

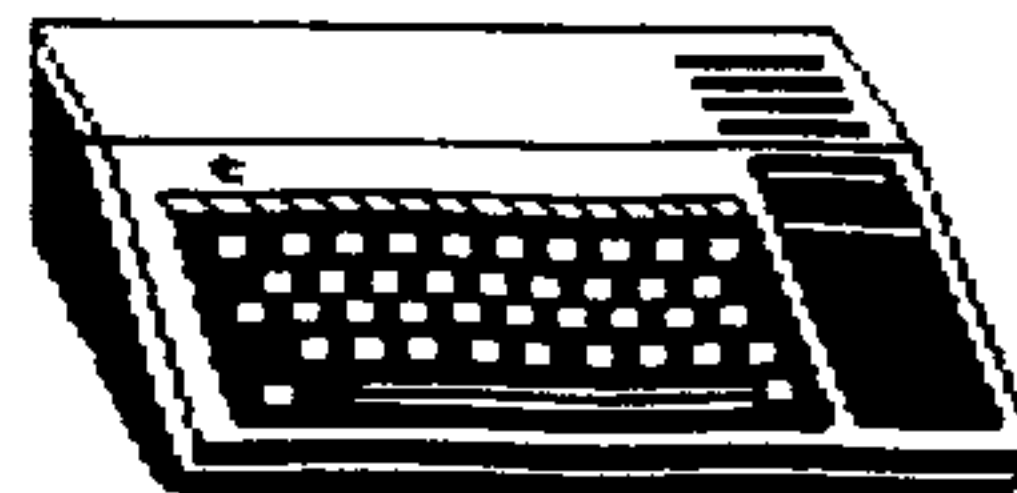


CLEVELAND AREA

TI-99/4A

USER GROUPS

JANUARY 1997



OFFICE	TI-CHIPS	MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Fred Ialacci 941-9397	10-12:00 A.M.
CO-PRESIDENT	Jim Krych 979-9295	N. Royalton
TREASURER	Lin Shaw 235-3912	County Library
MEMBERSHIP	John Parken 331-2830	State Rd. SO. of
	4172 W. 217th St.	Route 82 1/4mi
	Fairview Pk., OH 44126	EVERY THIRD SAT.
SECRETARY	Glenn Bernasek 238-6335	
DISK LIBRARY	Les Kee 238-6938	NOV 16, 1996
TAPE & MODS	John Parken 331-2830	DEC 21, 1996
EDITOR	Harry Hoffman 631-2354	JAN 18, 1997

OFFICE	NORTHCOAST 99'ers	MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Ken Gladyszewski 12163577274	1-4 P.M.
CO-PRESIDENT		Euclidian Room
Treasurer	Frank Jenkins 283-8526	Euclid SQ. Mall
MEMBERSHIP	Martin Smoley 12162571661	E. 250th off I-90
	6149 Bryson	(South)
	Mentor, OH 44060	EVERY THIRD SAT.
SECRETARY	Deanna Sheridan 333-5986	
DISK LIBRARY	Martin Smoley 12162571661	NOV 16, 1996
MODS	Frank Jenkins 283-8526	DEC 21, 1996
HARD COPY	Dick Alden 12162571661	JAN 18, 1997



From the Editor's Desk:



Hi Tiers,

Here we are again and no one Emailed their wants as to a list of members to write to. Frank Jenkins was the exception! He has given me a partial list of those who said OK to publishing their number. It doesn't matter whether your Email address is only attainable through another computer as long as you wish to communicate with other Tiers. The TI List Server does a great job of talking to other TI users. You may not want to subscribe if you seldom use your Email address. You can "Subscribe" & "unsubscribe" as you wish and still not fill up your mailbox. Please, let me know how you feel about our members list!

