

The flying itself is excellent, as the plane is both stable and responsive to the controls, always a winning combination in a fighter plane. Oh, did I mention that you are flying in crowded skies? Yes, you have to see and avoid, or shoot down numerous other aircraft, as well as barrage balloons, and the Eiffel Tower. One of the many missions you can choose is to shoot down those barrage balloons that have been spotting artillery for the Huns as they bombard our Doughboys in the trenches. You can also go hunting for the Red Baron himself (vicarious Snoopy), or just cruise around shooting the 2-seater Albatross observer planes that are trying to get maps of the Allied trenches for an assault. The only navigation aids you have are pilotage and a map that always orients itself with you at the center, until you call it up. The plane doesn't fly very fast though, so you won't move much unless you fly for hours looking at the map. It is possible to fly off the edge of the world, as I discovered after an extremely long chase after an Albatross. When this happens, you lose all your Kill Points, because you must turn off the machine and restart the program.

The program simulates aerobatic flight as well as any I have seen, only limited by the speed of the machine on screen updates. This can get annoying when involved in a hot and heavy dogfight, but the maneuvers that you can do are limited only by your imagination and the real airplane's capabilities. I have done barrel rolls, snap rolls, loops, spins, and one passable axial roll. I have also crashed numerous times trying to do something the airplane can't do, like a half-snap out of a loop (Snap Immelman Turn), or a Cuban Eight. But the bird is tough, I have never crashed from structural failure due to over stress. I did lose a wing to flak, and had my tail literally shot off during dogfights. The really tricky part of flying though is not flying, otherwise known as landing. I have crashed the simulator several times by flaring to land too high, and snap rolling into the ground. This causes your game to end, so don't do it. (That's easy to say, but hard to do. I crashed three times during the refresher run I made this afternoon to freshen up my impressions of the two programs, all snap rolls into the ground on landing.) As you may have noticed, I really like this program, because it simulates the kind of flying that I learned to fly for: visual, seat-of-the-pants flying where you see the ground from a lofty perch. I give the program a 4.5 out of 5. Drawbacks are the edge-of-the-world bug, and the screen update problem that can cause over control.

## FOR SALE

Corcomp 9900 Micro-Expansion system. Contains a 32K memory expansion, an RS232 for printer and modem output, and a double sided, double density disk controller (reads and writes 1440 sector diskettes). Stand alone drive available if needed. \$150.  
 Amdek 40 column color monitor. \$85.  
 Bare Peripheral Expansion Box. \$40.  
 Call Walter Pearson at 943-2439.

## THE FRENCH CONNECTION

Hello and welcome again to another edition of the FRENCH CONNECTION.

First, please help me welcome Mattie Bush among our circle of Chairpersons. For several months now she has manned our registration table at the entrance of the INFOMART meeting room. She was enthusiastically voted in as our club's first registration chairperson at our last Executive Committee Meeting. Her spirit and dedication are models from which we can all draw.

Summer. Vacation to far distant lands. Temperatures above the century mark. Reruns of most TV programs. Everything between July and September seems to be conspiring to keep you away from your trusted TI. Who knows? This article might still be sitting in someone's mailbox by the time next month runs along. To those who have stayed here though (maybe, like me, their boss won't let them take vacations), I have included at the end of this article a small original puzzle created on the 99/4. In fact if you do plan to go to the beach or whatever, you might take it along with you. Perhaps it will serve as a reminder of what we have lined up the next few months. First, as announced at our last INFOMART meeting, we will raffle the club's ramdisk. The rules are very simple:

- 1) You must be a current member of DTIHCG.
- 2) You may enter as many times as you wish.
- 3) You need not be present to win.
- 4) Each entry or chance is \$1.00 payable at time of entry.
- 5) Entries will be accepted until such time as a total of \$200 is collected.
- 6) Drawing will be held at an INFOMART meeting.
- 7) Funds will be held by Linca Way, the club's treasurer, until the drawing is completed.

We will begin the entry process during the business meeting at our JULY INFOMART meeting. Be sure to join us early since I know of a few folks who are interested and are willing to get a few tickets.....

