

THE MSP 99 NEWSLETTER

THE MISSING COINCIDENCE by Robert Kemmetmueller

"Jump...Jump...Jump...Jump-Splash!
Argh! I landed right in the middle
of that lily pad and I drowned
anyway!"

This has probably happened to you if you have played the game "Lily Padder" from the MSP 99 software catalog (#F12).

If you are one of those few people who haven't yet updated your system from the 99/4 to the 99/4A, you probably haven't had this frustrating experience.

"Lily Padder" was written on a the old version of wi th Extended Basic and was bug-free -tried it on a 99/4A with until I the new version of Extended Basic. I stared and stared but couldn't figure out why it didn't work. Then "Self, this isn't I said to myself, fault." Further program's experimentation told me that the 99/4A was the culprit, not the new version of Extended Basic.

Well, I am as puzzled as you probably are. Maybe if we bug TI enough, they'll look into it.

So we don't know the cause but I did find a cure.

First, add these lines:

405 DIM AR(190.2)

406 AR(1,1)=2 :: AR(1,2)=2

455 AR(D,1)=5+2 :: AR(D,2)=5+3

495 AR(D,1)=S+2 :: AR(D,2)=S+3

1145 DISPLAY AT(7,7):"(VERSION 2)"

1165 GOSUB 1490

1555 CALL KEY(0,KKK,SSS):: IF SSS THEN

RETURN

What this does is instead of checking (supposedly) all sprites, it only checks the two lily pads in the row that your frog is on.

Remember this next time you have a similar coincidence problem.

HAPPY HOPPING!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Many of you will recognize Robert's name from last month's software contest winners. He's a prolific programmer and is 14 years old. Older beginners take heart—some day, if you work hard, maybe you too will understand this 99/4 child's play!

JULY PICNIC

July's MSP 99 meeting will be a family picnic at Como Park on Sunday, July 24. See details in the Calendar of Events on page 3. Keep your fingers crossed for sunshine.



The MSP 99 USERS GROUP meets monthly for a program of discussion and presentations that will enable you to be better informed about your computer. Users group members share and exchange information. Some members have a broad range of computer expertise that they are willing to share with others; others are just beginning. We are not affiliated with or sponsored by any other group or company. We are owners of the Texas Instruments TI-99/4 and TI-99/4A home computers, and share an enthusiasm for these fine machines. Membership dues are \$12 a year for a family, \$10 a year for an individual, and \$50 for a sponsor member. You're welcome to visit a meeting before you join. For more information, call or write us.

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MSP 99 NEWSLETTER is published by the MSP 99 Users Group to serve the needs of TI home computer users in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Members are encouraged to contribute articles for publication. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the MSP 99 Users Group, its officers, editor, or members.

Newsletter Editor-Marilyn McPartlin 636-3663

Newsletter Committee Members:

Bonnie Burton, Wayne Page, Jon Todd MSP 99 Newsletter articles may be reproduced if appropriate credit is given to the author (if one is listed) and to the Minneapolis-St. Paul 99 Users Group.

The MSP 99 USERS GROUP MEETINGS are held at the Brown Institute Computer Building, 27th Avenue and East Lake Street, Minneapolis, on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (Check Calendar of Events for changes.)

ldeas for future programs should be submitted to the Program Committee at the Users Group address given above or talk to Mike Larson at a meeting.

If you're interested in working on one of our committees (Education, Equipment, Program, Publicity, Software, Newsletter), contact one of the officers.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENT NATES -- Business firms that desire to communicate with our members may do so by placing an ad in the newsletter. Rates are: Full Page (7-1/2 X 10-1/2) \$30; Half Page (3-1/2 X 10-1/2) \$20; Quarter Page (3-1/2 X 5) \$12. Each ad must be camera-ready in sizes indicated and paid in advance. Contact the newsletter editor for more information.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS -- Before you move, please mail a change of address to the group at the above address.