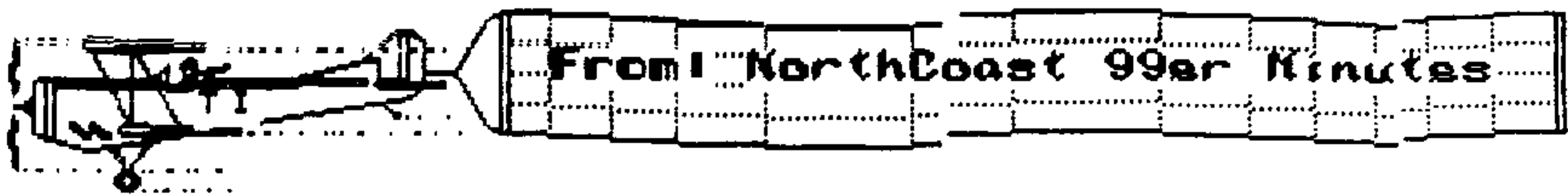
Bruce Rodenkirch & Joe Simmons are regulars on the List Server and give us some great humor downloads! Bruce sent an article that was quite interesting and it works! Especially for Freenet users.

Bruce made up nine new disks and Marty's computer printed the Library update out in a nice format. Thanks Bruce and Marty!

The new MICROpendium came out after I typed up the last newsletter, and it is full of good material. Pick up a copy from Ron Markus at the next meeting!

See you then,





NORTHCOAST NOTES - DECEMBER, 1996

The meeting was called to order by Ken Gladyszewski. Frank was available for the Treasurer's report and there didn't seem to be any old business.

Harry Hoffman had cards to sign for sympathy for Jack Juep and Bud Mills. Marty asked if anyone had the address for Vtech in Pennsylvania, who used to sell a product called "ribbon renew" as requested by one of our out-of-town members.

It was announced that we had received a letter of thanks from the Lima group for our contribution to the 97 MUG conference.

We reviewed the "demo" schedule from the past year and decided to go with it as much as possible for 97. If necessary, changes can be made if people find themselves unable to do a certain month. Following is the tentative schedule for 97:

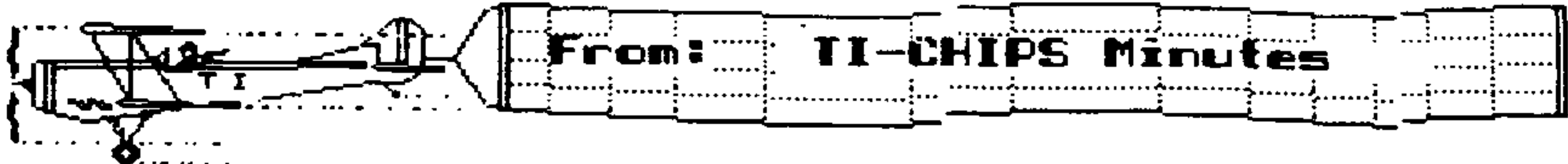
January - Ron Markus will do some more new software titles.
February - Ken Gladyszewski
March - - Harry Hoffman
April - - Les Kee
May - - -
June - - Deanna
July - - Marty Smoley
August - Bruce Rodenkirch
September - Norb Sitter
October - Ron Minadeo
November -
December - Dick Alden

If it makes any difference, officers are scheduled for election in January.

Ron Markus gave a history of the Tunnels of Doom program, showed how the editor could be used to make new games and demoed several of his favorites that could be purchased from him for a very reasonable price. Since he had additional programs, he will again do the January demo in response to our complaint that there wasn't anything "new" for the TI.

Hope your holidays were good and you are all ready to tackle the new year.

Deanna



The December TI-Chips meeting was opened at 10:00 AM by Co-president Fred Ialacci. Lin Shaw gave a favorable Treasurers report.

John Parken, Membership, says we are holding our own. He brought the borrowed TI-99/8 with the RS232 attached, and gave a mini demo at the back of the room.

Les Kee, Library, reported that since 1994 sales of disks has dropped to a new low. (17 disks for all of 1996!)

Fred called for nominations for new officers. Since all present officers were willing to serve another year, and no new nominations, Harry made a motion to keep last years' officers, by acclamation, for another year. Seconded by Virgil Thomason, and passed unanimously!

Ron Markus brought a sympathy card for Bud Mills, who's Mom passed away. We all signed it & Harry took it to North Coast to sign. Ron also will make a new card for Jack Juep, who's wife recently passed, and will scan our signatures onto it. Thanks, Ron. We want them to know we care!

