99/4A National Assistance Group

"World's Largest Computer Assistance Group"

Newsletter

Special Products Review Issue

New 800 # For ordering only—24 hours

SEE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE FOR DETAILS

1-800-628-2828 Ext. – 994

President's Message

IN THIS ISSUE

Dear Members:

Please use the new 800 number **1-800-628-2828 Ext. 994.** This number is for 24 hour ordering only. For all 50 states and all provinces of Canada. Please use our technical number during the new technical hours (1-305-583-0467), for questions about products, customer service, etc. Monday thru Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Friday and Sat. nights from 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Eastern standard time.

New members and renewals are being recorded at the National Headquarters at a record pace. Thanks to the members we are now celebrating our third year.

This month we premiere our **1986 New Product Issue** with reviews of some of the new developments for your 99/4A.

Many new programs and hardware will be avilable for your computer this year along with many new services from your National Assistance group. Your bi-monthly newsletter will keep you up to date.

We have been very successful in getting manufacturers to continue to produce new products for the 99/4A. **The Future looks great.**

This month's program contest winner is Harold J. Kohlmann from Forest Hills, New York. Read about his banner program in this issue. All of us at the National Headquarters appreciate the continued support of its 30,000 plus members around the world.

NOTE
Operators cannot take messages or give technical help on 800 line please use 1-305-583-0467 for technical assistance or customer service etc.

T. I. — 123
AND
TAX AUDITOR

We are going to offer a series of programs that will help you figure your 1985 federal income tax return. These programs will cover the form 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ and accompanying schedules. The program will run in Basic, it will be available on disk or cassette, and it will have the option of printing the completed form. It will recalculate the whole form on request when you want to try different entries. This package will sell for the incredibly low price of $9.95. Please specify if it is to be on disk or cassette.

TI 1-2-3 VERSION 2.01,—an integrated software package which contains a spreadsheet a word processor and a typewriter program. It is available on disk or cassette for system with memory expansion, please specify your system's configuration when ordering.

The program requires the Extended Basic module. Just look at some of its features: the spreadsheet's appearance and many of its functions resemble Microsoft's Multiplan. The spreadsheet can handle values up to 100 million with up to 5 decimals, automatic or on request calculation and update is also available, the columns and the rows can also be assigned names, independent formulas can be defined for each cell of the spreadsheet, a copy cell function is available, a calculator window can be accessed at any time and a disk manager is also available at any time so that you can catalog a disk or delete files while the spreadsheet is running in parallel. The program can save and load data with any storage device (disk or cassette), and can print the logical model and either the whole spreadsheet or just part of it to practically any printer that is compatible with TI 99/4A or TI 99/4.

Besides the spreadsheet program TI 1-2-3 also includes a full feature word processor with capabilities such as: full screen text editor (the cursor can be controlled by the arrow keys), delete and insert characters or lines, search and replace string with in-text arrow pointers, right margin justification. automatic line centering, adjustable tabs capability, double or single space printing, capability of linking of up to twenty text files, multiple copy printing, capability of saving and loading text files to both cassette or disk, wide range of printing modes such as condensed, expanded, ephasized, italic, etc. There is also available a wide range of formatting commands such as Begin page, End of page, etc. The program is capable of controlling practically any printer that is TI 99/4A or TI 99/4 compatible. Just like the spreadsheet, the word processor also includes a disk manager routine that lets you catalog disks or delete files. The program scrolls text up or down on the screen.

Besides the word processor and the spreadsheet TI 1-2-3 also includes a typewriter program which will turn your computer into a typewriter. This program proves to be useful when you write short letters or reports but don't need the extensive formatting features of the word processor. The text is printed on paper

as soon as a line is keyed in. Single, double, triple, up to nine line spacing is available, in-line correction can be done, margin bell and tab key is also provided, etc. The TI 1-2-3 package is provided with full documentation enclosed in a hard cover binder on disk or cassette for 32K systems (specify). It sells for $34.95.

CARTRIDGE GRABBER

THE PERIPHERAL THAT TI SHOULD HAVE BUILT YEARS AGO

- Opens up an Entire New area of Memory for additional programming and Custom Modifications.

- Saves the contents of any module to Disk, Cassette, Ram Disk or Hard Disk. Loads the saved module. (Allows you to back up and/or modify your modules.)

- Stores approximately 15 modules on 1 double sided double density diskette or 7 modules on single sided disk.

- Allows Programming in the TI proprietary Graphics Programming Language (GPL).

- Contains 56K of Battery Backed Up Cartridge Ram and Gram user expandable to 80K of Battery Backed Up Memory.

- Contains its own module port for easier Saving of modules.

- Contains 8K of preprogramming for On-Line Saving, Loading and Editing of modules and Optional Console Grams.

