

CLEVELHID BRER TI-99/4 M

USER GROUPS

MRY / JUNE 1999

OFFICE	TI-CHIPS		MEETINGS	OFF1CE	MORTHCOA	ST 99'ers	MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Fred lalacci	941-9397	10-12:00 A.M.	CO-PRESIDENT	Ken Gladyszewsk	1216 357-72	74 1-4 P.M.
CO-PRESIDENT	** OPEN **		M. Royalton	CO-PRESIDENT	(OPEN)		Euclidian Room
TREASURER	Lin Shaw (440	234-4227	County Library	Treasurer	Frank Jenkins	283-8526	Euclid SQ. Mall
MEMBERSHIP	John Parken	331-2830	State Rd. SO. of	MEMBERSHIP	Martin Smoley	12162571661	E.260th off 1-90
	4172 W. 217th St.		Route 82 1/4mi		6149 Bryson		(South)
	Fairview Pk.,	OH 44126	EVERY THIRD SAT.		Mentor, OH 4	4060	EVERY THIRD SAT.
SECRETARY	Glenn Bernasek 238-6335			SECRETARY	Deanna Sheridan 440-979-0041		
DISK LIBRARY	Les Kee	238-6938	JUL 17,1999	DISK LIBRARY	Martin Smoley	1216 257-166	1 JUL 17,1999
TAPE & MODS	John Parken	331-2830	AUG 21,1999	TAPE & MODS	Frank Jenkins	283-8526	AUG 21,1999
EDITOR Harry	& Mina Hoffman	631-2354	SEP 18,1999	HARD COPY	Dick Alden	12162571661	SEP 18,1999





■From the Editor's Desk: 量





Hi TIers,

The TI-MUG'99 turned out better than we expected. Turnout was good and the seminars were great! There was a sad note as Bruce Harrison said he would no longer be writing programs for the TI. Because of all the 3rd party hardware, it is impossible to write ONE program for the TI-99 without writing different versions for special new periferals, such as the AMS. SNUG cards, or the HRD's. This has been an ongoing problem and Bruce says he cannot write for stuff he doesn't have/or need! He has offered to help anyone that needs a Webmaster for their Web page. He has already helped with the new TI-99 newsletter page!

Several 99ers got home from the MUG only to find a "Last issue" of the MICROpendium in their mailboxes! Bummer! John & Laura have been underwriting their NL because lack of subscribers has eaten up their resources to the point of bankrupcy. They do have back issues and disks for sale which may help to pay some of their debts. I believe I have every issue of that fine magazine and wish John and Laura good luck in the future. Thanks for giving us a fine magazine!

More bad news!!! Mike Wright has put his CaDD Electronics up for sale! All the hardware and software to any taker with a reasonable offer! Just when you think all is lost. Tlers are going forward with an on-line newsletter that any Tier can present articles and all can download. There is some finalizing to do! Web pages cost money and so does hard copies for those without internet access. All this has to be worked out and information can be found on the TI-Listserver. I'm sure everyone can find some friend or a library access to get information about the TI99 NL.

Mike Wright will still take care of PC99 users for a while. He will not leave all in the lurch! Mike really needs to 'get a life' saying goes. If this editorial is confusing ... so am I.;-)



by Glenn Bernasek

The May Meeting of the TI-Chips was opened in the small meeting room by Fred Talacci. (This was because of the TIMUG'99 date change, and the large meeting room had already been reserved by another group.) Reading of the April minutes was waived with the exception of a change in the reported TI-Chips' May meeting date. The May meeting date was erroneously recorded to be scheduled for May 21. This error, in the April minutes, was corrected to read May 15, 1999.

Lin Shaw gave the Treasurer's report. Lin reported that the <u>up front</u> expenses for the TINU6'99 has placed a drain on the club's balance. These expenses included a \$100 cash advance to Ada Markus to cover rental and security deposit of Spang Mansion for the Friday, June 11 TIMU6'99 get together and \$100 cash advance to me for the rental of tables to be used at TIMU6'99.

John Parken said the membership reminder letters, which included a SAS envelope, seemed to work better than the post card method. John also handed out a revised membership list. This revised listing included address and phone changes as well as Internet e-mail addresses for II-Chips members. (Thanks John for a job well done.)

Les Kee had no disk library report at this time.

Fred Talacci reported that the Jim Peterson Award plaques have been ordered and they should be delivered well in advance of TIMUG'99.