Jim Krych demoed Bruce Harrison's "Artist Show" for the AMS card. Then, after Jim got it to load, (demo demons):-), John Parken demoed "Audio Titler" on the AMS card. This program is NOT fairware, but a commercial product of Bruce Harrison.

There were plenty of goodies for the Christmas party and the meeting seemed too short to get around and talk to everyone. Ada & Ron Markus brought enough food & pop for both clubs. Thanks friends!

There was no drawing as the tickets were not there!

Harry, standing in for Glenn.



<- Remember the all free, Lima Nug
Conference.

May 23rd & 24th - Memorial Day
Weekend!

Go early and help set-up for C. Good & Company!

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Bruce Rodenkirch

Here are a couple of phone numbers to check out if your phone line is noisy. Sometimes I see brackets '{' appear out of nowhere and I am hoping this is line noise and not my RS-232 going bad. If you call xxx-9883 (where xxx is your phone exchange number) you will hear a 1000 Hz tone which will go silent momentarily. If you call xxx-9882 you will hear the tone and then it will go silent so you can listen for crackling on the line.

There are a couple of hamfests coming up:

Feb 9: Mansfield Midwinter Hamfest and Computer Show, 7am to 4pm, at the Richland County Fairgrounds. Take I-71 to US-30, go west and exit north at Trimble Rd to W Longview, go west to Home Rd and North to the Fairgrounds on the right.

Feb 23: Cuyahoga Falls ARC Hamfest at Emidio's Party center at the corner of Bath Road and State Road about a mile north of the Cathedral of Tomorrow Tower. I don't think it is called that anymore but it is the tallest thing for miles. From the Route 8 Expressway coming south take the Route 303 exit but do not turn onto Route 303. Continue South to the Hamfest. If you miss this exit, get off at the Steels Corners Exit and follow it to the State Road intersection and turn left (South) to the hamfest.

Subject: Cats.

Christmas shopping at the mall last night I came across a small 8x10 poster that reads, "All I need to know about life I learned from my cat". The poster bears no signature, or copyright so passing it's content along to you poses no problem.

We have cats, love them all. Clearly they have an attitude about life that often we have wished we could get away with. I pass this along to you with hope it will bring a smile to your face next time you pet YOUR cat.

All I need to know about life I learned from my cat.

- * Life is hard, then you nap.
- * Curiosity never killed anyone except maybe a few hours.
- * When in doubt, cop an attitude.
- * Variety is the spice of life; one day ignore people, the next day annoy them.
- * Climb your way to the top, thats why drapes are there.
- * Never sleep alone when you can sleep on someone's face.
- * Find your place in the sun, especially if it happens to be on that nice pile of warm clean laundry.
- * Make your mark in the world, or at least spray in each corner.
- * When eating out, think nothing of sending back your meal twenty or thirty times.
- * If your not receiving enough attention, try knocking over expensive antique lamps.
- * Always give generously. A small bird or rodent left on the bed tells them, "I care".

Author Unknown

Bruce

PR-BASE

by John Parken

PR-Base: It's been ten years since released by William Warren in 1986. Three years after TI got out of the Home Computer market. In 1988, William Warren said he would no longer support PR-Base and passed along the upkeep of it to Mike Dodd, who changed it's format so the data disks could be read by DM1000 & other TI disk managers. I happen to still use the old format. One reason is I took over as Membership Chairman at TI-Chips. Frank Jenkins, of the NorthCoast 99ers, was using PR-Base and I was keeping track of members by paper & pencil. Frank used the TI-Chips membership list and copied it to PR-Base. Then, he sent me that disk. I have been using that program since 1986.

Frank did the original data screen for keeping track of the membership. He made ONE mistake. The field for the area code in the telephone number was only two characters long. (let me say this about people who complain about something they do not work for or pay no money for! I think they are ungratefull). So, I am not complaining. Frank helped me out in a time when everything was new to me. He also saved me the time of typing in all the data, and I have used the same format for ten years.

When I decided to use a new data base with the zip code +4, I took an old format of Personal Filer and modified it to suit my needs. By using a newly formatted data disk, I cloned an old data base to a new disk with very little work. This gave me the idea to modify the User Group data base and fix my two character field to three characters. What was different about this was I wasn't too sure what would happen to the data that was there already!

