

CALL SOUNDS

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The Newsletter of The CENTRAL WESTCHESTER 99'ERS

JULY 1986

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MerT Meetings Thursday July 17th, at the American Legion Hall, 56 Broad St, Hawthorne NY. 8pm sharp. Program will be a discussion and demonstration of how the disk system works, how a disk is mapped, how the contents are accessed, etc. given by Al Turdeau. Time permitting, Art Byers, will then demo several programs that enable you to read and write directry from and to a disk.

Elections were held for the 1986/87 season. Our new officers are: Carney Minns, President. Al Trudeau, VP/programs. Charles Willoughby Secretary. Art Byers Treasurer.

Brief Treasurer's report: After paying all bills up to date, including July Rent and postage for this newsletter, we have a balance of \$172.02. We have as an additional asset, \$85 on deposit with Databiotics for the Pilot Language and their Super RAM disk, not yet received. A much more detailed Treasurer's report will be given out at the July meeting.

NES NES NES - Those of you who find an envelope with your newsletter are badly in arrears. Please use the envelope to send the dues, as marked, to the treasurer - Check payable to Art Byers. In General, third quarter dues will be accepted at the July meeting. Plase come prepared.

Pisk buy: We will be posting a signup sheet for another joint purchase of Disks - minimum is 25.

The CLUB AUCTION meeting was a big success. The club not only recouped the funds advanced for the purchase of Beta Test Items from Databiotics, but also we made a profit. Sold were two copies each of 4/A TALK, DISKMASTER, and SUPERSPACE, one each of MINIWRITER II and MINIWRITER III.

CLUB OFFICERS 1986/87

Carney M. Minus - President Al Trudeau - VP/Programs Charles Willoughby -Secretary Art Byers -Treasurer

CONNITTEES

Ed Bornemann - Hospitality
Robert Amenta - Lending Library
Robert J. Succeey - Disk Librarian
Art Byers - Newsletter
Pat Leigh - Equipment
Al Trudeam -XB Special Interest Group
Carney Hinns - Telecommunication SIG

CALL SOUNDS goes to a Computer Flea Market

We had heard so much about the giant flea markets, just for computers, that are run twice each year at the Meadowlands Hilton Hotel in New Jersey, that we HAD to go, at least once! SOCoo on June 14th we made the trip, paid for the tolls and gas and lunch at a fast food jernt, plus a \$7.00 entrace fee (ouch !!) and did the tour. We only put \$100 in our pockets so we could resist temptation.

The place was JAMMED, The parking lots FULL, it took me 20 minutes just to find a space. I had to sit in a lot and wait for someone to leave.

What was there?? Everything! Circuit boards; loose parts from comp carriers and resistors to IC's; IBM Clones at low prices; Stationery such as continuous form envelopes and labels and file cards; Disks, disks, disks, at all prices from a low of 45 cents to a high of \$1.50.; Disk drives 3 1/2" 3 1/4" etc. — there was one small standalone box with three one-third height DSDD 5 1/4 drives for \$300.; lots of Apple stuff; Software and more software at discount prices. There were used computers and terminals, disk file boxes, etc. etc.

What did I buy? Well when I replaced my standalone drive #2 with a double side drive, I had put the single sided drive away. S00oo I bought an empty box with power supply for \$35.00 and now my wife's computer has a second disk drive.

All in all I had a fun few hours and got what I considered a bargain and came home with \$65.00 still in my pocket. Next one is in September — you folks might consider making the trip.

IBASIC SIG

THE NEXT MEETING of the XB SIG will be held Thursday Evening, July 10th, at the home of Al Trudeau, 7 Taylor Rd. Elmsford. Subsequent meetings will be rotated among the homes of the SIG members.

AT THE JUNE 10th meeting, We had a fascinating demo of a profressional business program written in XB by Al Trudeau. It is used for accounts payable and receiveable and billing. It can write checks, issue invoices, etc. Some of Al's tricks, tips, and algorithms are remarkable. The SIG decided to write a special piece of XB fairware to be used as a fundraiser for the club. For obvious reasons, until it is ready for sale, no mention of the type and purpose of the program will be put into print, but it will be discussed at meetings.