LETTERS TO EDITOR:

TO THE EDITOR:

Just a note about Spelling #1 and #2 (new software programs listed in last month's article "MSP 99 SOFTWARE CATALOG ADDITIONS"). As noted in the last newsletter, there are separate lists of words in each program. However, the words I chose were specifically picked for two separate age groups. Spelling Drill #1 contains words at the 2nd grade and upper 1st grade level. Spelling #2's words are at the upper 2nd and 3rd grade level. I used the master grade level lists used here in Owatonna to make sure I was not overshooting the age groups I had intended the programs for. Thanks.

Jim Smieja

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks, Jim, for the information and for inaugurating the new Letters to the Editor column.

SCROLLING PROGRAM by Mike Larson

Experiment with the following Extended Basic program. For sample values, try I'M A TI COMPUTER for the string and a window size of 5.

120 INPUT "ENTER STRING-":AS

130 INPUT "WINDOW SIZE-":S

140 CALL CLEAR

150 A4=*.....*&A4&*......

160 FOR X=1 TO LEN(A\$)

170 DISPLAY AT(12,12):SEG\$(A\$,X+1,S)

180 NEXT X

190 GOTO 160

alor de sido al la distribución de sidentibución de sido al la distribución de sido al la distribución ** sk sk ** MSP 99 CALENDAR OF EVENTS ** ** علايلا ade ade ** ** JULY 24--- COME JOIN FELLOW MEMBERS FOR A RELAXING DAY AT COMO PARK. IN ** ** ADDITION TO THE FACILITIES AT THE PARK, THERE WILL BE ACTIVITIES ** ** 11:00-4:00 ** AVAILABLE FOR YOUNG AND OLD. ** ** ** BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AND A DESSERT TO PASS. ** ** MSP 99 WILL PROVIDE SOFT DRINKS. desk ** ** ** ** PLAN ON ATTENDING ON SUNDAY, JULY 24, 11:00-4:00 P.M. DON'T 水堆 FORGET TO BRING PLAY EQUIPMENT IF YOU WISH TO GET UP A GAME. BE ** ** IT FRISBEE OR CHECKERS. ** ** ** ** AUGUST 16-- BACK TO BROWN INSTITUTE FOR OUR REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING. ** ** (TUESDAY) ** ** 7:00-9:00 THE WINNERS FROM OUR RECENT PROGRAMMING CONTEST WILL DEMONSTRATE ** ** THEIR PROGRAMS AND GIVE YOU SOME HINTS ON DEVELOPING YOUR OWN ** ** PROGRAMS BY THEIR EXAMPLE. ** ** ** WE WILL BE AWARDING DOOR PRIZES CONSISTING OF THE WINNING : ** PROGRAMS. طوعو ** 4 ak ak AUGUST WILL BE A HOT MONTH, BUT THE AIR CONDITIONING AT BROWN ** WORKED WELL AT OUR JUNE COMPUTER FAIR ** ** and the property of the property of the contract of the contra

SUBGROUP MEETINGS:

ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE--First Tuesday of month, Brown Institute. Chair: Kerm Steffenhagen.

BUSINESS--Second Friday, 7:30 p.m., 2818 Como S.E., Mpls. Pres.: Bob DeMars.

EDUCATION--At monthly MSP meetings.
Chair: Pete Lawson.

INVESTMENT--Second Thursday, 7 p.m., Brown Institute. Chair: Dean Sorensen.

YOUTH GROUP-At monthly MSP meetings. Pres.: Scott Morgan.

SOFTMARE FOR THE TI-99/4A by Sarah DeMars

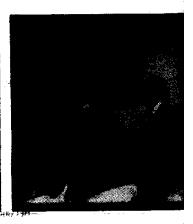
Some people question purchasing a Texas Instruments 99/4A computer because they are under the impression that there isn't much of a selection of software. They do not realize that Texas Instruments alone has a selection of over 1400 programs. In addition, there is third-party software, which is software put out by companies other than TI, but it is compatible with the TI 29/4A.

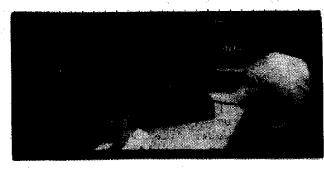
There are also a few good books out with programs written for the 99/4A that you must enter yourself. Some of these programs can be very time consuming, but once they are entered and running you have the enjoyment of saying "I entered it myself."