With Track Hack, I made up a back-up copy to play with. I used the Create program to change my fields. Then printed my results to the printer. This gave me the coordinates of where the data was on the screen and how many characters long it was. This is the information you need to make your reports.

Upon booting the data base, I found what happened was the data after the place I added the character moved up one character, even out of there field! But, with just a bit of inserting, I had four of my twelve fields fixed. Not a big deal.

Next, let's try the Reports. Oops, missing data again! Not so serious. (Remember the printout of where the fields were and how long they are?) Compare this with the printout of the OLD data base. It was all fixed in no time!

In short, it did not take that long to make the changes I wanted and it sparked my interest in PR-Base. Maybe a "Credit Card in Case of Loss" data base. You know... Credit card number and phone number to call if it gets lost or stolen and address to send a backup letter. I think they charge from \$45.00 to \$75.00 per year for this service to protect your Credit Cards.

Save your money and spend it on your COMPUTER SYSTEM!

John

LOOK

AT THIS!

FEST WEST '97

A TI-99/4A & Geneve 9640 Computer Users Convention

Hosted by: South Bay TI Users Group
In Downtown San Jose, California
At: San Jose Civic Auditorium

Contact Don O'Neil @ (408) 934-0352 or
Visit web site:
<http://www.sonyx.com/wht/ti/fest97.html>

Fair times:

Fri., April 4 - Set-Up 4PM - 8PM
Sat., April 5 - Faire 9AM - 5PM
Sat., April 5 - Packup 5PM - 12AM

Downtown San Jose has plenty to entertain you
with Museums, Art Galleries, Performing Arts
shows. Also, there are plenty of nightlife
activities and a wide variety of eating places.

1997 Ohio MUG Conference

Starts: Fri, May 23 @ 4:00 PM

Ends : Sat, May 24 @ 7:00 PM

The next totally free all TI-99/4A & Geneve Multi
User Group Conference will be at the Lima Campus
of Ohio State University.

There are many motels in the area to suit the
needs of every taste, with many restaurants
close by. More details will be in the news at

LIBRARY UPDATE

By Bruce Rodenkirch
(aa360@acorn.net)

November 1996

Yeah, yeah, I know it says November on the top and this is probably the January 97 issue of the newsletter but it is hard for me to keep track of these things when there are missing months. It also makes more sense to do this when I am still using the 96xxx numbers.

I noted in the TI Chips part of the December newsletter, written by Glenn Bernasek, that the library disks are much appreciated. This came at a good time for me because I was getting discouraged about the lack of interest in the library shown by the Northcoast Group. Other than Norm Sitter, who takes our disks to his Erie UG, it is rare to have anyone withdraw library disks. Everyone seems to be more interested in their clones. However, I can understand that and I must admit that if I had a clone I would probably be more interested in learning how to use it than in the TI. We can't fight progress.

Progress for me is trying to get my Geneve running with a hard drive. Last May at the MUG conference I ordered a SCSI card and bought a used hard drive. Here it is in late December and I am still operating with floppies. It took forever to get the SCSI card and the hard drive I bought evidently is a lemon. I have been promised a hard drive that works and an update on the software before the first of the year so I may still be in business before 1997. It turned out also that I was lucky to have bought the spare color monitor last August because mine went Kaput!!

Here are the new disks:

DISK 96063: [DS/SD]

I gave a DEMO and wrote a newsletter article about how I downloaded the ROCK RUNNER game via the Internet as a text file in TIED format. This disk has the text file I downloaded, (*ROCKTEXT), the archived file I got after decoding it with TIED, (*ROCKARC), and the ROCKRUNNER files. TIED is an encryption program designed to transmit binary files via e-mail. This disk has the TIED program and documentation. Walter Ryder demoed a program (AUTOSPRITE) written by his son and it is on this disk too. I had intended to write documentation for it but just didn't have the time. I'll try to get to it one of these days.

DISK 96064: [DS/SD]

This is one of the Lima disks downloaded at the MUG conference and contains a variety of programs. There are some XB games and utilities which you might enjoy looking at. I found the documentation for DM1000 (DOCPT1 - PT4) which might be enlightening. Some of the files are: 16BITBUSS, APOLLO, CHARPAT, MED/ALERT, MGR1, MGR2, MUSICINT, OCTOBER, PROJECTS, SHOOTSTARS and SHUFFLING.