Present at the June SIG meeting were Robert Amenta, Art Byers, Carney Mians, and Al Trudeau. All members interested can still join.

XB USER WRITTEN CALL ROUTINES Part 1 By Art Byers

One of the big complaints about the BASIC language, in general, is its lack of structure. GOSUBs and GOTO's jump every which way. A collary complaint is that it is very difficult to follow the flow of a BASIC program unless there is a remark with each GOSUB or GOTO.

To illustrate how much easier it is to understand and follow a structured XB program using your own CALL subprograms, let us assume we have written some routines to convert the FOUR most common number bases used in programming, one to the other. (Binary, Decimal, Hexadecimal, and Octal)

Here is part of the same program using these routines as written two different ways.

100 GOSUB 1000 110 GOSUB 1300 120 DN C GOSUB 3000,3250,3500,3750,4000,4250,4500,4750, 5000,5250,140 130 GOTO 100 140 END

100 CALL MENU
110 CALL CHOICE(C)
120 IF C=1 THEN CALL DECTOBIN
130 IF C=2 THEN CALL DECTOHEX
140 IF C=3 THEN CALL DECTOCT
150 IF C=4 THEN CALL HEXTODEN
160 IF C=5 THEN CALL HEXTODEC
170 IF C=6 THEN CALL HEXTODEC
180 IF C=8 THEN CALL OCTTOBIN
190 IF C=9 THEN CALL OCTTODEC
200 IF C=10 THEN CALL OCTTODEC
200 IF C=10 THEN CALL OCTTOHEX
200 IF C=11 THEN END
210 GOTO 100

Obviously, I've stacked the deck a bit to make my point, but you can see how much more the listing means when you have written your own CALL subroutines.

TI EXTENDED BASIC, as shown, can be structured very well and made easy to understand with the use of user written CALL routines. A Few simple comparison examples follow. Before going on, please review pages 180 through 184 of the XB manual.

First, let's take a look at two simple common routines used in many different programs: #1 A short delay routine. #2 A program to hold the screen while we read or make a decision. We will name #1 SUB DELAY and #2 SUB ANYKEY

1500 SUB DELAY(D1) 1510 FOR DELAY=1 TO D1 :: NEXT DELAY 1520 SUBEND

2000 SUB ANYKEY

2010 DISPLAY AT(24,1) BEEP:"((PRESS ANY KEY))
2020 CALL KEY(0,KEY,SIAIUS) :: DISPLAY AT(24,19):CHR\$(30)
:: CALL DELAY(75):: DISPLAY AT(24,19):" "
2030 IF STATUS=0 THEN 2020
2040 SUBEND

Line 1500 tells the computer where it can find the OELAY when it is CALLed. The delay sub expects a parameter value to be passed by its call. This could be a concrete value as in line 2020, a count of 75, or it can be a variable. The delay sub can be used any place in the program where a delay is desired, and by changing the value passed, be long or short as needed. Line 1520 is the equivilant of RETURN in a 60SUB subprogram.

Similarly, line 2000 locates the SUB for its CALL. We could have used ACCEPT AT instead of the keyboard scan, but unless "ENTER" is the key chosen, that would mean two keys have to be pressed - first any key and then "ENTER". The display of CHR\$(30) and " " simple simulate a flashing cursor to let you know the program is maiting for your action. The delay between them is to slow things down enough for your eye to be able to see the flashon flashoff.

In the 99/4A world, perhaps the ultimate master of user CALL SUBS is Jim Peterson of Tiger Cub Software. If you are programming in XB or want to learn how to program in XB, Jim's two "Nuts and Bolts" disks are chock full of useful routines that are an education in themselves.

MERGE THAT FILE

From CALL SAY (Grand Rapids 99'ers)

Without reproducing the entire article, here is a discovery by Jack and BJ mathis of the southwest Ninety-niners of Tuscon Az

While working on a program they started to get error messages where there were none only a short time before. They tried a backup XB cart ridge, even a backup 99/4A system. Nothing seemed to work.

"I vaguely rememberd something about the way the CPU stacks the programs, by putting the last line number entered on top of the stack. The MERGE command reshuffles the program lines back into proper order. So, I saved the program in MERGE format, typed NEW, and MERGEd te program back in. Then I RESequenced again. No more error codes. It also shortened the program file. (less linkage)."