Speaking about the INFOMART meetings, a few changes should be noted on your calendars. The August meeting will be held on the 18th (3rd Saturday) placing the August Next Step meeting on the 31st. In September, INFOMART will be on the 15th and Next Step on the 28th. In October, INFOMART will be on the 20th (3rd Saturday) and Next Step falls on the 2nd of November. Be sure to note these changes. I hope you all have a great summer and see you all at INFOMART for a demo on Missing Link .... (that should be really good!) +tcw

Now for the puzzle, it was created on a TI99/4a using "WORD SAFARI" an original TI program available in the club's library. The object is to find the words listed on the right. They can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, and/or backwards. Good luck, and good hunting.

JULY 1990

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*                                     *
* ZPUWGVWETTAWNUNOGMUPEPHJV *   INTERFACE
* UPNPODAEFIKDZBYFMURDXRYPM *   FLOPPY
* SPBBOTQPRCESSORFXNEYOTYO *   SOFTWARE
* CECJYIWSBNAJLSLDCJKGEGRTN *   SYSTEM
* IRQREHDFWLXTUJCNLTHGNOMUM *   PASSWORD
* HEQYACOXFRGPGMFPXARSWKLT *   DISKETTES
* PQZAKGVDPTIVUWPLLRSSWPEBJ *   BASIC
* AZUOVFCMUJHUHBSAHRBXEJRGW *   ASSEMBLER
* RTIVASIPWTENZ ZUXSLUXYRAMJ *   RAMDISK
* GXKEUANHSCOANACVFSFRJLWTF *   HDISK
* MSFRRIIBZCXTDRZDFBWZFGTWJ *   BES
* HYLETTBVALLARVWFWALOLXFEU *   GRAPHICS
* TSOLRGWGXRRREELGLADRUOTI *   MODEM
* ITPBAEVIREDRHHJNWCIMIDSLO *   INFOMART
* REPMNSETTEKSIDRTNHNRRKKDE *   CPU
* OMYEOLBASICLEASDTUGYVUBPI *   DISPLAY
* GDMSFHSQXHNFGMEOVROUPRBP *   ADVENTURE
* LGTSNEASFFITVTRFOFWEUOKWB *   SIMULATOR
* AHOAIKHSIHKWQFUCPFBXMTARH *   ALGORITHM
* ZSDMLJSHACPVATQDXVZXZOPXO *   EPROM
* BRECWAIXXKCDISPLAYOBYOUP *   DTHCG
* HNMEDOMTDEEUEAWJJIJEEMYT *   INPUT
* YGOMPOSGSMZSIMULATORCOGUV *   OUTPUT
* RFKALHCEOXAJDYNDVCAXWSFOZ *   ERROR
* TJKAGIWRFALRBTYKXWILJQOYZ *   PROCESSOR
*****
    
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ATTENTION INFOMART SHOPPERS

BE SURE TO COME IN EARLY

WE WILL START OUR MEETING AT

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999999      000000  000000
99 99  ::  00 00  00 00
999999  ::  00 00  00 00
    99      00 00  00 00
    99      00 00  00 00
    99      ::  000000  000000
    
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SEE PAGE 1 FOR DETAILS

BE THERE !!!!

## 99/4A FLIGHT SIMULATORS A REVIEW

This is a review of two flight simulators for the TI99, that I have been using extensively. I have been flying the "Dow 4 Flyer" in TI Basic by John Dow, and the "Red Baron" a cart of the "Spad XIII" disk-based program from Not-Polyoptics. Both have strengths and shortcomings, and I will try to tell you what they are.

The first program I tried was "Dow 4 Flyer" by John Dow. The major advantage to me at the time was it was written in TI basic, and could be loaded into a bare console with a cassette deck. It is a good instrument simulation, if you wish to fly in zero-zero conditions. There is no outside reference to the ground except a DME-like display over the top of the panel. On the plus side though is a thoroughly likeable and very user-friendly pitch trim. I wish some of the real airplanes I have flown had such a good trim system. I also like the variable pitch force setting that "Dow 4" has. In steps from 0 to 9, you can chose how hard you will pull or push the stick when you press the key for up or down. While not as good as an analog joystick, it is a remarkable achievement in TI Basic, and the author of the program should feel proud to have done such a realistic job in such a restricted programming environment. The panel is a sight, with a VOR needle, compass, airspeed, tach, altimeter, and a turn and bank indicator with artificial horizon. I rate this program a 3 out of 5 overall, but give it a 4.5 if you just want a good instrument trainer, without the distractions of actually flying an airplane. The only thing missing was motion, and the ATC vectoring you into an oncoming 747.