>MSP 99 COMPUTER FAIR >JUNE 26





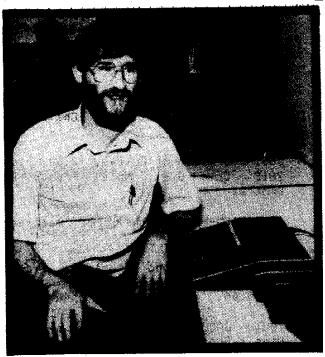




GERDEEN NEW TREASURER

Joel Gerdeen is the new treasurer of MSP 99. Gerdeen agreed to fill out the term of Dick Irwin, who resigned the position at the end of June.

Many of you probably saw Joel at the June Computer Fair, manning the MSP 99 table and selling disks and cassettes. Welcome aboard Joel.



COMPUTER FAIR A SUCCESS by Marilyn McPartlin

Sanda Prof. P. S.

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The first MSP 99 Computer Fair, held June 26 at Brown Institute, was a huge success. Over 400 people were estimated to have attended the fair.

Ed Wiest and Dean Powell, who had come up from TI in Texas, gave two presentations showing off the capabilities of and new software for the 99/4A.

Ed Wiest presented MSP 99 with a disk of programs, which will soon be available through the MSP 99 software catalog. Three of the music programs — Western Boogle, Puppy Town, and Organ — were demonstrated.

Five door prizes were awarded. Three non-members were module winners: Jeraldine Jackson won TI-Writer, Joseph Schmitz won Munchman, and Jay Wolf won Music Maker. Two MSP 99 members also were winners: Pete Lawson, chairperson of the Education Committee won a Multiplan module. Mary

Nelson, of Calculators, Inc., won an Alpiner module and very generously donated it to the MSP 99 Youth Group.

In addition to the presentations, vendors had displays in a number of rooms. The sponsoring members that exhibited at the fair were American Software Design and Distribution Co., Calculators Inc., Computer Concepts, Home-Comp-Edina, Innovative Software Design, QDM Memory Systems, and Specialist In.

Special thanks must go to those without whose help we couldn't have done it. Thanks to Dave Griggs of Brown Institute for handling organization and set up for exhibitors; to Mike Larson for getting all the necessary equipment; to Bill Lovegren for more equipment and transporting the popcorn machine; and to the Youth Group for manning the pop and popcorn. Our thanks also to the other MSP 99 members who helped man the registration table and in so many other ways.

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268 CALL VCHAR(R,C,CH,R2) 270 CALL VCHAR(R,C1,CH,R2) 270 CALL VCHAR(R,C1,CH,R2) 270 CALL UCHAR(R,C,CH,C2) 270 CALL HCHAR(R,C,CH,C2) 270 CALL HCHAR(R,C,CH,C3) 270 CALL HCHAR(R					240	CALL	COLOR(13,14,1)							
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310 COENT-COUNT+1 320 GOTO 190 340 H=H-1 340 CALL HCHAR(H, 6, 121) 330 REM COLOR + CHARACTER 350 FOR Z=7 TO H-1 350 H=B+1 360 IF A()13 THEN 380 360 IF A()13 THEN 380 370 A=1 388 IF B()17 THEN 400 390 B=1 400 CALL COLOR(A, B, B) 400 CALL SOUND(13, (N=30), Z) 400 CALL COLOR(A, B, B) 400 CALL COLOR(A, B, B) 400 CALL COLOR(A, B, B)		290	CALL HCHAR(R	(,C,CH,C2)	310	CALL	HCMAR(3,18,112)	380	NEXT	Z >-			1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -	
310 COENT-COUNT+1 320 GOTO 190 340 H=H-1 340 CALL HCHAR(H, 6, 121) 330 REM COLOR + CHARACTER 350 FOR Z=7 TO H-1 350 H=B+1 360 IF A()13 THEN 380 360 IF A()13 THEN 380 370 A=1 388 IF B()17 THEN 400 390 B=1 400 CALL COLOR(A, B, B) 400 CALL SOUND(13, (N=30), Z) 400 CALL COLOR(A, B, B) 400 CALL COLOR(A, B, B) 400 CALL COLOR(A, B, B)	•	300	IF CH=127 TH	EN 338	328	CALL	HCHAR(2,17,112,3)							
336 REM COLOR + CHARACTER 350 FOR Z=7 TO H-1 420 IF 8=32 THEN 330 348 4=A+1 430 IF H=7 THEN 440 ELSE 350 350 B=B+1 440 FOR F=3 TO 30 STEP 3 360 IF A()13 THEN 380 450 CALL HCHAR(7,F,128) 370 A=1 460 CALL VCHAR(8,F,122,14) 380 IF B()17 THEN 400 470 CALL SOUND(30,(F=50),2) 390 B=1 480 NEXT F 490 PRINT *NOW DO SONETHING ABOUT IT!!*		310	COUNT-COUNT+	ĺ	330	0=0	• •, •							
348 A=A+1 350 B=B+1 368 IF A()13 THEN 380 370 A=1 388 IF B()17 THEN 400 390 B=1 400 CALL COLOR(A,B,B) 430 IF H=7 THEN 440 ELSE 350 440 FOR F=3 TO 30 STEP 3 450 CALL HCHAR(7,F,128) 450 CALL UCHAR(8,F,122,14) 470 CALL SOUND(30,(F=30),2) 480 NEXT F 490 PRINT *NOW DO SONETHING ABOUT IT!!*		320	60TO 190		340	 - -	1)		
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400 CALL COLOR(A,B,B) 490 PRINT *NOW DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!!*								480	NEXT	F			•	
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INVESTMENT GROUP INFO

