CLEVELAND AREA 99-4A USERS GROUPS
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1985

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GROUPS' NEWSLETTER ED. - MARK WOODWARD ((561-2967)

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Executive Notes — Solon

Our July meeting was highlighted by a demonstration of speech supported programs. Bruce Young showed the group how the T.E.II command module allows the unlimited use of speech when used in the BASIC mode. Jon Lucas then demonstrated how speech can be used in X-BASIC programs. It was interesting to note, through the demonstrations, that the quality of speech was quite better in the X-BASIC mode than in the T.E.II version. Thank you Bruce and Jon for your interesting and educational presentation.

Please note that it was decided that there will be NO MEETING FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST. With vacations and other summer activities in full swing, the members present voted to eliminate the regular August meeting. We will also make every effort to notify every paid up member by telephone of this schedule change. Our August topic was to cover the MUSIC MAKER command module, and if posible we will make this our September theme. The October program, as it stands at this time, will demonstrate SKETCHPAD graphics. I'm sure that this will be a fun and very interesting demo.

It was just announced that the anticipated T.I. compatable computer being developed by Myarc, is about to be released. Indications are that it will be a 256K machine and fully operational with existing 99/4A software and peripherals. Price is belived to be around $400.00.

Our new P.O. box has now been obtained. Our new address is: P.O. box 1283, Cleveland, Ohio 44120. Please note this change, as the old box will expire in the next couple of months.

I am pleased to announce that we received several new members into our dwindling fold this past month. It's great that you new people have taken the time and effort to explore the possibilities and uses of your T.I. computer. As time goes by, you will discover many new uses for your computer and, hopefully, you will be provided with many hours of enjoyment. Thank you for your support! We are all willing to help and support YOU in any way that we can.

Our librarians have informed us that no one is using the tape or disk libraries. Perhaps interest in borrowing tapes has declined due to the fact that a large majority of club members own disk drives. However, we have a large amount of programs available on disk that no one seems to be interested in either. Librarian Bruce Young makes the disk library available before and after each session for anyone to copy programs as they wish. There is a large catalog available at the meetings that contains a description of each program in the disk library. This is a valuable resource that is going unused most of the time. Take advantage of this service!

Hope to see all of you in September...Steve Weinkamer, President

TI CHIPS USERS GROUP — Secretarial Notes

We're well into summer now. Hope you're all enjoying the really great weather. Despite the beautiful day, we still had a nice turnout for our July meeting. Daryl Saylor gave an informative presentation how the line editor works in Basic or Extended Basic; and Tom Thalner, of Edu-Comp, described the advantages of the Explorer. Thanks Daryl and Tom! May I again say we're grateful to Tom for bringing in a nice display of materials and software, which are available for viewing or purchase; and he does this every month!

We also want to thank all the people in our group who have made copies for us. Their names are too numerous to list, but we want them all to know they're appreciated.

Our next meeting will be our SECOND ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC. It will be held at the same place as last year. The location is the Metropolitan Park, south of Snow Road in Parma, the Big Creek Parkway. WE'LL MEET AT 10:00 A.M. ON AUGUST 17TH.

If you have any questions about the picnic or its' location, please call Bernard Gallagher — (351-1265). We hope to see you all there for a fun afternoon. Don't miss it. — Jan Fedor, Secretary

PRINTER NEGLECT

CHIPS TIPS

YOU MAY CLEAN YOUR DISK DRIVE OFTEN, BUT HOW ABOUT YOUR PRINTER? REMEMBER TO CLEAN DUST AND PAPER BITS OUT OF IT. AFTER EVERY COUPLE OF BOXES OF PAPER, YOU MIGHT WANT TO OIL THE PRINTER. USE FISHING REEL OIL LIGHTLY ON VISIBLE GEARS AND THE HEAD RAIL. DO NOT OIL THE HEAD OR OTHER PARTS.