I have tried this on a number of programs that I have written or worked on and it does seem to help. If the program lines are in order, the computer does not have to wait while it's finding the next line number - as is the case when lines have been added out of sequence. If you try this technique, please report your findings.

ERROR TRAPPING Port 2 by Art Byers

This article is a more concrete follow up to Ted Mills's overview article of May '86. I suggest you reread it before proceeding with the specific examples that follow:

Here is an example of a routine I use for debugging my Extended Basic Programs. Once they are running properly, the lines are erased.

I ON ERROR 5000

4999 REM routine to locate errors and print on screen

5000 CALL CLEAR :: CALL ERR(E1, E2, E3, E4) :: PRINT "ERROR

CODE";E1: "ERROR TYPE";E2: "ERROR SEVERITY";E3: "LIME

NUMBER";E4 :: PRINT

5010 SIOP

Obviously, the above breaks the program, and hopefully, after making a written note of the information, I will be able to find where I goofed -HOPEFULLY!

Next, is the general format Ted describes for using ON ERROR in a program. First, the general error message that returns you to the main driving menu.

90 ON ERROR 6000 99 REM Main Menu 100 DISPLAY AT(2,9)ERASE ALL: "MAIN MENU" :: Etc.

5999 REN General error handle routine
6000 DISPLAY AT(10,1)ERASE ALL BEEP: "ERROR ERROR"
6010 DISPLAY AT(12,1): "1 = SAVE ALL DATA": " AND CLOSE
ALL FILES": "2 = RETURN TO MAIN MENU": "3 = ABUNI PROGRAM"
6020 DISPLAY AT(24,1): "ENTER CHOICE 1" :: ACCEPT AT(24,14)
VALIDATE("123")SIZE(-1):CHOICE
6030 ON CHOICE GOTO 7000,90,10000

6999 REM routines to save all data and close all files 7000 Put save and close routine here end with a 6070 90

10000 END

Here is how to use ON ERROR to catch simple things like trying to read a file that is not on the disk or forgetting to close the drive door. OUTFILES might be something like DSK1.ADDRESSES. FILETYPE could be DISPLAY VARIABLE BO. In the case of Cassette storage the OUTFILES accepted in a prior INPUT or ACCEPT would be CS1 and the OUTFILE could be something like INPUT, DISPLAY, FIXED 64.

640 ON ERROR 9000 ! to catch I/O and/or hardware errors. 650 OPEN #1:OUTFILES, FILETYPE

8999 REM Disk or file error 9000 CALL ENR(E1,E2,)

9010 CALL CLEAR :: PRINT "ERROR CODE";E1: "ERROR TYPE";E2 9020 PRINT : "Check data storage device, check filename": "Press enter when ready" :: INPUT E\$ 9030 CLOSE #1 :: GOTO 90 !close file and go back to main

This same routine could pick up a misspelled printer name from an INPUT - oh say you made a typo and put in RX232 instead of RS232.

The preceding are examples of ERROR TRAPS, -catching errors and preventing the program from crashing. However, there is an old motto about an ounce of prevention being worth a pound of cure. You can prevent many errors by controlling how the program user can input information.

For example if you want only a "Y" or "N" answer to a prompt your program might read like this:

TI BASIC 250 INPUT "IS THIS CORRECT Answer Y/N":YN\$ 260 IF (YN\$(>"Y")+(YN\$(>"N") THEN 250

TI EXTENDED BASIC would use the plain English OR insttead of the "+" sign. XB could also use an ALCEPI(n,n)VALIDATE ("YyNn") etc as per the forgoing example.

Both TI BASIC and EXTENDED BASIC could use the keyboard scan to prevent a wrong input. For Example:

250 PRINT "Is this Correct, Answer V/N" 260 CALL KEY(O,KEY,STATUS) 270 IF STATUS=0 THEN 260 280 IF (KEY()78)+(KEY()89) THEN 260

Line 260 scans the keyboard. Line 270 says If the STATUS is equal to zero it means no key has been pressed and the program returns to the keyboard scan. Line 280 uses the ASCII value of the key pressed. N is 78 and Y is 89. Therefore if the key pressed is not one of those two, the program returns to the keyboard scan.