DISK 96065: [DS/SD]

FONT DUMPER is a Bruce Harrison public domain program which allows those with more modern 24 PIN and CANON BUBBLE JET PRINTERS to use truly unique printing fonts from the sets created and released to Public Domain by Jim Peterson. The INSTRUCT file has all the instructions and descriptions of the files on this disk.

DISK 96066: [DS/SD]

A/B: TEST DESIGNER- I spent too much time trying to figure out this program and I added a README file to help get you started if you would like to give it a try. The second disk is LESSON which is needed by the DESIGNER disk. Use these disk names. They will assist you in setting up tests for students using text, speech, multiple choice etc. question and answer formats along with video tapes. It has a lot of possibilities and I hate to dump it if someone might have a use for it.

DISK 96067: [DS/SD]

From the doc file SOUNDINST: C99 Sound List Instructions-- "This product was made in response to a request from Vern Jensen, of Pasadena, CA. He asked whether it were possible to use the 'sound list' process that's available for Assembly programmers from his C99 code. What we've done in this little Assembly module is to make a very elegant way for C99 programs to incorporate and use Sound Lists. This product is Public Domain software, written by Bruce Harrison. It may be shared freely with anyone without compensation to the author."

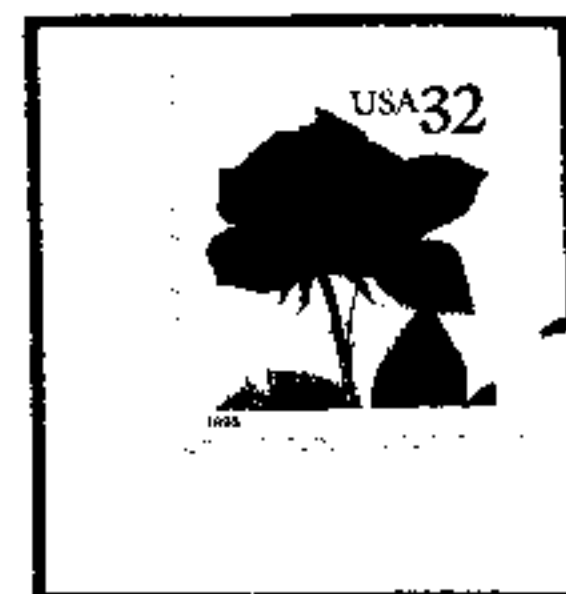
DISK 96068: [DS/SD]

This is a Bruce Harrison disk which will provide: (excerpted from the PRNDOCS file)-- "a quick and easy way to make letterheads on letters using TI-Artist Instances. Given a dot matrix printer and a disk with one or more Instances, you can use this product to put an instance, properly centered, at the top of your letters. There are three versions of the main program on this disk. The one called PRNINST prints in single density graphics on 9-pin printers. PRNINST2 does double density graphics on 9-pin printers, and PRNINST24 does double density graphics on 24-pin printers. (Comment-The INED1 file is an INSTANCE EDITOR which can be used with the following three disks. It allows editing of a TIA instance such as adding text and otherwise modifying the instance.)

DISKS 96069, 96070, 96071: [DS/SD]

FONTS AND BORDERS, VOL 1, 2, 3. These three disks were submitted to the library by Judy Young, of the Akron UG. These are TIA INSTANCES AND FONTS. She got the disks from someone at the MUG conference. I am not a TIA aficionado so if you need help with them please talk to someone like Deanna Sheridan.

Cleveland Area User Groups
% Harry Hoffman
1925 Trowbridge Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44109-1349



Check your expiration date.
This may be your LAST issue!

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

Membership rate is \$15.00/yr, w/library privileges,
\$12.00/yr newsletter only.



Be careful when
going out to
the meetings!!
Old man WINTER
is ruthless!



Looking forward
to this already!!!



NorthCoast
99ers
Meeting Dates
are all set

for the 3rd Saturday of
every month at 1:00 P.M.,
in 1997.

I believe TI-Chips meetings
are also setup. The times
are at 10:00 A.M. The dates
are the same as NorthCoast!