Planning and preparation for the TIMUG'99 is on schedule. I handed out a list of probable attendees, their affiliation(s), tables requested and demonstrations scheduled. Ada Markus reported that she had purchased the beverages for TIMUG'99. All Ada asked was for help in unloading the cases of pop at Spang Mansion Friday evening and Saturday morning. Carolyn Shaw produced excellent direction signs for TIMUG'99. These signs will be posted at roads leading to Spang Mansion. (Thanks Carolyn for a super job!)

Those in attendance agreed to announce at the Multi User Group session at TIMUG'99 that this will be the last Multi User Group conference to be hosted by the TI-Chips. Although this will be the last conference we will host, the Jim Peterson Achievement Awards will continue to be organized and awarded by the TI-Chips each year.

Harry Hoffman's comments, in the latest issue of the newsletter, regarding the establishment of an electronic newsletter on his web page sparked a lively discussion started by Les Kee. The Chips consensus said the concept was double providing two conditions were met.

- 1. We determine exactly who, in the TI-Chips, does not have Internet access.
- 2. That we provide a complete paper copy of the electronic newsletter to those members in a timely fashion.

From June through August, the North Royalton Library is scheduled to undergo extensive renovations. Therefore, for the safety and security of our equipment, the Chips had been requested to remove all property being stored at the library. (We were prepared to do this anyway to bring our T1-99/4A system to TIMUG'99.) We will be advised by the Librarian if the scheduled August library shutdown for construction will affect our August meeting.

I passed out a copy of the Milwaukee Area User Group (MAUG) e-mailed newsletter. This is an ambitious 28 page tome. Much larger than the newsletter we could or would ever expect to publish.

Fred showed a keyboard he brought in for the Chips to use in the MS-DOS clone demos. It looks like we are on the way to having two demo systems in place at the TI-Chips meetings. (Thanks Fred.)

I said I will check with the library in late June for reserving the small meeting room for our regular group meetings. It was agreed that the small meeting room would handle our requirements and attendance level nicely. It became obvious that we were noticeably under utilizing the large meeting room for our Christmas party and special events.

The TI-Chips will be getting together twice in June. At TIMUG'99 on June 12 and at our regular meeting date on June 19. (We hope as many Chips as possible can make both dates.)

John Parken won this month's 50/50 raffle. Congratulations John.

By Glenn Bernasek

The June meeting of the TI-Chips was opened by yours truly. Fred Ialacci was unable to attend. The minutes from the May meeting were read and accepted. Lin Shaw gave the Treasurer's report. Lin stated that we were able to recoup much of the debt we incurred hosting TIMUG'99. This was done through the food sales and Spang Mansi on security deposit refunds. Lin also said we received \$75 in donations from our guests at TIMUG'99. This included Harry Hoffman's donation of 50 percent of his TIMUG'99 sales to the Chips. Everybody said to extend our sincere thanks to the TIErs who were so generous.

I reported that we received 15 orders for TIMUG'99 videos as of the meeting date and there were at least 3 more orders pending (waiting for receipt of check or money order). I requested Jack Koryta to process an initial 20 sets of the TIMUG'99 videos. Jack reported that he has already started working on the title screens.

John Parken reported that the TI-Chips membership is a solid 18 members. (I renewed my membership at the end of John's report.) John also reported that he had sold out raffle tickets for the Epson 640 lnk Jet printer, won by Jeane Matthews of the SW99ers, by 11:30 AM at the TIMUG'99.

Les Kee said there was no report on the status of the Chips' disk library at this time.

There was a lively discussion on what happened at TIMUG'99 and our general feelings. Harry said he could describe the event in one word, "fantastic." Ada Markus said the pizza seemed to be cut in smaller pieces but the quantity, along with she saidd she provided, was ample enough to serve everyone who stayed for the post-MUG pizza party. Ada also expressed that she was pleasantly surprised how everyone pitched in and cleaned up Spang Mansion. It was the general consensus that TIMUG'99 was a success. However, we agreed that it was the last MUG Conference that The TI-Chips would host.

At this point we discussed Jim Krych's suggestion for a combined Classic Games and Computer Conference tentatively set for the second Saturday of June, 2000. The general opinion was that we were interested in such an endeavor and that the TI-Chins would participate or, at the very least, attend. I explained that this conference would include classic computer groups such as TI-99'4A, Commodore, Atari, Coleco, Timex Sinclair, Radio Shack CoCo, Apple II to name a few. I also said the Tlers would require at least 1000 sq. feet of floor space to accommodate our user groups and vendors. This type of conference, although not pure TI, would enable us to continue the face-to-face, personal contact we have enjoyed at MUGs and Faires around the country. I said I would advise Jim Krych that we were interested.