An alternative to line 280 could read IF (CHR\$(KEY)()*N*) +(CHR\$(KEY)()*Y*) THEN 260.

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME XB HOMEWORK? C.K. Write a program that reads ten numbers from a data statement, but only put 8 numbers in the data statement. Start the program with an ON ERROR XXX and write a routine that will keep the program from crashing and prints out "You tried to read past the end of the file"

Looking for a New Meeting Hall

Unfortunately the Legion Hall is Hot is Summer and Freezing in Winter. We ask all members to keep their eyes peeled for a good centrally located hall, school, etc where we can meet and not pay too much rent.

TMS 9900 ASSEMBLY TUTORIAL-PART 6 MIXING WITH BASIC by STEVE ROYCE -WNY 99'ERS

If those of us who are 'Assembly Language Snobs' can put our personal biases aside for a few moments, even we can admit that many if not must things can be adequately handled by TI BASIC or Extended BASIC. Only a few things slow us down to the point where we resort to twiddling our thumbs as we wait for our BASIC program to get to the next step. Alphabetic sorting, for example, is best handled in Assembly, but input of the data to be sorted from keyboard or disk is, let's face it, quite a bit easier in a BASIC language. What we need is a method to pass the data back and forth so we can use the best features of both languages.

Fortunately for us, II TMS9900 Assembly Language provides two sets of utilities: STRAS6 and STRREF for passing string variables and NUMASG and NUMREF for passing numerical data. In this article, we present a simple example to show the STRing utilities. Note that the routines presented are probably not of great value in their present form, but should at least reveal the concepts necessary to expand them into more general and useful routines for your use.

Most of the documentation necessary for their use is presented in the REM's and comments, but a little explanation may be valuable. First, the BASALS routine passes strings from BASIC to Assembly Language. The ALBASS routine is the reverse routine. Second, I had a hard time understanding what TH'S E/A manual meant by 'argument number.' To put this simply, in a statement like 'CALL LINK('ALBAS\$', A\$, B\$, C\$), A\$ is the first argument, B\$ is the second, and so on. The third point I would like to explain is that a byte must first be moved into the BUFFER which is to hold the string passed from BASIC to Assembly. This byte defines the maximum length of the string to be moved. If a longer string is attempted, it will be truncated.

Enter the following source code using the Editor/ Assembler, assemble it as 'DSK1.OBJECT' using the 'R' option. Don't use the 'C' option as the Extended BASIC loader can't handle compressed object code.

```
DEF BASALS, ASBASS
STRREF EQU >2014
STRASG EQU >2010
HEX20 BYTE >20
       EVEN
BUFFER BSS >22
# Routine to move string Basic to CPU buffer
BASALS MOVE HEIZO, BUFFER -Allots >20 bytes to string
       LI RO.0
                             -Not an array
       L1 R1.1
                             -Pass the first argument
       LI R2, BUFFER
                             -Where to put it in CPU
       BLNP STRREF
       RT
                             -Back to BASIC
```

```
# Routine to pass from CPU back to BASIC

# ALBASS LI RO,O -Not an array
        LI R1,2 -Pass to second argument
        LI R2 BUFFER -What to pass back
        BLWP STRASG
        RT -Back to BASIC
        END
```

Note that the above routine is pretty specific, in that it can only pass the first argument from BASIC and only pass back to the second argument from the CPU. However, generalization of the routine to make it pass any argument is not difficult.

Now the Extended BASIC calling program:

```
100 CALL INIT
110 CALL LOAD("DSK1.OBJECT")
120 A$="ONE"::B$="TWO"::C$="THREE"
130 D$="FOUR"::E$="FIVE"
140 REM MOVE DISTRIBUTER
150 CALL LINK("BASALS",D$)
160 REM MOVE BUFFER TO B$
170 REM NOTE THAT THE ASBASS ROUTINE AS WRITTEN WILL PASS
180 REM THE BUFFER BACK TO THE SECOND ARGUMENT, SO B$
190 REM MUST BE THE SECOND ARGUMENT OF THE LINK
200 CALL LINK("ALBASS",A$,B$)
210 PRINT A$:B$:C$:D$:E$::END
```

The print line should now show that D\$ (FOUR) has been moved to B\$. Not too impressive an example, but you get the point.