SHOCKING

TI CLAIMS THAT THE 99/4A IS DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND AN EXCESS OF 50,000 VOLTS WITH NO DAMAGE DONE OTHER THAN SOME LOST OR CHANGED DATA IN THE RAM. STILL, I STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT YOU ALWAYS UNPLUG ALL OF YOUR COMPUTER EQUIPMENT. AND, AS BERNIE GALLAGHER, PRES. OF TI CHIPS, LIKES TO REMIND US, REMEMBER TO UNPLUG YOUR MODEM FROM THE PHONE LINES BECAUSE YOU COULD FRY IT, ALONG WITH YOUR RS232, AND MAYBE EVEN MORE DURING A STORM.

PRODUCT INFO.

HERE ARE SOME COMPANIES THAT TI REFERRED ME TO FOR PERIPHERALS & SOFTWARE:

TENEX:1-800-348-2778
UNISOURCE:1-800-858-4580
TRITON:1-800-227-6900

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY HEARD FROM THEM, GIVE THEM A CALL AND ASK FOR A CATELOG.

2. Rick Polinka

Some Editorial Comments

About ten days ago (July 20th) I visited the Northcoast Groups' meeting. Here I was able to see Graphx (which I had ordered from Australia by mail on July 3rd). I discussed this with Jim Mitchell who was the demonstrator, and was assured I would receive it promptly. When I told him I wanted to use it to jazz up our Newsletter, he suggested another program "CSGD I", which he felt had a better selection of type fonts. When I got home, Graphx was waiting, but I called Jim for the address,, and sent away my check for "CSGD I"; which I later found out was written up in the MAY issue of MicroCompendium. The program arrived about two days ago.

What all this leads up to, is that I've included some of the artwork from the CSGD program in this issue; and as you may have noticed; have beefed-up our masthead with two of their type fonts. Of particular interest to me was the ability of the program to reverse the graphics, and to change all the black pixels to white, as you'll see below.

As promised last issue, and with Frank Jenkins help in typing the transliteration table and sample printout; we're publlishing the article from MicroCompendium that should be a great assist to those who use TI-Writer. I wonder if it works with TK Writer?

Incidentally, "Graphx" appears to be everything I expected. My first effort was a beer can. Elipses and straight lines were a snap. The lettering took a little longer. The frogs, and the little man were included on what they called a clip board. The man can be animated by moving the joystick, etc..

Mark
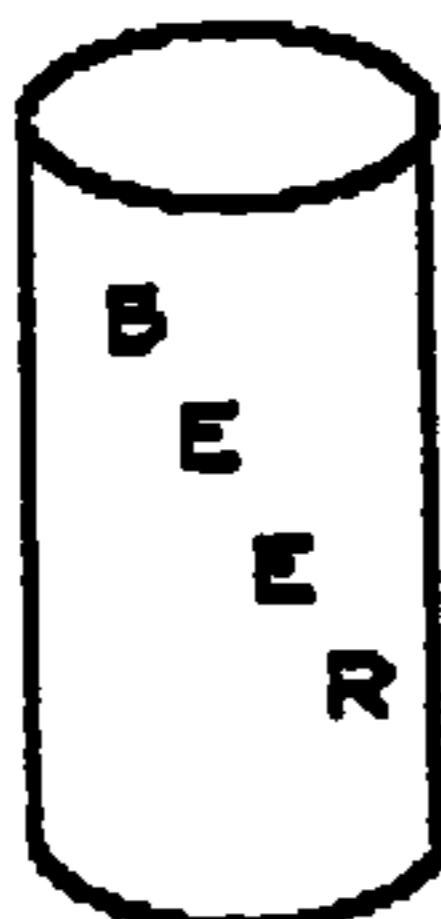
CSGD →

Original "Goose"   Reversed "Goose"   Changed Pixels

TWO "SCRIPT" FONT

NEWSLETTER

MY
FIRST
DRAWING

BEER

GRAPHX

MY VERSION OF
LEAPFROG

Taking Control of TI-Writer

By RON CASTLETON

The TI-Writer word processor is capable of full in-text software command control of Epson, C. Itoh, Gemini and other dot matrix printers. This capability is achieved through the Formatter and not the Edit mode.