The second simulator I got was the "Red Baron" cartridge from DataBioTics. This is a cart of the very successful, by TI standards, "Spad XIII" disk-based program from Not-Polyoptics. I haven't tried the "Spad XIII" program to see if there are any differences, so I can't say that what is true for "Red Baron" is 100% true for "Spad XIII", but most of it will be true. One thing that won't be true is the trouble I had in getting "Red Baron" to run. There was some kind of coating on the contacts inside the cart, and until it wore off I could not get the cart to run reliably. After several sessions though the coating did wear off, and the cart works almost every time now. I would suggest polishing the contacts lightly to remove the coating. The program itself, after I did get it to run, was a sight to behold, because this was a visual flight simulator, with the ground, and trees, and a visible horizon to check as reference for what the airplane was doing. You also get six views from the aircraft, plus a view from a passing helicopter that always flies in tight but invisible formation about 100 yards to the South and 20 feet or so above you.

My TI has also let me reach many folks by encouraging me to write more often. I use the Funnelweb version of TI-Writer to edit, format and print the letters and documents that I now produce. This has been a step up from when I laboriously hand wrote all my correspondence and rewrote it time and time again just trying to get the point across. I believe that all my writing has gotten better now. With a spellchecker you can even assure a minimum of spelling errors that helps with the professionalism of my documents and makes them easier to read and understand. There is really nothing I do with my TI that anyone else has not done before or will ever do again. But by the same token, there is still so much for me to explore. If there was anything I could encourage one to do with this wonderful home computer, it would be to use it. If you use it daily, new paths will become apparent for you to explore, and you will always find the helping hands to guide you on your way.

Happy computing! Using the TI99/4A. "Butch" Spill

PROGRAMMERS HELP  
NEEDED  
JIM STEWART

On the May DOM you can find a program called KID COME PUTTER, that I wrote because young people were only offered games, and I wanted to offer them something they could do themselves and learn a bit about computers as friendly helpers.

For anyone just getting started in programming, my simple program is easy enough to understand by typing OLD DSK1.KIDSINTRO, and when it says ready, type LIST, to see the program. Wanting something pretty to end the program with, I 'borrowed' the Sunrise idea from an old article in Home Computer Magazine. It is just as impressive today as the first time I saw it, but it has always stopped abruptly at line 12360 with an error.

If line 12360 is changed as follows, it works just fine.  
12360 CALL CLEAR :: PRINT "THE END" :: STOP

However, there is still a small problem. When I try to save this correction using the phrase SAVE DSK1.KIDSINTRO it won't copy it due to an I/O error 61 which either means bad line number or device save error.

Can one of you Programming wizards figure out why this correction cannot be made and saved? Me and the Kids will thank you thank you thank you thank you.



# The 99 Column

by David Axberg

I must say that I enjoyed this last presentation by Chris Faherty!! For a young man of 22, he most certainly conducted himself well. His talk with us at the dinner on Friday night was informative, entertaining, and insightful. His wit was tasteful and related well to the topics covered. I believe we will see and hear more from this young man in the future, regardless of his endeavor.

The June presentations marked the mid-point for this year's programs. It is hard to believe that this year has gone by so fast! We have covered so many topics, and it seems the faster we try to move the more we have to cover. This year I have also gained an extraordinary appreciation for the Executive Committee and the work that they put into our group. It is amazing the time and the effort it takes to put the newsletter together each month. The programs we present each month are the result of the time and effort of people like:

HUGH McKNIGHT	- MENUS REVIEW
JIM STEWART	- FUNNELWEB CONFIG 4.21
BILLY MONROE	- CASSETTE/MODULE LIBRARY REVIEW
JOHN CREVISTON	- SECTOR EDITORS REVIEW -
TERRY NOTLEY	- SECTOR EDITORS REVIEW

This year we introduced a "guest speaker program". We invited prominent contributors to the TI-99/4A community to speak to our group and share with us their views on the products and future of our 99/4A. We have witnessed new products such as Barry Boone's GIF1/G99, and Dennis Faherty's TI-Base V3.0. These presentations have given us "advance information" of new products coming to the market, such as the new hard disk controller. Also, these speakers have shown us that the innovations for the 99/4A are coming from a group of young, intelligent, and exciting men. I certainly feel that I have learned something from each of our speakers...and it is more than just their particular TI applications. It is a feeling that I have made new friends, interesting and exciting new friends.