If you want to use the routine from BASIC with the E/A module rather than from Ex-BASIC, simply modify the multiple statement lines and add the following line:

105 CALL LOAD("DSK1.BSCSUP")

and load the BASIC support utilities from E/A disk A. Also, change the EBU's in the assembly language source code to:

REF STRREF, STRASG

Keep up the efforts in Assembly. My next article will involve writing to the screen from Assembly, then returning to BASIC. This should help explain that menacing thing TI calls a 'screen bias of >60'. Till next time.-

One Page Less??

True: I could blame it on the lack of articles written by CW 99'er members, but the truth is that between business, TICOFF planning, and just plain getting lazy due to the Summer sunshine, only 4 sheets this issue! Art

The Clock is Ticking For T.I.C.D.F.F. '87

We have **Good News** for all 99/4A enthusiasts, active planning and work has begun for the next Texas Instrument Computer Owners Fun Fest. On June 22nd, A group representing six different 99'ers clubs met to get off and running.

The next TICOFF will be in March of '87. The exact date only awaits clearance from the Roselle Park High Schoolk. Their Student Council is going to be a co-sponsor, with the proceeds of the event going to the Student Council Scholarship Fund. As soon as we have firm dates and other news, it will apppear in all the area club's newsletters.

Here are the shakers and movers for TICOFF '87:

Art Byers - CW 99°ers, General coordinator and administrator 914 520 5402

Bob Guellnitz - NENJUG, Show Management and operations, Student Council liason. 201 382-5963

Carney Mines - CW 99°ers, Treasurer and Legal advisor. 914 961-5993

Karl Barna - Northern NJ II UG, Fairware and Public Domain software sales. 201 838-7637

Steve Citron - NEWJUG, Speakers and special events chairman. 201 686-5619

Henry Hein - NEWJUGINORTH, Public Relations and Publicity 201 385-9057

Jay S. Leber -TI TEX (LI), User Group Coordinator 516 796-8359

Frank Bubenik Jr. LI 99'ers, UG Coordinator with Jey Leber. 516 938-1095

Bill Wright -NEWJUG, Vendor Contact and sales area. 201 238-0732

We have printed phone numbers because these people will need all the willing enthusiastic help they can get. If there is an area in which you feel you'd like to serve, please phone!!!

A SKUZBALL VS A CLASS ACT

As you have heard at meetings and on the Compuserve II forum, many subscribers of HLM wrote letters requesting their subscription be cancelled and asking for their money back. Not one person has had any sort of reply. We think we stand the proverbial snow ball's chance in H--- of getting money from the rip-of actists at HCM who now call themselves HCJ.

Just by way of information, let us compare the trash with the legislate magazines. We quote from COMPUTE: magazine. "SUBSCRIPT(ON GUARANTEE: If you're ever less than 100% satisfied with Compute!, simply cancel your subscription and receive a full refund on all unmailed issues."

Need we say more??

MYARC Computer on a Card Out for Beta Testing

And that's definite! Several area clubs from Washington to Boston have had demo's at their meetings. We hear that potential software developers have some samples. — BU! — We also hear a lot of things that might give one cause to stop and think.

First, no small amount of bucks is involved. Not only do you start with \$500 "(guestimate) for the nicknamed "Geneve" but also if you want to run any current modules, you must spend for a system that plugs into your present console and dumps them to disk, about \$65.00. (This is obvious out and out copyright violation and piracy. MYARC is assuming TI will sit still for this, and most probably TI will — but can anyone be sure?) It is also not clear if you will have to spring for another \$300 for a 512k card. One thing is sure, you will need to buy a high res monitor if you want 00 col capacity. Your TV won't hack it. Black and white or Green or Amber, at least \$100 more plus cable, color about 350. — With IBM clones, complete with 2 drives, 640k, PIO and RS232 and monitor now selling for less than \$1100, one might start wondering?