Obtaining this control, however, requires recognition of the importance of the poorly documented Transliteration command.

According to the TI-Writer manual, only three in-text printer software control commands are available: one-word-at-a-time overstriking, dashed underscore, invoked by using the @ and & keyboard characters, respectively, and the caret character, which is used to bridge between words.

That doesn't sound like much control at all, and it isn't. But users can create a Transliteration Command Set that will provide full access to a printer's capabilities, whatever they are. (Included with this article is such a command set, which can be keyboarded by the reader.)

Once saved to disk, the Transliteration Command Set can be invoked as an invisible header in files created with TI-Writer. This will initialize the printer so that it will recognize the various in-text characters and respond accordingly when printing.

Among the capabilities achieved through this command set are: solid underline, superscript, subscript, italics, backspace and print, sound bell, elite, pica, condensed, enlarged, emphasized and double-strike print modes, perforation skip and reinitialization of printer. The dashed underscore and overstrike capabilities remain through use of the & and @ keys.

The beauty of creating a command set is that these capabilities can be invoked through the insertion of one or two keystroke commands in the text. When printed, these commands do not appear.

In order to get the printer to recognize and execute these commands, the Transliteration (.TL) commands must be set up in the TI-Writer Edit mode, saved to disk and recalled by the Include File (.IF) command inserted in the header of the text to be printed via the Formatter. (One may include the list of Transliteration commands with the text, but it is more efficient to call them using the .IF command.)

The Transliteration set consists of a series of Transliterations from one ASCII character to one or more others. For example, to start italics, the left curly brace (FCTN F keystroke) was chosen due both to its rare use in text, and the fact that I had planned to use italics often and wanted a keyboard marked character for easy reference. The Transliteration command to start italics is: .TL 123:27,52.

This means that when the left curly brace (ASCII 123) is encountered in text, the printer executes the commands represented by ASCII 27 and ASCII 52. For logical reasons, the right curly brace was used as the stop italics command, resulting in the following transliteration: .TL 125:27,53.

(Not all printers will be accessed in exactly the same way as this Transliteration set is designed. Refer to your printer manual for software commands that invoke the printer's various capabilities. Also, not all printers will have the capability for italics, super or subscript.)

You may have noticed that a number of the Transliteration commands use ASCII values lower than 32. ASCII values 32 and above are accessed by a single keystroke but those below 32 must be accessed using the CTRL U key followed by another keystroke using the FCTN or SHIFT keys. CTRL U places the computer in a special character mode that gives you access to ASCII characters 0-31. (Page 146 of the TI-Writer manual documents these codes.) While the computer is in this mode, the cursor is redefined as an underline. Pressing CTRL U a second time will return the keyboard to its normal editing mode and rectangular cursor.

The complete Transliteration Command Set used in this article was selected to be visually obvious when viewing text in the Edit mode. All stop and start commands are the same number or letter beginning and ending the text involved. The symbols that appear when in CTRL U mode are unprintable. Viewed on the screen, they consist of two half-size characters. The carriage return that appears at the end of each paragraph created with TI-Writer is an example of these characters.

When using these commands in text, the user enters the command keystroke—CTRL U, SHIFT D to start a solid underline, for example—leaving a space between it and any preceding word. To stop the underline function, enter CTRL U SHIFT T.

One needs to have a reference card on these commands, and you may want to change some of the transliteration commands for easier reference. For example, if you have little use for superscript and subscript but use solid underlining a lot, you may define FCTN R as your transliteration command for underline and FCTN T as the command to stop underlining. Whatever you do, make it easy on yourself.