There was also a brief discussion on the creation of electronic magazines to replace MICROpendium. One such effort is the newly organized WW99 (World Wide 99ers) magazine. Access to this publication is still being worked out. (Although it will not be an exact replacement for MICROpendium, WW99 will definitely be better than nothing.)

I gave a scanned and cropped picture demo on my Compaq Presario 1235 notebook. I showed the IIMUG'99 pictures I had scanned and cropped for posting on Harry Hoffman's web site. The Chips in attendance picked the pictures they wanted to appear on Harry's page. I explained scanning was an easy and very enjoyable process and that cropping the pictures, to show only the important scenes, saved a large amount of memory and minimized screen scrolling to view the picture.

Ron Markus won the 50:50 raffle drawing. Congratulations Ron.

(One final note. I will not be at the July meeting. I have asted Harry Hoffman to take notes for me. Please be kind to Harry. (GRIN))



FOURTH OF JULY 111 BINGERELY HOPE EVERY

Review of the MUG99 TI Show

by Charles Good

This event was sponsored by the two Cleveland TI user groups on June 11-12, 1999. The location was the beautiful Spang Mansion just south of Hopkins International Airport. The building was in a wooded area and we could see rabbits hopping by and were told that deer lurked among the nearby trees. The Cleveland groups went all out to give everybody a good time. They almost emptied their treasury paying for table and chair rental, building rental, and free food. There was a free buffet Friday evening and a great after-the-show Saturday evening pizza party. Attendees didn't have to pay for anything. There was no admission fee and no fee to those who wanted tables. I was told that 58 people put their names on the sign in sheet.

One of the major reasons for attending this kind of event is to meet old friends. I met folks like Dave Szippl and Jim Krych whom I hadn't seen in several years and thought had left the TI community. Lots of people were literally giving away surplus TI equipment, and thankfully most of it was taken by those who could use it. I brought a very full carload of stuff to give away, donated by members of the Lima User Group who now rely on PC99 for most of their 99/4A activity.

There were two seminar rooms and sometimes there were simultaneous seminars, so I couldn't attend everything. However all the seminars are on video tape, available postpaid by sending \$10 to:

Glenn Bernasek Secretary - TI-Chips 13246 Harper Road Strongsville, OH 44136-3942

G8Basics€aol.com

Bruce Harrison entitled his seminar "The end of an era" meaning that he has decided not to write any more software for the 99/4a. He is doing this, he says, because there are too many different kinds of hardware incompatibilities and he is unable to test all possible hardware combinations. As an example he cited my Micropendium review of his II Bingo program. In this review I stated that the program's speech doesn't work on my Geneve with a Rave speech card. Well, Bruce has neither a Geneve nor a rave speech card. Other examples he cited are: the initialization of chr\$143 in some menu programs, the failure of boot tracking to work with several different hardware configurations, the fact that his software seems to work on some Geneves and not others, it works on some SCSI cards and not others, Geneves, Geneves fool his software into thinking there is an AMS card in the system, there is new German hardware which he doesn't have.

Bruce declared that ALL HIS SOFTWARE IS NOW PUBLIC DOMAIN except his midi software. This is available for a price from Richard Bell (Swim4home@aol.com) who will also be SELLING REAL MIDI MASTER CABLES. These are important announcements!

One of the seminars was the "MUG Conference" moderated by Glan Bernassek. This was a discussion of user group survival. Groups represented at this seminar included Southwest 99ers, Western New York, Chicago, CADD, Milwaukee, Lima Ohio, Greater Akron, and West Penn. Discussion included posting newsletters on the internet and archiving old software on CD rom in PC99 format or some other way to preserve it forever. Glen announced that there would NOT be another NUG conference hosted by the Cleveland groups. This one emotionally and financially wore them out. (I personally know exactly how that works. That is why I am not doing another NUG conference in Lima. At the 1998 Lima NUG conference I and one other person were the only ones there from the Lima area!) Jim Krych (jwkrych@nznet.net) invited all of us to a "Classic game and computer show" at a nearby armory already scheduled for June 18-11, 2000 sponsored by the local Atari user group. The event will be free because it is only costing \$50 to rent the armory for 2 days due to Jim Krych's military connections. This is GOOD NEWS! I plan to attend. It was announced that the NEXT CHICAGO TI FAIRE will be November 6 at the Evanston Public Library. This is also GOOD NEWS!