by Bonnie Burton

The primary of the MSP goal Investment Subgroup is to utilize the TI to possible advantage in analyzing, purchasing. and monitoring investments. asked, however, most members also stated one of their primary reasons for in the group was "to make a lot of "to become very rich"! To this end, the Investment Group meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Brown Institute.

At the June meeting, Dean Sorensen presented a good demonstration of the Microsoft Multiplan used for investment purposes. In addition to calculating net worth and tracking securities, his analysis of mutual funds helps him identify top performers and rapidly spot trends.

Some long-range planning for the group

includes monitoring a mythical (or perhaps real, if our strategies pay off) portfolio. Short-term activities include:

July 24 -- A brief business meeting in conjunction with the July picnic.

Aug. 11 -- A representative from TI will demonstrate investment related software such as Tax/Investment Record Keeping, Securities Analysis, Real Estate, Home Financial Decisions, and Home Budget Management modules.

Sept. 8 -- Dean Sorensen, chairperson, will begin the first in a series of lessons in fundamental analysis programming to help beginners develop their own investment related software.

The Investment Subgroup welcomes new members, beginner or advanced, provided they are members of the MSP 99 Users Group. No additional dues are required at this time. For more information, call Dean Sorensen at 425-7154.

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PIRATE'S PYRAMID? SAVAGE GHOST TOWN? by Bonnie Burton

My family and I are voracious 'ADVENTURERS' and have tried most the Scott Adams series with varying degrees of Success. Our ability doesn't always equal OUP enthusiasm, however. We desperately needed techniques to help us solve the 50% of the games we hadn't been able to figure out. Quite accidently, discovered that by we deliberately confusing the TI-99/4A, it can be tricked into giving clues!

Try this: turn on your computer insert the ADVENTURE Command Module, which contains general program instructions. Then, load the data from cassette or disk for particular ADVENTURE game, such any "Ghost Town," for example. When 26 the computer asks if you wish to use a previously saved game, type Y (Yes). Now, when the computer is ready, load in your specific game information from a previously saved, but DIFFERENT, Scott Adams! SUCH as PRAMITE OF Doom." Occasionally the data won't compute. Most of the time, however, the end result is a playable but strange version Comprised of variables from BOTH scenarios. These home-brewed adventures remind those weird, confused dreams when clothespins talk while people haven't thought of in years are shoveling snow in your kitchen.

example, while trying for thousandth time to crack the the Island" series, my son "Savage accidently loaded an old, saved version of "Pirate Adventure." Our previous efforts at "Savage" yielded a scarcity of clues and our results involved dying repeatedly at the hands of a bear who didn't like our smell. After loading "Pirate," Suddenly primitive cave drawings appeared on the beach, along with a raft and a plastic case -- items that usually appear only after certain sequences of events or actions take place Clike finding the cave!). It appears the addition of different story data causes the TI to shortcircuit the necessary sequential

It is also not uncommon to steps. yourself carrying normally immovable or uncontrollable objects such as a hurricane, an entrance to an alcove, or a rope hanging from the ceiling.