The next three (3) months are going to be the most challenging months for me. These are the summer months. This is vacation time. Our days tend to be more hectic with the children home from school. I have three (3) children home this summer. Two (2) home from college and one (1) enjoying the benefits of no high school classes and only concerning himself with summer football camp (meets each morning for 2

LATCHKEY by Jim Stewart

We're pleased to welcome Ray Russell of Weatherford, Texas and Ed Cartwright of Dallas, who both joined DTIHCG during our June 9th meeting. Joe Saldivar re-joined our group even though he has moved to Waco, and I had the privilege of renewing my membership as well.

We had a fairly good turnout for this last meeting, and we had almost 30 members attending our June 22nd Next Step meeting. This, however, was the first month this year, that more members chose not to renew their memberships, than we had join us as new members.

We know there were 55,000 TI 99/4a's sold in the Dallas area, and many of these are on the closet shelves of your friends and mine. Let's do them a favor and find out who these closet 99'ers are, and be sure to invite them to our next Infomart meeting on July 14th! To keep our group healthy and growing, we need to remind these owners that the 99/4a is alive and well and gaining more software and hardware expansions every day. See you July 14th, and bring your friend!

## HARDWARE RAFF\_E!!

This is a special message from the Hardware Chairman. We will be selling chances to win the club's 256K Horizon Ramdisk. There are going to be a minimum of forty chances sold at five dollars a chance. Please see the special display that will be at the next Super Saturday meeting. As soon as the tickets are all sold, we will announce when the drawing will be for the lucky winner. I would like to remind you that the more tickets you buy, the greater the odds are that you can receive this prize.

Also, just a friendly reminder that I have assorted hardware available at very reasonable prices. Please stop by at Next-Step or the Super Saturday meeting and check everything out. I am also available via the 99'er connection and my home phone number (817-261-9741 Metro) to answer your questions about hardware availability and prices. We are always looking for input from the club members about what they need for us to stock. Have you got some hardware just taking up space? Want to give it a new home and promote the club's coffers? Donate it!! We accept donations of used and new equipment.

Until we meet again. "Butch" Spill

## BOOT DISK CHANGER (A USER FRIENDLY PROGRAM) REVIEW BY HUGH MCKNIGHT

Are you like me, having several programs that will not boot from any other DISK DRIVE except drive number one? This causes me to switch back and forth and re-switch disks so I can use my programs and data file disks. Therefore, to utilize an application software program that will make my life easier, I must keep in mind what disk is where and what file is where and what has been saved and what has not and where?

At this stage of learning I do not possess the knowledge nor the skill to hunt through the program file to unearth the location and code that must be changed to modify a program so that the program will boot from a different drive. I don't know if I will ever possess these skills. I don't know if I will ever have or desire the patience to do this type of thing. BUT, IT WOULD BE MOST DESIREABLE THAT I COULD CHANGE THE BOOT DISK NUMBER IN AN EASY MANNER. NOW! HOW MANY OF YOU RAMDISK OWNERS HAVE A DRAWER FULL OF ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE FILES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO STORE AND RUN FROM YOUR RAMDISK, BUT CAN'T BECAUSE THESE PROGRAMS INSIST ON LOADING FROM DSK1?

WELL, YOUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED!!!!

REMEMBER THE NAME "BOOT DISK CHANGER"..... Using the new program, "BOOT DISK CHANGER", known as "BDC", you can change all the "DSK" references in your Basic/Extended Basic Programs, Program Image assembly language files, and D/F 80 assembly language objectives files to whatever drive from which you wish them to run. BDC will only change references to DSK when it is followed immediately by a number from 1 to 9. AS YOU SPECIFY IT.

The program is extremely USER FRIENDLY... and simple to use. It's very fast! And, even an old computer illiterate such as myself, can successfully use this program!!!

On boot up (Extended Basic Auto Load from Module) gives you a screen that shows: (1) CATALOGE DISK; (2) PRINT FILE, (3) ALTER FILE, (4) QUIT. This is a very simple and easy utility to use. This program changes your files by directly editing sectors and does it very fast.

I have this program and have used it with much success. I am now using programs that I shied away from in the past.

If you are interested in this program, it's a FAIRWARE program, you can obtain a copy from:

Mr. Scott Morrow  
P.O. Box 1763, CFPO 5056  
Belleville, Ontario, Canada  
KOK 3R0

BE SURE TO SEND SCOTT \$10.00 FOR YOUR COPY!!