- Comes with a diskette that contains many easy to run utilities to help you customize your modules and menu selections.

- Allow a menu with more than one module on it.

- Allows you to set your own default colors for your modules and associated software.

- Easy to install - just plug it into your module port and you are ready to go!

- Simple to operate, with FULL examples in the operators manual.

Special Member Price Only $174.95

In Review
DISK REPAIR SUPPLEMENT
BY: Glen Craig

I have been working for the better part of a year with a program called DISK REPAIR by Steven Vukelich. And I might add, with great satisfaction. It is a simplified, yet powerful "disk fixer" type program. Some people feel this type of program is difficult to understand—because they do not understand the TI DOS system.

Steven has come to their aid with his latest release, DISK REPAIR SUPPLEMENT. Both these programs require either Extended BASIC, Editor/Assembler, or Mini Memory. Plus you need 32K RAM Memory and at least one disk drive, with a printer being optional. SUPPLEMENT basically allows you to do things to make working with DISK REPAIR easier; or it may be used by itself.

It offers some standard features: disk catalog, change disk name, initialize disks, delete files (one or all) and change file protection. Sounds like a Disk Manager, but you can also see the disk sector map which tells you what sectors are occupied! The file link map shows where programs are actually stored on the disk; even if they are fractured.

SUPPLEMENT allows you to change proprietary disk protection. You may reserve or release a block of sectors. This is especially useful if you have accidentally deleted a file and don't want those sectors to be written over while you reconstruct the program with DISK REPAIR. You may even copy up to 25 sector blocks from one disk to another, or from one place on a disk to another.

These programs may not interest everyone, for example those who are still using cassettes! But they can make life for the novice through the TI Pro, a lot easier. Steve wrote these Assembly programs to take advantage of exceptional speed and their ease of use offers an unparalleled view of how the TI disk operating system works.

DISK REPAIR and DISK REPAIR SUPPLEMENT programs are distributed nationally by the 99/4A National Assistance Group of Ft. Lauderdale. Each retails for $19.95 on disk. I understand that Steven Vukelich will soon be releasing Extended Basic Editor which offers extremely useful editing features...stay tuned.

SPECIAL DISK REPAIR
AND DISK REPAR SUPPLEMENTS
BOTH ONLY $36.95

For Technical Assistance customer service, questions about productts etc.
Call 1-305-583-0467
Monday -Thursday 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Monday Evenings - 6 P.M. - 9 P.M.
Friday & Saturday Evenings - 11 P.M. - 1 A.M.
All Times are Eastern Standard Time

WHAT IS BITMAC?

BITMAC is the largest and most comprehensive graphics program ever produced for the TI-99/4a computer. BITMAC graphics are totally unlike the usual graphics you see on the TI-99/4a. With BITMAC you can place "dots" on the screen in any position and in one of 16 colors. You can print text ANYWHERE, even on top of existing text! You can print text sideways, upside down, in mirror image, in 16 colors and a multitude of other ways. But BITMAC text is only a small part of this very large program. Other features of BITMAC will allow you to do things like SIGN your name, make perfect circles ANYWHERE, draw lines from any point of the screen to any other point, make perfect rectangles in EXACTLY the position you want them and much more!

There is a very wealthy set of options to get your graphics out of the computer and into the "real world". If you have all the disk drives your computer can support, BITMAC can use them. If you have four printers connected, BITMAC can use them, if you have a monochrome monitor BITMAC will tailor itself to show crisp clean monochrome graphics.

BITMAC has provisions for trackballs, joysticks and even a second computer input! If you have a second computer such as an IBM PC, an Apple Macintosh even an IBM 370 main frame there are provisions for your second computer to create graphics with BITMAC!

But what's it for?

Only you can answer that. BITMAC can make "slide presentations" for group meetings (and print the graphics for their newsletter!), give hours of "just doodling" pleasure, create charts for a stock holder report, print camera ready art for business ads, make sill cartoon sequences (and print them in one of two sizes), create mechanical drawings, draft floorplans and many other uses!

With a second computer, BITMAC can plot satellite data, statistical data, computer generated art plots, analog sampled data and just about anything your second computer can throw at BITMAC.

> BITMAC offers BOOLEAN disk input (just like NASA enhances photos!) and a wealth of computer enhancement techniques that lend raw power to your ability to manipulate bitmapped graphics.

It sounds difficult to use doesn't it?

BITMAC offers icon input that allows you to point at the functions you want. Nothing was spared in making BITMAC easy and simple to use. Even a child will find BITMAC entertaining and above all EASY TO USE. The "computer wise" will find BITMAC a very productive tool and a refreshing change from the cryptic relationships they may have had with simple screen editors. For the real computer pro, the coprocessor link will allow you to implement all the programming knowledge you can muster and put that power to a bitmapped screen.