Second, MYARC is gaining a reputation of not finishing what they start —as of now, the version (#3) of Extended Basic that would be compatable with TI Extended Basic, has not been written! MYARC's XBII is heavily flawed, bugged, and not fully compatable with TI XB. This has been true for over a year. If MYARC has been unable to correctly finish one product as important as XBII, can they be depended upon? We understand the new operating system is not even complete yet, no less debugged and tested. Where is the key software? Wordprocessors?, etc.? No one seems to be sure!

Third, there have been a great many complaints about MYARC's 512k Mems and RAM Card. CIS is jam packed with them, Newsletters also report problems. Almost 50% of purchasers have had to send them back for factory mods for one reason or another- Wrong EPROMs etc, and battery backup has been a severe headache from the start. HORIZON, however, thoroughly Beta tested their 512k Ramdisk before release and it is getting raves reviews for reliability and performance from clubs coast to coast. If MYARC cannot make a reliable product when others can, you might pause before buying? The MYARC RS232 card was not made 100% compatable with II. Software writers had to make special versions of assembly language programs to allow it to do certain things. One Example, Paul Charlton's FAST-TERM had to be rewritten to allow for the Myarc card's irregularities.

Obviously, MYARC has a large investment in this computer on a card. If it does not go over with potential purchaser's among the 99/4A users, the company probably won't continue in business.

Right now, with cheap reliable IBM clones multiplying like wildfire, with prices still dropping despite the dollars loss in value, We can only wait and see what develops, for by now MYARC must be fully aware of the comment around in the TI world and the competition in the marketplace. This writer, for one takes a very pessimistic view of MYARC's prospects. AJB

TELECON SIG NEWS

On June 8th, the Telecom SIG met at the home of Carney Mimms for organizational matters and the first lessons in phone communications.

The SIG has it's own Compuserve TI Forum Membership under the name: CW 99'ers on Line. CIS was accessed via the White Plains number and the TI FORUM message base downloaded to disk. The SIG reviewed the various methods of sending messages (1) from the keyboard, (2) Preparing in advance with TI Writer and sending from DISK (3) a combination of both.

Next, as a practice for beginners, the GENIE 800 number was accessed.

Last, a local bulletin board in Mount Vernon New York was contacted and we spent our allotted 15 minutes (allotted by the BBS) exploring what it had to offer.

The next meeting will be Thursday July 24th at 8pm. This will be devoted to communications between two computers. All those in the North Area of the county will meet at Art Byers home, those in the South will meet at Carney's house. The two divisions will eastablish computer contact and then experiment sending text and programs - both via buffer capture and XMODEM.

At a future meeting, the SIG will test to program "MASS TRANSFER" which is supposed to be able to send a whole disk full of programs via modem. If the SIG approves of it, they will buy this piece of Fairware.

Anyone who missed the first session is still welcome to join. Call Art or Carney.

For those looking for a library data base to access, either for practice or serious use, Data log Information service's number is 1-800 227 1927.

DATABIOTICS NAP report #5

Mork has begun on programs for the new big, 120k to 512k, memories available for the 99/4A. Bill Moseid of DataBioTics posted an announcment on Compuserve of the following currently under R & D especially for the new larger memories:

(1) A new wordprocessor (2) A new Bulletin Board System (3) Supertalk, a new terminal program (4) SuperForth (5) SpreadRug - Larger than a spread sheet (6) Noteworthy - a music generator.

As a member club of DataBiotics National Advisory Panel, it is possible we may be able to beta test some of the above.

Diskmaster I, the only beef we had was that single drive owners had to swap disks too many times to sector copy a ful disk. DataBioTics read our report and programmer Yodd Kalan reports he is has finished a new version that can use the extra memory in SuperSpace or Mini Memory to drasticly reduce the number of swaps. -S000oop- you can see our participation in NAP has had specific results.

Attention: all Newsletter Editors NEST 99/4A ARTICLES OF 1986

In January of 1986, the Central Westchester 99'ers put together a "flippy" disk of 715 sectors of the very best articles pleaned from 1985-99'ers neweletters from coast to coast. We send it out FREE if you provide the postpaid mailer and a new blank disk, or for \$3.00 if you want us to provide the mailer and disk.