Mike Wright did not have official seminar time but he did demonstrate PC99 and the latest version of his Cyc at his table. He told me that he may put out an interum release of PC99 (version 5.2?) which will include the John Guyon RS232 rom and disk controller rom. The all native Windows 9.x version of PC99 is still not ready for release, although it has been improved since its showing at Chicago last year. This PC99 version is currently very slow on a Pendium 188 machine.

Lew King demonstrated how the West Penn user group's web site can be read using Jeffery Brown's 214-80 software running on a 99/4A. This software emulates 80 columns on the 99/4A screen and seems to run much more smoothly (meaning it doesn't crash as often) than did Term 80.

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I (Charles Good) demonstrated the TI74 and its PC Interface. This hand held basic programmable calculator is smaller than but functionally almost identical to the CC40. It uses a basic that is almost identical to TI extended basic. You can purchase a very reliable \$10 cassette interface or \$45 PC interface that lets you load and save software to and from a cassette tape or the hard drive of your IBM computer. The TI74 is fully compatible with all hexbus peripherals. Unlike the CC40, you can still purchase the TI74 and its cassette or PC interfaces new. These TI74 products are available on the internet from www.hightechsolutions.com or telephone (360)653-1570.

The show ended with the presentation of the Jim Peterson achievement awards. II Chips announced that it WILL CONTINUE to sponsor these awards in the coming years. This years recipients were:

TI-99/4A Software Bruce Harrison

T1-99/4A Hardware System 99 User Group (SMUG)

Geneve 9640 Tim Tesch

User Groups Represented:

Chicago User Group; Computer Users of Erie; Hoosiers User Group; Lima User Group; Mid-South 99 User Group; Milwaukee Area User Group; North Coast 99ers & TI-Chips of Cleveland; West Penn 99ers.

Subject: TI99: PDF files from: Rottencatl@aol.com Reply-To: ti99@TheRiver.com

To: ti99@TheRiver.com

Hello Folks,

I know there are those who will consider this off-topic, but there are those who may find this valuable. Just yesterday, I got Mike Wright's compilation of my Art of Assembly series, all 83 of them, in one .odf file.

Quickly discovered a problem with the Adobe Acrobat Reader that was supplied with my PC, in that it could not handle the new .pdf file at all! (Just error reports, no text displayed.) I'd also had trouble with pdf files from other sources, so decided that maybe the version of the Acrobat reader (V 2.1) needed an update.

Found the adobe site, and downloaded Version 4.0. A BIGGIE!! FIVE MEGABYTES!! It was of course a self-installing .exe file, which worked, although a bit strangely. Now, however, I can read all that stuff I wrote over the years, all in one huge file, very nicely but together by Mike Wright. THANKS, MIKE!

I'm posting this just to warn those who download Art of Assembly in .pdf that really old versions of the Acrobat Peader won't handle it.

Best Regards, Bruce

[Editor Note] for those not on the T1-List Server, Don OMeil has many PDF files at his ftp site. The address of this site is:

ftp.whtech.com

Date: Mon, 28 Jun 1999 From: Garyfitz99@aol.com

Hiya Harry,

Yes, I remember you and Mina. In fact, I was hoping to get out to Ohio and reacquaint myself with you and you cadre of "The Fighting 99ers" (grin). Alas, I was waiting for a large amount of money that did not materialize on schedule and, for the 3rd year in a row, I missed the MUG! But I'm not missing Chicago in November or someone will be sleepin' widda fishes! (Used my best mafianise but I'm descendent of Irish Catholic so you have to, in your mind, swirl in a Boston accent. Picture a little guy and say "mayfia" instead of "Mafia". Just doesn't have that threatening a tone to it, do it? sigh))

Way back four years ago I remember you persuaded Charlie Good to let you take the Lima Library back to your room. You were frantically copying disk after disk on your CorComp Micro Expansion System. I was so impressed by that little black box I purchased one myself. It now resides in Florida with me mother collecting dust. I gotta get down there before she throws a hissy fit and chucks it in the dumpster!

Mina, as I remember, was so cool. Her demeanor seemed to suggest, Yea, I'm here with my semi-geek husband who's quite lovable but completely out of his mind with this TI stuff but hey, I could be home baby-sitting the grandkids, making peanut butter and Mellomar sandwiches... This ain't so bad. A weekend away is a weekend away -- Am I not right?

Ah! And I remember you missed one year, devoting yourself to science and furthering the career of some surgeon by letting them *open your chest and roto-router your circulatory system* Arrghhh!!! Well, it worked and I'm glad you recovered and the surgeon was able to keep up the payments on his RR.

