Welcome to the age of the computer in the home! Future meetings will be held the third thursday of each month at 7 P.M. in Room 200 Turner Hall, ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY, Normal, Il. Future dates include March 21, April 18, May 16, and June 20, 1985.

%%%%

The program for March will consist of:

*   Our normal business meeting.

*   Question and answer session.

*   Spreadsheet demo by Galen Gonwer.

%%%% PRESIDENTS NOTES %%%%

At last we are getting some participation. Since the January meeting, we have gotten new members for the library, hardware, and basic education committees. The help is much appreciated. As a part of the hardware committee, Sid Smart will be giving us a hardware review every month. To get more of the group involved, there is a list included with the newsletter of topics you would be willing to demonstrate at a meeting. Please fill it out and either bring it to the next meeting or send it to our P.O. Box.

We still need help with the newsletter. Bill Hull will continue as Editor for only a short time, so we are really desperate for a replacement. In addition to an editor we are always looking for someone to submit articles. Articles can be about any computer related topic that you feel would be of interest to the membership. Just bring an article to the meeting and we will publish them. (YOU DON'T NEED A WORD PROCESSOR! A TYPEWRITERR WORKS JUST AS WELL!)

As a follow up to Sherwood Smith's fine presentation on Personal Record Keeping, I have included a comparison of PRK and Navarone's Data Base Management packages. The comparison is from the FEB 85 HUGers Newsletter of the Hoosier User Group.

Out of room. Hope to see everyone at the March 21 meeting.

            Brian McFeeters

PAST DUE TAPES AT THE LIBRARY...   Several months ago I memtioned that
many people have checked tapes out from the library but have failed to
return them when they were due. We have tried to impress upon people the
fact that tapes and disks are checked out for only one month and should
be returned in person or by mail the following month. We have even asked
everyone to check their libraries for club tapes and return them as soon
as possible. The fact remains that we still have many tapes checked out
and, as of this month, we will begin printing a list of all members
holding overdue tapes. In addition, we will no longer be able to offer
club privlidges to anyone holding a tape or disk over two month. We
don't like being hardnosed but we must take action in the interest of the
club as a whole. List below is our current overdue list:

	NAME	TAPE NO.	MONTHS PAST DUE
1	SAM HAZLETON	G012.G1	13 MONTHS.
2	DAVID BOST	000-041	12 MONTHS.
3	DAVID BOST	000-042	12 MONTHS.
4	DAVID OTTE	009.G1	12 MONTHS.
5	DOUG JENNINGS	G007.G1	12 MONTHS.
6	ROGER BEELER	G023.G1	12 MONTHS.
7	DAVID ENGLE	001	12 MONTHS.
8	DAVID ENGLE	601.1	12 MONTHS.
9	DEL ERNST	G016.1G1	12 MONTHS.
10	ED PAYNE	G020.G1	12 MONTHS.
11	ED PAYNE	G030.G1	12 MONTHS.
12	JIM MCGOVERN	E006.1	12 MONTHS.
13	JIM MCGOVERN	MICRO BARTENDER	12 MONTHS.
14	BOB BRANDKAMP	G039.1	11 MONTHS.
15	BOB BRANDKAMP	E005.1	11 MONTHS.
16	STEPHEN VOLZ	WP001.1	11 MONTHS.
17	STEPHEN VOLZ	G021.1	11 MONTHS.
18	BARRY DEMBO	G006.1	08 MONTHS.
19	BARRY DEMBO	G008.1	08 MONTHS.
20	DALE TIMM	E017.1	06 MONTHS.
21	DONALD REVELLE	E011.1	04 MONTHS.
22	SUSAN GRUEL	G036.1	03 MONTHS.
23	SUSAN GRUEL	G032.1	03 MONTHS.
24	JAMES YOUNG	G037.1	03 MONTHS.
25	JAMES YOUNG	G031.1	03 MONTHS.
26	GARY CALDWELL	WP002.1	02 MONTHS.
27	GARY CALDWELL	G028.1	02 MONTHS.

In additional to the tapes mentioned above the following tapes are
totally UNaccounted for. Please check your personal library and return
any of the tapes you can. The unaccounted for tapes are:

EDUCATION 1.1, 3.1, 8.1, 10.1, 12.1, 13.1, 14.1, 15.1
MUSIC   2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 7.1
GAMES   14.1,17.1,18.1, 19.1, 22.1, 25.1 26.1, 29.1, 33.1, 40.1
          41.1, 42.1,43.1, 44.1, 45.1, 46.1, 47.1.

Remember, your 1985 dues need to be paid by April 1 to remain an active member. Dues are $15.00 per year. They can be paid at our meetings or sent to our P.O. BOX.

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At last months meeting we decided to try something new. We will set aside some time for anwsering (if possible) your questions about hardware and software. This could be educational for everyone so bring some questions with you to the meeting.

There are two other places to get answers to your questions.

  (1) Texas Instruments:

     1-800-842-2737 for non-technical questions

     1-806-741-2663 for technical questions

     I believe their hours are 8-4 Monday thru Friday.