Several direct entry commands offered by TI-Writer (overstriking, underline dashes and the word bridge) have been left intact. Others were transliterated to either a readily recognized keyboard character (such as the back-space symbol) or to a CTRL U special character for pairing purposes (such as the Sound Bell and REinitialize printer commands) for ease of use.

Actual use of the Transliteration Command Set requires the following steps:

1. Creation of the Transliteration Command Set in TI-Writer Edit mode. Each .TL command must be entered on a separate line, ending each with a carriage return symbol. The carriage returns should be deleted before saving the command set to disk.

2. As the last command in the command set, enter the Sound Bell symbol (CTRL U SHIFT P).

3. Save the command set to disk (example: DSK1.TLS)

4. Create your new text in the edit mode, using an Include File command in the header to call the Transliteration Command Set in from the Formatter. Example: .IF DSK1.TLS

5. Save the text to disk.

6. Print the text through the formatter.

Last months "meeting"--a hardware/software swap meet--our first-- was from all comments a real success. Because of this it will be repeated again at a future time for those unable to attend due to vacations, etc., and for those who want more of a good thing!

Martin Smoley showed a program he has written (available as freeware) to investigate various types of files. He also came to the rescue with a knock-down cart to transport the 6 systems brought in for the meet.

Jim Mitchell put on an informal but convincing demonstration of "Graphx" in which he compared it to Printshop--all this after having the program for barely a week!

Tom Thalner of Edu-Comp showed those interested some of the power of "Explorer" by Miller Graphics and also donated 2 dead cartridges (for transformation to Editor Assembler super cartridges with 8K of RAM) as well as 2 programs (Screendump by Quality 99 Software and Disksurgeon) for future demonstrations and raffles (which will resume with the next meeting).

Those in attendance noted that Deanna Sheridan (333-5986) is now handling the club disk library. She replaces Larry Prikockis who shortly after pulling all the material together after cataloging, saw all his free time disappear when he got a summer job. Deanna brings great enthusiasm to this task and has already added 200 programs consisting of 14 disks and 26 catalog pages. She is adding freeware disks including: Masscopy, Quickcopier, Screendumps, Sprite Builder, and TK Writer. Please contact her if you have any of the others, such as, Neatlist and Fasterm. We are attempting to obtain a number of programs from the Amnion Helpline including the Forth manual on disk.

The New Horizons Users Group of Toledo was unable to attend the swap meet but promises to bring and demonstrate to our next meeting Saturday, August 17 all of the things I saw at their meeting.

Navarone Industries (a long time TI supporter) has announced in Micropendium a new product development program in which our group and many other user groups will participate.

Don Swanson (531-6766) would like to exchange ideas with other members interested in computer music. Please contact him any day between 11AM and 8PM. Sounds like an idea for another special interest group! Our first group on Assembly Language (announced in the last newsletter and on the Bulletin Board) has just had its first meeting.

I am awaiting samples of connectors (36,44, and 60 pin) that have ribbon cable termination which will allow simple, inexpensive construction of: the Super Cartridge Expander, a card extender for the P-box and a fire hose interface cable relocator.

With many of our members upgrading their equipment, I would like to remind everyone of the technical information that I have including: Console port pinouts, how to install additional disk drives including making of required cables, and making parallel and serial cables.

Lastly, thanks to all who helped make our swap meet successful and to Don Schmidt of Com-Pro Systems who has continued to support us and bring us a continuing supply of TI-ware.

To all members, please help us to spread the word to non-members (many who never heard of us) that we exist, are active, and are getting better daily!