I dunno. I think you should have called me. I would've pulled out my Roto-Zip, done the job in half the time and charged you half the price. License you say? Neigh verily I retort. Three words. Experience, experience! Really! You should see some of the scroll work I've done on the ea ves of the house here! I've got the touch ... seriously... (vbg). Some wanker of a surgeon is gonna give me the treatment someday, probably some guy to whom I explained the difference between a red corpuscle and a polymorphonucleated leucocyte when he was a wet-behind-the-ears intern — and I betcha he gave me some crap about it like, "That's not what Professor Snafu said!". Do I have a problem with authority figures? Mah! Not one. Honest(q).

Back to TI Land. I really wish I had been at Cleveland. I wanted to promote the SNUG cards that are mentioned on the FI List Server from time to time. Michael Becker from Germany does all the work and they are very well done. They're pretty just to look at! Excellent craftsmanship. Dan Eicher's very big on them also. He's much more an authority than me. I think he has every SNUG card that's been made. It is worth a look. He has a SNUG FAQ file he can email to you and it will probably show up on someone's web site. Good filler for newsletter material. (Wink, wink, nudge, nudge) I believe there was a demo at the MUG Conference. It seems Michael's the only one, unless what's-his-name -- Richard Bell, I think -- finishes the deal to get *all* of Cecure's inventory of TI/Myarc hardware from Don Walden, ...Michael's the only one producing new cards based on old designs with better quality control and extra features. One example is the BwG Disk Controller card which is much like the CorComp card. He includes the ability to date and time stamp files with this card. Maybe that's of no interest to some but he builds a new piece of hardware for the TI and in this time that's something special to me. Tony Knerr is writing software for the (I believe) HSGPL, a P-GRAM - like card that opens more access to memory banks of the 99-4/A. (It's more complicated than that but I can't explain it all as my eyelids are drooping.)

He (Michael) needs to sense some real interest from this side of the pond before he makes a commitment to continue his work. He has a few cards left in stock but some are all gone. He has to order parts for 15 - 20 of the EVPC and the SGCPU printed circuit boards. Any less and they become too expensive. I don't know if you know what I'm writing about here or care: I just thought I'd pass on information that sounds more like good news and progress than the bad news and all-is-lost news !'ve seen on the list server. I didn't mean to get off on a rant.

The beach as in "Gary... From The Beach", is a moniker I used in articles I'd write. Well, I lived in one of 20 apartments squeezed on a postage stamp sized lot on the Connecticut shore of Long Island Sound, Burwell's Beach to be precise. Lived there IM years, cleaned the junk off the property (abandoned boats, tires, general garbage), brought in loam, planted a small garden, then a higger one, then a higger one. I built raised heds from cinder blocks left over from repairs and planted "more" gardens. I cleaned the beach myself using up a series of rakes (I volunteered — it was good exercise).

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hybridize them and came up with some very unusual flowers as far as sunflowers are concerned — and other plants to attract Gold Finches and other birds rare for the seashore. I was over there the other day to transplant some of our marden and found Barn and Cliff Swallows had nested and hatched broods. I hope they're near ready to fly as the buildings are to be demolished to make way for high-priced condos. Condos! The Connecticut shoreline absolutely needs more high priced condos... MOT! I'm pretty sure that was the last little bit of Connecticut shoreline where the average couple with an average income had a shot at sharing the natural wonders of the Sound. It's too bad to see it go. My landlord was very kind to me. He let the rent slide the times my MS put me down. He didn't raise the rent from 1994 on when I was forced to admit I couldn't work dependably anymore. I think he would have been happy to keep the place running as long as he could. But there were family pressures — put bluntly, his brothers and sisters want the money from the sale of the property and they didn't want to pay Mark to manage the place anymore. Life is change and what is lost here maybe will be gained in Heaven. (Oh,Oh! I wax philosophic. As they say in "Alpiner", Yikes!!!) I must admit in the presence of the lord, Higher Power, whatever He or She is called these days, I'd like to be there when the first Nor'easter hits the \$300,000 condos and Long Island Sound starts coming in the bathroom window (I'm Sooo Rad!!).

We now live in Dave's great old Victorian house with huge rooms, high ceilings, a fireplace, a porch, and an anteroom — it's a great old place. There's so much to do and it's all within a mile. There's all the libraries, laboratories — I get in 'cause I used to teach med students the real world of clinical chemistry, hematology, and microbiology — and art galleries where you can see a real live Van Gogh or Salvatore Dalli. There's a minor league baseball team that plays in Yale Bowl where you can see Yale football games in the fall. (Ok,Ok... they'll never come close to winning a national championship but the tradition. Even the bleachers are Ivy League!!)

