


# CPUG NEWSLETTER



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## OCTOBER RAP SESSION

There were only 6 of us at the meeting. Where is everybody? Makes you wonder.

Since 1994 is fast approaching, dates have to be settled upon for the meeting room. After discussing different nights, the 6 came up with the 3rd Monday if the Mall can accommodate us, because too often the 1st Monday coincides with a holiday. If this will not be available, we'll have to go back to 1st Monday and juggle the holiday dates again. We will also place the meeting time to 6:30pm from 6pm as no one has been arriving that early anymore (when they come!)

John Maul will show his Lima Conference videos next month and we will allow time to show them.

Bill Robinson asked that we keep the Hamfest in mind for February in Camp Hill.

Come on out, you all! We miss you.

JOHN PHILLIPS  
By Bill Gaskill

I would venture a guess that most people who have owned a TI-99 for more than a couple of years have run across the name John Phillips before. He is a near legend in the TI-99/4A cartridge and assembly language programming community and claims authorship, co-authorship or significant involvement in over a dozen cartridge programs produced for the 99/4A, not to mention numerous articles written about the inner working of the 4A's architecture.

Phillips will be 32 years old this year (1993) but he was only 21 when he was hired by Texas Instruments in 1982 right after graduating from Illinois State University. He started his career with TI in Dallas doing COBAL programming for business applications but it took him only 6 months to get a requested transfer to Lubbock where the "real" action was. John had purchased a 99/4 during his senior year in college and was already familiar with the Home Computer's architecture and he had wanted to program video games since purchasing his first cartridge, which was Munchman. Phillips didn't know TMS9900 assembly language but it didn't take him long to learn it.

His first project at Lubbock was Moonmine, followed by Hopper, which he co-authored with Michael Archuleta. Hopper was followed by Word Radar, which he wrote in 2 weeks, for Developmental Learning Materials (DLM), the firm started by Bill Maxwell and Jerry Chaffin.

After completing Word Radar TI sent Phillips to Japan where he met with several companies who were being recruited to write software for the 99/4A. Following his return from Japan he became involved in almost every piece of software that was slated for production or that was actually produced for the 99/4A. When TI announced the end of the Home Computer Division Phillips was offered several incentives to stay at TI but turned them all down because none involved work with the 99/4A. Instead, he and fellow employee Michael Archuleta went to work on products for DLM, which had continued to work on products for the TI-99/4A even though it was no longer being produced.

In December 1983 John Phillips announced to the TI community that he was available to any User Group for seminars, demonstrations and question and answer sessions related to the TI-99/4A. He would travel to virtually any location if the User Group would pay round trip airfare from Dallas, Texas plus lodging. While he could only make himself available on weekends, it was a pretty generous offer.

Both Phillips and Archuleta eventually left DLM (probably because the work there dried up too) and started their own firm in February 1984 called Video Magic. Video Magic also came to an end in too short a time. I suspect because it was becoming painfully obvious that one could not make a living trying to write software for the 99/4A.

At Texas Instruments Michael Archuleta was responsible for the 99/4A Technical Hotline and for 99/4A software quality assurance. Phillips was a third-party software development consultant and programmer in the education/entertainment section of the Consumer Products Division. Both men would get together again in 1986 to collaborate on the 4A FLYER game cartridge that was commissioned by Triton Products. To date, that is the last time we've heard from the John Phillips/Michael Archuleta team.

Archuleta and Phillips were involved in, or responsible for, such TI-99 favorites as:

ANGLER, DANGLER, BEYOND PARSEC, BEYOND SPACE, BURGETIME, D STATION, D STATION II, FACEMAKER, JAWBREAKER II, MINI MEMORY'S LINE-BY-LINE ASSEMBLER, MOONMINE, PETER PAN'S SPACE ODYSSEY, SLYMOIDS, STAR TRAP, SUPER DEMON ATTACK, THE GREAT WORD RACE, TREASURE ISLAND, WORD RADAR

Taken, in part, from KC 99er Connection, May/June 093

WE'LL LOOK FOR  
YOU  
AT THESE MEETINGS

Circle your Calendar with these meeting dates

|          |                        |
|----------|------------------------|
| JANUARY  | JULY                   |
| FEBRUARY | AUGUST                 |
| MARCH    | SEPTEMBER              |
| APRIL    | OCTOBER                |
| MAY      | NOVEMBER               |
| JUNE     | DECEMBER 6 -Christmas- |

All meetings begin at 7PM but the Group equipment will be up and ready for use at approximately 6PM.  
All meetings are held at the CAMP HILL SHOPPING MALL COMMUNITY ROOM.

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NEXT MEETING: DEC 6th 1993 at 7pm.

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