Initially, We had hoped create adventures with this mixing technique. However, with no logic base, there is nothing to solve and the essential point of the game is destroyed, even if observing the weirdness is amusing for a while. Therefore, this method is best used to locate items and find clues. fear, Never the 'TI doesn't reveal. the entire hand, probably because its confusion is as great as yours. You must still return to the original version and legitimately proceed through the steps, using clues to your advantage. And as any ethical adventurer knows, combining ADVENTURES (otherwise Known as cheating in some circles) reserved for desperate best conditions!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Several of the Newsletter Committee members, like Bonnie, are Adventure fans Scott Means and other versions). If you are too and are stuck in any adventure, are a master of another, or are a fan of type-in adventures, send comments or questions to the newsletter. Being good adventurers, we'll try to give a helpful hint. But we will only respond in the newsletter (no phone calls), so that all MSP 99 adventurers can share.

100 REM THIS PROGRAM PLAYS TREMOLO NOTES. CHANGE VALUE IN LINE 150 TO 1.01 OR

1.03 FOR MORE OR LESS TREMOLO. 105 REM ST. JAMES INFIRMARY BLUES - JIM PETERSON REPRINTED IN SYDNEY NEWS DIGEST FROM TEXNET

110 FOR J=1 TO 60 STEP 2

120 READ A.B

130 FOR L=1 TO A

140 CALL SOUND(-99,B.0)

150 CALL SOUND(-99,8*1.02,0)

160 NEXT L

170 NEXT J

180 DATA 2,330,2,294,4,330,4,294,4,330,4,294,4,262,8,220

190 DATA 2,330,2,294,6,330,2,294,4,330,4,262,12,247

-200 DATA 2,294,2,262,4,294,4,262,4,294,2,330,2,294,4,262,8,220

210 DATA 4,262,4,262,4,220,4,262,4,247,16,220

The MSP 99 board has received a to sell the mailing list of request MSP members to a vendor to send advertisments related to computing. A straw poll asking whether members to receive such mailings wanted very mixed reactions -indicates highly i n favor and some There have also been some opposed. giving addresses of concerns about owners out to anyone. One computer Keep addresses to possibility private would be for the mailing list to physically never leave the an MSP member who would hands of supervise the total mailing.

members, we future include a check-off box the on application form so each person can indicate if he or she does not wish such mailings. We urge to receive current members to let us know how they feel about the whole issue. If you would like to be excluded from advertising mailings, if they take place, please notify us in writing of this and include a copy of your newsletter mailing label.

Members may place want ads, at no charge, by calling Bonnie Burton at 431-6064 or by turning in written copy of the ad at any MSP 99 meeting.

SPEECH EDITOR -- \$28. Call Jerry Franck, 690-3162 or 733-3318, days.

TWO PRINTERS -- Gorilla Banana, \$199; Star Gemini-10X, \$289. Both new friction-tractor/dot-matrix. Compatible with most home computers. 460-6348.

PRINTER -- Oxidata CP110 with RS232 serial interface, \$125. Robbie or Griff Wigley, (507) 645-6065.

DIRECT-WRITER Word Processing program -- requires Ext. Basic, Memory Exp., and disk system. \$25. Call Robbie or Griff Wigley, (507) 645-6065.

DISKS/TAPES -- Top quality blank disks and Ampex 10-min. tapes at users group rates. Box of 10, \$20; single disk, \$3. Tapes: 10 for \$5; 75 cents each. Tape boxes: 10 for \$1.50; 25 cents each. Mailing charge \$1 or pick up at meeting. Call Joel Gerdeen, 572-0148.

GET PUBLISHED -- Write an article for the group about a program, ways you use your computer, or a module. Call Marilyn McPartlin, 636-5663, for info.

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