## NEXT STEP REPORT BY CHARLICE ALTHAR

If you were not in the Cafeteria at Morton Hospital on Friday evening, June 22, you missed a great evening! About 30 or so of us gathered helped each other in various ways. As we nunched on Jim Lasher's vanilla cream wafers, here's some of what we accomplished this month:

1. Demo'd TASS Slideshow.
2. Determined that Jim Stewart's computer \*REALLY\* did have a problem. We didn't fix it, but it is a \*REAL\* problem!
3. Fixed Jim Lasher's Ram disk MENU.
4. Worked on Phil Smith's mail list program.
5. Discussed the high message volume on the 99er Connection.
6. Gave instructions for entering messages to a new BBS user.
7. Replaced defective DOM's--if you'd been there, you'd have yours NOW!
8. Sold needed hardware to several members.
9. Discussed loading Extended Basic programs.
10. Discussed FUNNELWEB files and menus.
11. Discussed using the BOOT program.
12. Discussed using TI's new 512Kx8 Flash EEPROM in large scale RAMdisks.
13. Talked with old friends and made new ones.
14. Brought more XB modules to be fixed and "boxed".
15. Investigated the PAL's on the GrandRAM.
16. Read and discussed newsletters from other groups.
17. Asked and answered questions about TI-WRITER transliterate commands.

In addition, software librarian Terry Notley awarded 3 door prizes--copies of TASS 2001. This program loads and displays TI-ARTIST picture files from multiple drives. Thanks, Terry!

Again, we suggest to those who do not regularly attend NEXT STEP that this is the place to be, if you need help of almost any kind, be it software or hardware. If we can't solve the problem, we can at least point you in the right direction! We meet for this hands-on technical assistance meeting once a month, on the Friday evening 2 weeks following each INFOMART meeting. We start about 5 PM, with people coming and going as their own schedules dictate. Most of us stay till 8 PM or so, when we adjourn to nearby Dunston's for their fabulous mesquite-broiled hamburgers and Blue Bell ice cream. You'll never know what you're missing till you give it a try! We'll be looking for you on July 27!

### THE MISSING LINK BEGINNER

By Jim Lasher

This month we will expand upon last month's program "STIX". We shall add changing colors to our program. And line 128 will put a small square in the center of our stix. So insert lines 6,7,124,128 and watch it go. If you want it to run faster, change the number 200 in line 100 to a smaller number, but not smaller than 1. I have some numbered graph paper copies to use with your TML programming for free if you will see me at INFOMART or NEXT STEP. If you need assistance, call me at (214) 821-9274.

**CONT**

```

5 ! STIX2
6 FOR C=2 TO 15
7 CALL LINK("COLOR",16,C)
10 CALL LINK("LINE",04,120,188,120)
20 GOSUB 100
30 CALL LINK("LINE",30,186,162,54)2
40 GOSUB 100
50 CALL LINK("LINE",96,024,096,216)
60 GOSUB 100
70 CALL LINK("LINE",30,54,162,186)
80 GOSUB 100
85 NEXT C
90 GOTO 10
100 FOR D=1 TO 200
110 NEXT D
120 CALL LINK("CLEAR")
124 IF C>15 THEN 4
128 CALL LINK("FILL",90,114,102,126)
130 RETURN

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### 6/26/90 NEW SOFTWARE

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By Jim Lasher

Apparently the latest thing in software is Version 3.0 of TI-BASE. Changes have been made in the running format, i.e., from disk or RAM. Some other changes include CLOSE command, SUM directive, SET, DELETE & RECALL, LEN & SUBTR, READCHAR, APPEND FROM and AVERAGE. The new version can be obtained from Texaments for \$17.45.

SPELL-IT is now a reality. There are 3 versions: SSSD, DSDD, and an HFDC version with over 200,000 words. I tried the SSSD version and it works great. And it is very easy to use, it takes minimal reading of docs. Also you can delete words from the list and add your own very easily.

PRESS has been shelved indefinitely. COMPRODINE has taken over the GREAT LAKES SOFTWARE CO. and added some new companion disks for JOY PAINT.

Not personally familiar with ANIMATOR, I can't say for sure, but from the description of the program, it is another PROGRAMMER'S utility. Pictures are created in frames like cartoons and then displayed in sequence to give the illusion of motion.