31204,X) X=0-255 Changes the flash rate of the cursor.X=0 is normal.
- CALL LOAD(31806,16) Disables QUIT key.(FCTN=)
- CALL LOAD(-31962,255) Restarts the computer from eXtended Basic and looks for a program named LOAD.
- CALL LOAD(-32116,4) Changes from eXtended Basic to console Basic.
- CALL LOAD(-32112,8) Searches disk. (Ideal for cleaning)
- CALL LOAD(32218,32) Returns to title screen.
- CALL LOAD(31806,48) Disables QUIT key and sound.
- CALL LOAD(31806,128) Disables all Sprites.
- CALL LOAD(-28672,A) Checks for Speech Synthesizer. A=96 if present,0 if not.

```
*****
*
* WANT ADS *
*
*****
```

```
*****
*
* WANT ADS *
*
*****
```

FOR SALE : Epson MX80H/L.
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I have a lot of hardware and software for sale by various people. If you are looking to buy something, give me a call in the evenings at 303-458-7315. I will act as a middle man for those of you that do not wish your phone or address given out. David Owen

<<<< DISPLAY ADS >>>>

RATES: 10 in X 7.5 in - \$15.00	ALL DISPLAY ADS must be camera ready
5.5 in X 7.5 in - \$8.00	and must be received before the 15th
3 in X 7.5 in - \$4.50	of the month and accompanied by a

check made out to the ROCKY MOUNTAIN 99ers P.O. Box 12605 Denver, CO 80212. Since the Club is a non-profit organization all money collected for advertizing goes toward the publishing costs of this newsletter.

<<<< WANT AD RATES >>>>

MEMBERS - FREE (25 word max) We must have your ad by the 15th of the month to assure insertion in the next issue. Call 458-7315 or mail to BOX 12605 Denver, CO 80212. NON-MEMBERS must use DISPLAY ADS!

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31 JANUARY/85

Dear Users Group,

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ALL TI 99/4A OWNERS!

A NEW COMPUTER - based on the successor to the 99/4A: the "99/8", has been developed by one of the foremost TI support companies. Fully hardware and software compatible, this machine promises to revive the huge TI 99/4A world. This new computer goes beyond the unreleased 99/8 in several important ways.

The formal release is scheduled for the June 85 Consumer Electronics Show. Beta testing is slated to begin as soon as the printed circuit boards roll off the production line. Full scale production hinges upon the interest and response generated among TI users in North America. Being long term, die hard TI enthusiasts, we intend on supporting this new machine fully. As the company has not officially announced public availability and FINAL system features, we have been asked to not reveal certain information at this time. The new computer will be produced and marketed under a different company name as well. We are working on determining the level of interest. To be first and foremost, everyone is offered the first newsletter and initial users support for this machine (and the 99/4A) free of charge. Write us with a self-addressed large envelope - #10 or larger - and will send you the first copy free of charge. Pass this along to your friends and associates. We would appreciate postage costs - US stamps cannot be used from Canada.

You can be assured that your system will not become obsolete. We understand that existing TI equipment can be used with this new computer! It was only a matter of time before someone took advantage of the superb technology represented by the 99/4A.

We would also like addresses of TI users groups you may know of. Several groups have come to our attention that were not listed in our files. We are also seeking assembly language programmers who wish to provide programs for this true 16 bit - 10 megahertz computer. Code is fully compatible with the 9900 chip.

As per our last letter, we are interested in users group newsletters to provide a forum for information resources among all TI owners here and abroad.

Looking forward,

Bruce Ryan

Bruce Ryan

Rocky Mountain 99'ers

TIC TALK

This publication is printed monthly for the benefit of the membership of the Rocky Mountain 99'ers Computer Club. The Club and the paper are not for the benefit nor backed by any commercial enterprise. Both are non-profit in nature and are for the sole purpose of computer education. Any fees collected are used to defray any cost to maintain the organization. Neither the paper nor the Club have any affiliation with Texas Instruments. Any statements published in this paper are not necessarily the opinion of the membership.

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