BITMAC is written entirely in TMS9900 machine language and runs at "warp speed" at all times. It's a product of several years of very intensive development. We challenge you to find a superior graphics program for the TI-99/4a! Go ahead and look around. Try the others first if you like. THEN LOOK AT BITMAC. We think you'll agree, BITMAC is an almost effortless program that allows you to work with bitmapped technology in a way no other program can, at an affordable price and with provisions for your future hardware that no other TI-99/4a program can offer. We are promising nothing short of astounding and BITMAC DELIVERS!

BITMAC requires either the MINI MEMORY MODULE, EDITOR ASSEMBLER MODULE or the EXTENDED BASIC MODULE, a DISK DRIVE SYSTEM, MEMORY EXPANSION and JOYSTICKS.

> BITMAC (extra) poster programs is also available for only $9.95. Original BITMAC program is required.

A Handy Dandy TI-Writer Users Reference Guide
By Bob Stephens

EDITOR COMMAND	FCTN	CTRL	EDITOR COMMAND	FCTN	CTRN	EDITOR COMMAND	FCTN	CTRN
Back Tab		T	Ins. Blank Line	8	0	Quit	=	
Beginning		V	Insert Character	2	G	Reformat		2orR
Command/escape	9	C	Last Paragraph		6orH	Right arrow	D	D
Delete Character	1	F	Left arrow	S	S	Roll down	4	A
Del. end of line		K	Left margin rel.		Y	Roll up	6	B
Delete line	3	N	New page		9orP	Screen color		3
Line #'s (on/off)	0		New Paragraph		8orM	Tab	7	I
Down arrow	X	A	New Paragraph		8orJ	Up arrow	E	E
Duplicate line		5	Next window	3		Word tab		7orW
Home cursor		L	Opps!		1orZ	Word wrap/fixed		0

Load files: LF (enter) DSK1.FILENAME (load entire file)
LF (enter) 3 DSK1. FILENAME (merges filename with date in memory after line 3)
LF (enter 3 1 10 DSK1.FILENAME (lines 1 thru 10 of filename are merged after line 3 in memory)
LF (enter) 1 10 DSK1. FILENAME (loads lines 1 thru 10 of filename)

Save files: SF (enter) DSK1.FILENAME (save entire file)
SF (enter) 1 10 DIK1.FILENAME (save lines 1 thru 10)

Print files: PF (enter PIO (prints control characters and data listing)
PF (enter) C PIO (prints with no control characters)
PF (enter) L PIO (prints 74 characters with line numbers)
PF (enter) F PIO (prints fixed 80 format)
PF (enter) 1 10 PIO (prints lines 1 thru 10)
NOTE: The above assumes PIO, DISK.FILENAME, and RS232 are also valid!
To cancel the print command press FCTN 4.

Delete file: DF (enter) DSK1.FILENAME

Setting Margins and Tabs: (16 tabs maximum)
L — Left Margin   R — Right Margin   I — Indent   T — Tab
Use ENTER to execute or COMMAND ESCAPE to terminate command.

Recover Edit: RE (enter) Y or N

Line move: M (enter) 2 6 10 (moves lines 2 thru 6 after line 10)
M (enter) 2 2 10 (moves line 2 afterr 10)

Copy: same as move except use C instead of M.

Find String: FS (enter) /string/ (will look for string in entre file)
FS (enter) 1 15 /string/ (will look for string in lines 2 thru 15)

Delete: D (enter) 10 15 (deletes lines 10 thru 15 in memory)

MINIWRITER I, II, & III

MINIWRITER is a Word Processor available in three (3) different options. Version III in a cartridge is a powerful word processor for use with the TI-99/4A.

You are able to imbed printer control commands direct from the keyboard to make the printer do whatever you desire. MINIWRITER uses the same formatting as TI-Writer and displays the codes on the screen. Version III is available in a cartridge and requires only a console and optional printer and cable.

This version includes add/delete characters or lines. Move/copy lines, search, load/save from disk or cassette, print to RS232 or PIO, plus horizontal tabs, word wrap, automatic use of console (145 lines) or extended memory (290 lines), chain, printing of files, eight (8) different screen and text colors controlled by Function K (FCTN K), and a disk directory. Version III has a 20 pin edge connection for direct hook-up of a printer with an optional cable. This is an excellent choice for anyone desiring a printer without investing in an expansion system.

Version II includes all the features of III without the parallel printer interface.

Version I on cassette is a low cost yet powerful word processor for use with Mini-Memory. You are able to imbed printer control commands direct from the keyboard to make the printer do whatever you desire. Add/delete characters or lines, move/copy lines and load and save to cassette or disk are included. Version I will dump to a printer through the peripheral port.