However, the purpose of this notice is to let you know that for 1986 we will put out about 1400, sectors available on either flippy or as DSSD.

We ask that you send us the BESI from your club, to be included.

RULES: The article must be an original by a member of your club that appeared or will appear in 1986 in your club's newsletter. It can cover any computer related topic, such as copyrights, programming in any language useable on the 99/4A, product reviews, etc. and more etc. If a program is part of the article, a separate "runnable" copy must be submitted. All material should be on disk with articles in DIS/VAR 80 format. A return postpaid mailer must be included.

In the past, we made the selection ourselves. This year we intend to impanel a group of editors of 99'er newsletters as judges. If you are interested in acting as a judge, please let us know. Selection of Judges will be closed Sep 1st. Already volunteering to be judges are: Jack Shattuck of the Delaware Valley UG, Dee Turner of Omaha, and Johnathan Zittrain of Pittsburgh who is a Sysop on Compuserve's II Forum. We still need several more. How about it out there?

Judging is very simple. Each judge will receive a copy of all articles submitted, and will rate them from \$1\$ to the number of articles. The ones receiving to lowst points are the winners and the ones with the highest scores, will be left out!

Deadline for receipt of material on disk is December 10th 1986.

Address Mail to: The CW 99'ers c/o Art Byers, 1261 Williams Drive, Shrub Oak NY 10588. CIS \$73547,2014

Come on you editors, get your members articles in for the "Best Articles" Disk. -and- remember! It will be free! Let us hear from you!!

TIPS FROM THE TIGERCUR

Are only given out at meetings. Pick yours up from the pocket on the club cork board.

After three years of publishing, one would think Jim Peterson would run out of original porgramming ideas. Amazing!!, His tips get better and better. A complete list of his software for sale is on the corkboard. Show your appreciating of this great 99/4A contributor by buying some of his goodies.

BRAIN.

The club received, during May, a demonstration copy of a program called The BRAIN from Datax, 1923 Lindon St., Ridgewood, NY 11385. They claimed that it was a breakthrough in both capabilities and user friendliness and that it had accuracy up to 12 decimal places when necessary. The list price was given as \$49.95 with discounts for dealers and clubs. They also stated that the demonstration program had been rigged to give wrong asswers, so not to use any results.

Before recommending any hardware or software to our members, I make it a policy to test it. The results of my testing made as reluctant to write this review so I made my comments to Datax. I have received their reply which they requested I read at the next emeting. Since no comments have been given to any of our members, I will give my review and their response to each point.

The program effectively converts the computer to a calculator/reference aanual. However, it takes over one and one half minutes to load and the computer can not be used for anything else while the BRAIN is running. RESPONSE: Sommone else's program takes over five minutes to load. I don't have that program and I am now sure I will not get it.

I felt that the program was overpriced at \$49.95 and that \$20.90 was a more reasonable price if some of the bugs were fixed. RESPONSE: The company reserves the right to put a price on its products. Jrue, but I also reserve the right not to buy overgriced material.

I said that they had let the display capabilities of the computer dictate their parameters. For instances the highest factorial the computer will display is 69! therefore that is the highest number the BRAIN will calculate despite the fact that the computer will calculate factorials up to 84!. RESPONSE: 69! contains 99 digits therefore for all practical purposes it is

Review

by George F. Steffen

infinity. If so, why not cut off factorials at 28! or 38!? I sent them in my comments a short basic program which would caluctate and display factorials in the thousands with no loss of speed in the range in which the SMAIR operates. If they were interested in accuracy and user friendliness, they could have added by few lines to the program.

I commented that the program apparently was written by a mathematician with me programming experience. This is shown by such constructions as ON (selection) 60 TO to a series of lines each containing a GOSUB followed by a GOTO the beginning of the loop. RESPONSE: Since it is a structured program, the programmer is qualified. In that case, why use Roy Tamashiro's Extended Basic 48 column loader which uses a series of CALL LOAD statements to poke the program into the memory? Also, each menu is displayed with a series of DISPLAY AT statements with row. column and text.

Of course, any marketing department which sends out a demonstration which will not show the advantages of a product but shows more disadvantages than the actual product, probably thinks that anyone who writes a program which can run is a qualified programmer.