  (2) Amnion Helpline:

     1-415-753-5581   9-3 Pacific time MON-SAT

     Or send a SASE to: Dr. Guy-Stefan Romano
                     Amnion Helpline
                     116 Carl Street
                     San Francisco, CA 94117

     Dr.Romano is very knowledgeable. There is no charge from him.

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TI has issued a license for SunWare Ltd. to produce the EXTENDED BASIC cartridge. I have seen it advertised in the Unisource catalog for $69.95. It is supposed to have the same features as TI's cartridge.

Also, the 99/4A National Assistance Group(advertised in HCM) is offering EXTENDED BASIC for $59.95 if you join. Their dues are $10.00 per year.

The address is : 99/4A NATIONAL ASSISTANCE GROUP
                 National Headquarters
                 BOX 290812
                 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33329

                 Attn: Membership Division

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Several months ago, I mentioned a screen dump that would work with Sketch Pad. The cost is $26.95 and requires 32K with either Extended Basic, Editor/Assembler, or Mini-Memory. It is called DFX-PRINT V1.2.

The address is : DATA FLEX SOFTWARE
                 4420E 100N
                 MARION, INDIANA 46952

This is a partial list of companies that sell or make TI related hardware, software, and magazines. The list is not intended as an endorsement of their products. Parts of the list were taken from a list written by Norm Spector in the Feb85 newsletter of the Manasota Users Group.

BACH CO.
760 SAN ANTONIO RD.   PALO ALTO, CA 94043
GENERAL DISTRIBUTOR   1-800-227-8292

COR-COMP CORP.
1255 NORTH TUSTIN AVE.   ANAHEIM, CA 92807
SPECIAL EQUIPMENT   1-714-630-2903

DHEINS COMPUTER SALES
7 WEST AIRLINE HIGHWAY   WATERLOO, IA 50701
GENERAL DISTRIBUTOR   1-319-236-3861

FOUNDATION COMPUTING
74 CLAIRE WAY   TIBURON, CA 94920
SPECIAL EQUIPMENT   1-415-388-3840

HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE
P.O. BOX 5537   EUGENE, OR 97405
PUBLISHER MAGAZINE   1-503-485-8796

MICROCOMPENDIUM
P.O. BOX 1343   ROUND ROCK, TX 78680
PUBLISHER MAGAZINE   1-512-255-1512

MICROCOMPUTERS CORP.
34 MAPLE AVE. , BOX 8   ARMONK, NY 10504
GENERAL DISTRIBUTOR   1-914-273-6480

MYARC INC.
P.O. BOX 140   BASKING, NY 07920
SPECIAL EQUIPMENT   1-201-766-1700

NAVARONE INDUSTRIES
510 LAWRENCE EXPRESSWAY , #800   SUNNYVALE, CA 94086
SOFTWARE   1-408-985-2932

TENEX COMPUTER CORP.
P.O. BOX 6578   SOUTH BEND, IN 46660
GENERAL DISTRIBUTOR   1-800-348-2778

TEX COMP.
P.O. BOX 33084   GRANADA HILLS, CA 91344
GENERAL DISTRIBUTOR   1-818-366-6631

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS SER. CENTER
515 W. ALGONQUIN RD.   ARLINGTON HTS., IL 60005
AREA REPAIR CENTER   1-312-437-5660

TRITON PRODUCTS CO.
P.O. BOX 8123   SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94128
GENERAL DISTRIBUTOR   1-800-227-6900

UNISOURCE ELECTRONICS
P.O. BOX 64240   LUBBOCK, TX 79464
GENERAL DISTRIBUTOR   1-800-858-4580

PERSONAL RECORD KEEPING & NAVARRONE'S DATA BASE MANAGEMENT

by Don Donlan

What I intend to accomplish in this article is a comparison that will give you some idea of the things to look for when deciding on a data base management tool for use in your record keeping. As most of you know I have been using the TI Personal Record Keeping cartridge for some time, but now Navarone Industries has come out with a new cartridge and diskette package called Data Base Management. Following are points of comparison to be considered if/when you want to invest in this kind of software for your needs.