Ken Gladyszewski (357-7274)
President

TRANSLITERATION	KEYSTROKE		IN-TEXT SYMBOL	PRINT COMMAND
.TL 123:27,52	FCTN F		Left Brace	Start Italics
.TL 125:27,53	FCTN G		Right Brace	Stop Italics
.TL 91:27,83,0	FCTN R		Left Bracket	Start Superscript
.TL 93:27,83,1	FCTN T		Right Bracket	Start Subscript
.TL 124:27,84	FCTN A		Vertical Line	Stop Super/Subscript
.TL 1:27,66,3	CTRL U SHIFT A		.1	Start Condensed
.TL 17:18	CTRL U SHIFT Q		'1	Stop Condensed
.TL 2:27,87,1	CTRL U SHIFT B		.2	Start Enlarged
.TL 18:27,87,0	CTRL U SHUFT R		'2	Stop Enlarged
.TL 3:27,66,2	CTRL U SHIFT C		.3	Start Elite
.TL 19:27,80	CTRL U SHIFT S		'3	Stop Elite
.CO 0:27,64	CTRL U SHIFT Z		.0	Reinitialize
.TL 16:7	CTRL U SHIFT P		'0	Sound Bell
.TL 92:8	FCTN Z		\	Backspace/Print
.TL 11:27,78	CTRL U SHIFT K		.b	Perforation Skip
.TL 27:27,79	CTRL U FCTN R		'b	Stop Perforation Skip
.TL 4:27,45,1	CTRL U SHIFT D		.4	Start Solid Underline
.TL 20:27,45,0	CTRL U SHIFT T		'4	Stop Solid Underline
.TL 21:27,72	CTRL U SHIFT E		'5	Start Doublestrike
.TL 5:27,71	CTRL U SHIFT U		.5	Stop Doublestrike
.TL 6:27,69	CTRL U SHIFT F		.6	Start Emphasized
.TL 22:27,70	CTRL U SHIFT V		'6	Stop Emphasized

SAMPLE PRINTOUTS

Italics

Superscript

Subscript

Condensed

Enlarged

Elite

Doublestrike

Emphasized

It is possible to activate more than one printer command simultaneously. For example, one can use a dashed underline of an italicized word by preceding the left brace with an ampersand. Carets inserted between words can be used to underline phrases.

Use of the fill and adjust (.FL and .AD) commands with condensed, elite and enlarged print will require space compensation with the caret to achieve a right-justified margin.

You can experiment with other command combinations to discover the limits of these printer controls.

NAVARONE

Navarone Industries, Inc.
19968 El Ray Lane
Sonora, California 95370
Phone. (209) 533-8349

Navarone is in the process of putting into place a program that will give qualified TI User Groups a first hand opportunity to see, touch, and feel new products for the 4A before they're released. Users will also have an opportunity to let developers know what they think of the product, what features they would like to see, and what types of new products need to be developed. Users Groups will benefit in another way as the recipient of free evaluation units. These can possibly be raffled off to generate income for the club.

We're planning to call the program "HYWAY", an acronym for "Have it your way", (Hope Burger King doesn't mind). Quite frankly, we're really excited about the possibilities! We feel this type of dialog is long overdue and that the single most important resource in the TI market, its dedicated users, has been all but ignored. We're going to hopefully correct this injustice.

If you guys really want to see the 4A fly, Navarone is willing to work with you to make it happen. Here's how the HYWAY program will work:

1. An officer in your club will take the responsibility of completing the attached "HYWAY PARTICIPATION FORM".

2. One person in your club will be assigned (by you) to be the contact person between your club and Navarone.

3. Products will be shipped to the club contact 3 to 4 weeks before the next scheduled meeting and then he will assign someone to demonstrate it at the meeting.

4. Two types of products will be offered for evaluation and demonstration. Finished products that are already in production/distribution (products users can buy) and new, prerelease versions of products under development.

5. A "HYWAY EVALUATION FORM" will be returned to Navarone with questions and suggestions for new features and products.

6. Products will become the property of the user group to do with as you see fit.

Nothing complicated about it!

This letter was signed - William Hadley
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

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____ Send me a membership form for the following group:

    ___ Solon: ___ TI Chips: ___ Golden Crescent: ___ Northcoast.

CLEVELAND AREA 99/4A USERS GROUPS
P.O. BOX 1283
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44120

<u>!! TIME DATED MATERIAL !!</u>