There are other features of the program which i did not like, but they said that these occur in the demo copy only, not in the actual working BRAIN program. However, they made no response to my connent that they had used wrong constants in some of their formulas. Of course, the constants are accurate to 5 or 6 places and they claim accuracy to 12 places WHEN MECERSARY. This agams that they are the ones to decide what degree of accuracy is mecessary, not the user.

The BRAIN was advertised in COMPUTER SHOPPER for \$39.95. They said that this was an error, but that they would honor that price until July 15th 1986.

EASYSPRITE, A Review

by Steve Weinkamer

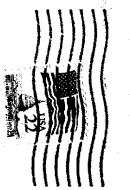
EASY SPRITE is a really nifty little XBASIC utility. written by Ton Freeman, that lets you design and save sprite characters for use in your program. The program has easy to understand documentation files in D/V 80 forest to help you get relling. One drawback to alot of sprite editing programs, is the long pauses due to calculations and manipulation of strings and other data. ERSY SPRITE has overcome these hanguage with assembly routines in just the right areas. EASY SPRITE lets you

Pres. Cleveland Area User Group manipulate sprite orientation, (i.e. flip, flop, retate, and reverse image) and print out or save hex codes to disk or tape. It also lets you print out an actual image of the sprite in graphics ande of an Epson/Genini printer. With EASY SPRITE, you have the full ability to create, save, edit, and print sprite graphics without having to tediously copy lots of hex code by hand. Hell worth the fairware cost. rates a 9.

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COMPUTER GROUP

c/o Arthur J. Byers 1261 Williams Drive Shrub Dak, NY 10588 C#-99'ers Newsletter Exchange



The following handy TI-WRITER commands are reprinted from th June issue of the 99'er News published by the TI Users Group of Will County, Romeoville, Ill. This puts the most used commands on one page for handy access at your computer.

EDITOR COMMAND IFCTNICTRLI EDITOR COMMAND	IFCTN: CRTL : EDITOR COMMAND FCTN: CTR
Back tab T Ins. Blank line Beginsing/line V Insert character	
	: S : S :Rall down : 4 : A
Delete line 3 N New page	.: ! Y :Roll up
ine +'s(on/off) B New paragraph	
Down arrow X A Next paragraph	
Duplicate line 5 Next window	1 5
lone cursor L	:
LF (enter) 3 1 10 DSK1.FILENAM	d entire file) erges filename with data in memory fter line 3) E (lines 1 thru 10 of filename are merged after line 3 in memory) (loads lines 1 thru 10 of filename)
Save 'iles: SF (enter) DSK1.FILENAME (sav SF (enter) 1 10 DSK1.FILENAME	
2000年2月1日日本大学工作工作工作工作工作工作工作工作工作工作工作工作工作工作工作工作工作工作工作	
Print Files:PF (enter) PIO (prints control	
PF (enter) C PIO (prints with t	
PF (enter) L PIO (prints 74 ch	
PF (enter) F PIO (prints fixed	
PF (enter) 1 10 PIO (prints lime) PF (enter) 1 10 PIO (prints lime) PIO. DSK1.FILENAME	
To cancel the print command press FC	
Delete file:DF (enter) DSK1.FILENAME	
Setting Margirs and Taps: (16 tabs maximum L — Left margin R — Right margir Use ENTER to execute or COMMAND/E) n I - Indent T - Tab SCAPE to terminate command.
Recover Edit: RE (enter) Y or N	
Line move: M (enter) 2 6 10 (moves lines M (enter) 2 2 10 (moves line)	2 thru 6 after line 10) 2 after line 10)
Copu: same as move except use C inst	

ind String: FS (enter) /string/ (will lo	
FS (enter) 1 15 /string/ (wi)	ll look for string in lines 2 thru 15:
enderstande by Contert 10 15 (deletes line:	
Delete: D (enter) 10 15 (deletes line:	

ATTENTION Other 99/4A clubs

Almost everything in our newsletter, except items obviously photocopied from other club's mil's, is available to you as a BV/80 file. Send a Disk and postpaid return mailer with voor request.

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gladly exchange newsletters with any club that will reciprocate.