	Membership Price
Mini writer I	19.95
Mini writer II	39.95
Mini writer III	79.95

PROGRAM CONTEST WINNERS
BANNER PROGRAM
BY: Harold J. Kohlmann

This program that will print-out a banner-like sign similiar to the one now available for the IBM, P.C. The program prints a banner 28 letters long but can be run more than once to get a sign more than this length.
Now only $14.95

WE GET LETTERS!

Dear Dr. Kurtz:
I just received the Christmas issue of the Newsletter announcing the group's offering of my Beef Cow-Calf Record Keeping System. I would like to offer a clarification of the description as listed on page three of the green insert.

The program is described as follows:

Program Name: Beef/Cow/Calf Record System-Contest Winner. Perfect for any farm who needs to keep accurate records of his herd. This program covers all the bases. It's the answer to the dairy farmer's questions.

It should read:

Program Name: Beef Cow/Calf Record System-Contest Winner. Perfect for any farmer who needs to keep accurate records of his herd. This program covers all the bases. It's the answer to the beef farmer's questions.

The key is the changing of the word dairy to beef in the last sentence. This record system is for use by beef cattle ranchers only. It is totally inappropriate for dairy records. Beef records are kept to measure body growth and dairy records are kept for milk production.

Also, as a matter of clarity, note the absence of a virgule between the words Beef and Cow in the title.

I hope you don't think I'm complaining. I'm excited about the group offering my program series.

By the way, thanks for the opportunity to enter the contest and to make agricultural software for the TI-99/4A available.
Sincerely
Gordon Billingsley
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Dear Dr. Kurtz:
In reference to my telephone call a few days ago asking if the panasonic cable would work on the Silver Reed model EXP-400. It does work but there are a couple of bugs that came up that may be of interest to someone else.

It printed very well in only one direction and it also ignored the 65K buffer. When I pushed the clear button on the cartridge expander, the program dumped and the printer stopped.

I called the T.I. and Silver Reed service departments, they could not help. I then called Cor Comp and a Mr. Mike Norton furnished the answer and here is what he advised:

For the 65K buffer disconnect or snip the lead wires of the CR5 DIODE on the triple tech card.

For printing in both directions—hold in the ON LINE BUTTON of the printer while turning on the power to the printer then release it.

I did as he instructed and it seems to have corrected the problems.

He advised that if garbage came up on the screen when it is turned on that by pushing the clear button the screen will clear. It did.
Respectfully,
Chuck Gilbert
Lakewood, OH 44107

IN REVIEW
Extended Basic Editor
BY: Glen Craig

I have written two previous reviews on software written by Steve Vukelich. DISK REPAIR is a useful tool for someone with a bit of programming experience. DISK REPAIR SUPPLEMENT provides a great deal of assistance to most people who use disks. Now Steve has prepared a program for virtually anyone who uses Extended BASIC!

Extended Basic Editor (EBE) allows you to do things to your programs that TI never told you about. Have you ever wanted to DELETE all the lines before and after a particular routine, just to save that section? Until now you would either type the routine again or delete one line at a time. What if you want to COPY, or simply MOVE a block of line numbers to another part of the program?

EBE tells you exactly how many bytes your program occupies. You may even search the program to locate specific variables or even reserved words, and with a printer, receive a printout of the line number of each occurance. All you need to use EBE is Extended BASIC, 32K RAM and a drive.

Extended Basic Editor can do all the above, and it resides in memory so you only have to load it once. Even if you go back to the Title Screen then return to Extended BASIC, it will still be there (as long as you don't type CALL INIT). You may load and save as many programs as you like. When you need EBE, simply type: CALL LINK ("EDIT") and it's ready.

Most of us start typing a program, then decide this section would work better down here and I can erase this part. If you are working on another person's program, it's easy to save selected routines or check to see if they used a certain variable. If you're into experimenting, or make frequent program changes, you'll find EBE invaluable!

Extended Basic Editor, and all Steven Vukelich's software, are produced by MEGATRON Compsoft in Miami, distributed nationally through the 99/4A National Assistance Group of Ft. Lauderdale. EBE retails for $14.95 on disk. Steve is always looking for programming suggestions which may be addressed to me c/o this publication.

CORRECTIONS
By: Carlo Angelico
Jeannie Gomia

Gentlemen:
I have a correction concerning an article in your newsletter for Christmas, 1985. It is about the program in the article "Little Bits...16 Bit Power." The program, as it is, will not execute in BASIC. It must be changed, so that it reads:

```
10 FOR C=1 TO 100
20 IF SQR(C)=INT (SQR(C)) THEN
   30 ELSE 40
30 PRINT C
40 NEXT C
```