There's 2 symphonies and countless smaller classical groups. There's Toad Place, a Roll and Roll venue where tomorrow's star get started and bygone stars show from time to time. There's the New Haven Green summer jazz series where you can see Big Bands like Glenn Miller or Duke Ellington or more post war stars like Sonny Rollins and Dave Brubeck. There is always someone playing music for free or nearly so. One of the best audio stores in the country. Take Five, takes in used equipment and sells it cheap so if you always wanted a Macintosh tube preamplifier, wait and it will show up there. I could be busy every day and night if I chose so. New Haven wasn't huilt on manufacturing; it sprang up around Yale. When hard times hit New England, the effect was not so great in New Haven and though it has it's urban problems, it retains a hit of class and drive.

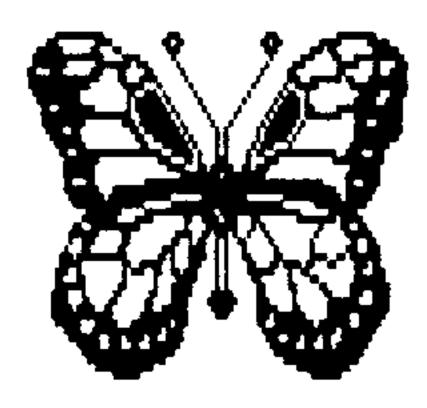
Vell, Harry, I guess you're probably seeing double now and I've overflowed your RAM. I'll sign off now. I guess you know my recent life story more than any other Tier alive. I hope you go to Chicago and I hope I can make it to. We'll raise our plasses and give a toast to dim Peterson. Hi to Mina and to all other Tiers. Which UG are you with and what's your URL for your web site. I'll log in a pay you a cyber visit.

Gary... (Formerly) From The Beach
Gary Fitzgerald garyfitz99@aol.com

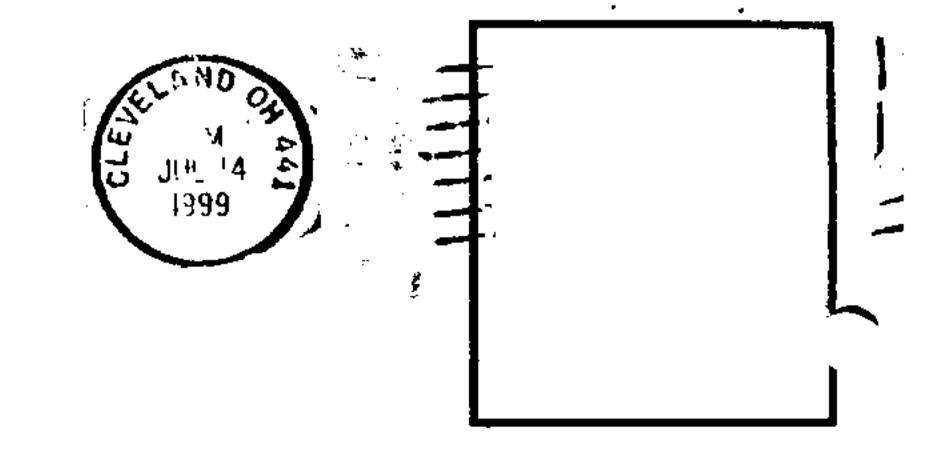




Nay your
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Cleveland Area User Groups % Harry Hoffman 3985 Trombridge Ave. Cleveland, OH 44109-1349



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

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

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

TI-CHIPS MEETING DATES

(North Royalton Library)

DATE WHERE Time

JULY 17, 1999 LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM 10 AM to 12 NOON

(The following dates and rooms have been reserved for August 1999 thru July 2000. Kitchen and Large Screen TV have been requested to be made available for our meetings.)

SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM AUGUST 21, 1999 10 AM to 12 NOON SEPTEMBER 18, 1999 OCTOBER 16, 1999 NOVEMBER 20, 1999 LARGE CONF. ROOM Christmas Party) DECEMBER 18, 1999 JANUARY 15, 2000 SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM FEBRUARY 19, 2000 MARCH 18, 2000 APRIL 15. 2000 MAY.20, 2000 JUNE 17, 2000 JULY 15, 2000

(Make sure a hard copy of this schedule is made available for those who are not on the Internet.)