PERSONAL RECORD KEEPING (PRK)	DATA BASE MANAGEMENT (DBM)
REQUIRED HARDWARE:	
PRK works solely within the console's memory, more precisely using about 10K of memory to store your data.	DBM uses both console and 32K memory so you need to have both memory expansion and a disk drive. Data uses 24K.
DATA RECORD:	
Maximum would be 15 fields of 15 characters each (165 bytes). Scientific notation may be used. Number of all records is determined by 10K divided by size of one record. Record definition is stored with data under one file name in PROGRAM format that can only be accessed after conversion. Records retrieved by number only.	Maximum of 255 characters; size/number of field(s) limited only by 255 record limit. Total number of records is determined by disk space available. Separate SETUP and DATA files are used used to define/store your records in a DISPLAY/FIXED format. Then other programs can easily read these records. Record key(s) must be chosen in SETUP.
SORT FEATURES:	
Sorts only one field at a time using BASIC routine that is very slow. It can perform mathematical transformations to calculate new data fields.	May read up to 6 fields in single sort using an ASSEMBLY routine that is very fast by comparison. No transformation of data, even on printout can be done.
PRINTOUT OF DATABASE:	
Report format or page(record) format are your only choices. No totals. Personal Report Generator cartridge lets you define up to 127 characters per report line (compressed mode).	Records can be written with great deal flexibility; headings/totals possible. Maximum print width of 80 characters means that report lines are not as flexible to define.
EASE OF USE:	
PRK is fully menu driven, easy to use in a fixed screen display. The name of the field is used to prompt for the data. Field name is limited to 10 characters. No help prompts used. You can add new fields only with the use of Personal Report Generator. But only until 15 field maximum is reached.	DBM requires VERY CAREFUL reading of the user manual. There are multiple uses of FCTN keys which aren't obvious to a new user. Field prompts are not limited, except by screen size. Added help text available. New fields may be added without loss of data; new SETUP must be generated to access it.

I am very hard pressed to say which one is better because the plusses and minuses of both systems tend to balance one another out. The obvious choice is DBM for the large database user. For the occasional user, or one who keeps a lot of smaller lists, then PRK would be my recommendation; it doesn't requires as much of the user. And, for me, the math transformations make PRK unique. DBM, on the other hand, would be best suited for the advanced or full-time data base user who is looking for a tool to streamline their recordkeeping requirements and provide them with an easy means of building data files that can be used in more advanced programming applications. Neither system meets my 'ideal', but both have some very useful features worth your consideration.

This is a financial report for the club's income and expenses from June 1983 to December 1984. It was prepared by Roy Breedlove.

1983

(JUNE THRU DECEMBER)

INCOME:

MEMBERSHIP @ $10.00 each	$350.00	
ASSESSMENTS FOR LIBRARY & EQUIPMENT	194.50	
ADVERTISING	0.00	
INTEREST INCOME	0.15	
TOTAL INCOME		$544.65

EXPENSES:

POSTAGE	120.00	
RENT	20.00	
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	20.00	
EQUIPMENT & LIBRARY	223.18	
P.O. BOX RENTAL	15.00	
CHARGE FOR CHECKS	19.15	
TOTAL EXPENSES		417.33

NET INCOME		$127.32

1984

(JANUARY THRU DECEMBER)

INCOME:

MEMBERSHIP @ $10.00 each	$950.00	
SALES TO MEMBERS:		
CASSETTE TAPES	3.50	
FORTH MANUALS	15.00	
ADVERTISING	61.00	
INTEREST INCOME	9.53	
TOTAL INCOME		$1039.03

EXPENSES:

POSTAGE	270.00	
RENT	0.00	
BANK CHARGES	28.00	
EQUIPMENT & LIBRARY	490.91	
P.O. BOX RENTAL	26.00	
CHARGE FOR CHECKS	13.07	
FORTH MANUALS	15.00	
LOGO CONTEST	10.00	
ANNIVERSARY REFRESHMENTS	27.63	
TOTAL EXPENSES		880.61

NET INCOME		$158.42

CAN YOU DEMONSTRATE ?
    - Purchased software
    - Program from a book
    - Program you have written
    - Hardware (printer,disk drive,etc.)

CAN YOU SHARE PROGRAMMING TIPS ?
    - Editing
    - User friendly techniques
    - Graphic or display tricks
    - Debugging approaches
    - Sorting methods

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT A GOOD COMPUTER BOOK OR MAGAZINE ARTICLE YOU
HAVE READ ?

CAN YOU EXPLAIN SOME OF THE ENHANCED FEATURES OF EXTENDED BASIC ?

        SHARE YOUR INFORMATION WITH US!!!

    * Indicate below a topic you would be interested in presenting at
      a MICRO meeting.
    * List your name and phone number.
    * A member of the program committee will contact you.

****

◻ _____(any unlisted topic)
◻ Printer (features,cost,how to program)
◻ Disk drive
◻ Extended basic features :
    ◻ Input and display anywhere on screen
    ◻ "ON ERROR" - a user friendly statement
    ◻ "CALL SAY" and the speech synthesizer
    ◻ Compact programming using multiple statement lines
    ◻ _____(other extended basic topic)
◻ Purchased software demonstration_____(name of program)
◻ Word processing
◻ Spreadsheet
◻ Utility
◻ User friendly programming
◻ Graphics programming
◻ Debugging techniques
◻ Book or magazine review
◻ Programming sound or music
◻ Mistakes to avoid :
    ◻ Buying hardware
    ◻ Bad software
    ◻ Programming errors
◻ _____(anything else)

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NAME _____

PHONE _____

MID ILLINOIS COMPUTER RESOURCE ORGANIZATION
P.O. BOX 766
Bloomington, Il. 61701-0766

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*          The MID ILLINOIS COMPUTER RESOURCE ORGANIZATION                *
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