

**MEETING NOTICE**

7:00 P.M. JULY 11  
THE COMPUTER CENTER  
POPLAR PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER

PROGRAM BIT

This month's program looks to be one of our better efforts.

We will have a basic machine set up for the Novices Corner, a fairly large machine to demonstrate Multiplan, a machine for the Kid's Korner and one machine for adult (Adventure type) games.

We will also have the usual forum part of the meeting, where we make any general announcements and other interesting bits of information.

We still need one or two people to help with the program committee. Remember, this is the committee that decides what we will do or show at each of the monthly meetings and we need your input.

If you are interested, please see me or any of the other officers or committee chairmen or call me at home.

Dick Mahoney  
Chairman, Program

**OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT  
HOWARD WATSON  
755-4859

VICE-PRESIDENT  
FONZ ALLEN  
755-4282

SECRETARY  
LEE AVANT  
521-9560

TREASURER  
CURTIS RINGOLD  
363-7178

**COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
BERT JONES  
789-4419

EDUCATION  
ELIZABETH DAVIS  
396-2884

EQUIPMENT  
DICK VANDENBERG  
521-9560

KID KORNER  
BRIAN ABBOTT  
755-0877

LIBRARY  
BOB CONNER  
365-1892

NEWSLETTER  
BRENDA WATSON  
755-4859

PROGRAM  
DICK MAHONEY  
755-1899

**MID-SOUTH  
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# t i d b i t s

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

We have come a long way in a short period of time. Hopefully, we can make receiving your TIDBits almost as exciting as receiving your 99'er in the mail (well almost anyway....).

As of this publication we plan to bring to your attention:

- o Up-to-date information on proposed, announced and available items for TI systems
- o Users group meeting news.
- o News and highlights of our committee efforts.
- o Needs of the group and how you can get involved.
- o Advertisements of interest to TI owners.
- o Contests to spark your imagination and programming skills.
- o News of other users' groups across the country.
- o And, of course, other TIDBits.

If you have an interest in helping to develop the newsletter, recommending an idea for the format, submitting a TIDBit, or just providing feedback, let me know. We need to compile (and keep on hand) for publication all pertinent news for users.

Material or articles should be typed (or copied with the name of the source document) and submitted to the editor by the last Thursday of the month.

Brenda Watson  
Editor, Newsletter  
8067 Neshoba  
Germantown, Tn. 38138

## PRESIDENT'S BIT

### We Have Ignition!

Those of you who are fans of the space program know that the last major hurdle before a rocket begins its meteoric rise into space is the ignition of the engines.

It takes a lot of work by a lot of dedicated people to get to the point of lighting the fuse under one of those big firecrackers but nothing happens unless that fuse gets lit.

A group of dedicated people have put a lot of hard work into getting the users group to this point and we believe the fuse is lit.

Most of the committees are manned and working hard at their jobs of seeing to it that each member gets the maximum benefit from being a part of this, your users group.

We have instituted several features into our meetings which we believe will interest many of our members.

You will see, as you read this month's newsletter, we have added many useful TIDBits, rumors, and articles, changed the format, and changed the form of printing to be more like a magazine.

In the future, we will have price announcements, advertising, and many other features which we hope will be useful to our members.

While I am sure you all wait with bated breath for the opportunity to read my small contribution to the newsletter (I studied HUMBLE under Dr. Isaac Asimov), I am also sure that you would prefer to get something useful from this fine publication.

Well, we think we have it. As we continue to grow, we will continue to add features and articles from you, the reader, from other user group newsletters, from the committees, literally from anywhere we can find them.

By Golly, I believe we have lift-off!!!!

Howard Watson  
President

## RUMORS

Rumors continue to fly about the 99/8 (nicknamed the "Medfly" or the "Armadillo"). It is said to have 80K RAM, built in speech, extended basic, RS232, and a 60-65 key keyboard.

There is also a rumor out on a 99/4B with 48K RAM.

### NEWSLETTER LOGO

In last month's TidBits we announced a contest to design a logo for the newsletter and for use on club stationery. Please bring your entries to the next meeting. The only rules are that the logo must be easily reproducible on a copier and cannot use the words "Texas Instruments" or "TI". We can use pictures, graphics, cartoons, outlines, 99, M.S. 99 U.G., etc. The winner receives a game cassette [see Contest Bit on page 6].

### CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER NEWS 6584 Poplar Av. 685-8154

The TI Customer Service Center (formerly the Exchange Center) sells any TI home computer product with the exception of the console at the TI suggested retail price. They also will;

1. exchange any faulty TI product within warranty for free; within the first 30 days of purchase, the merchandise must be returned to the original source, i.e. Target, Gattas.
2. exchange "out of warranty items" for a fixed price, i.e. \$45 for the console.
3. accept items for factory repair service, which could cost more or less than the item exchange price.

### LIBRARY BIT

Our software library is growing thanks to the contributions of Tom Harrington, Jim Hillier and Mark Langston. We would also like to thank the people at The Computer Center for the gift of four cassette tapes and ten disks for us to start our library.

If you have a program you have written and would like to share it with the group please contact me and I will see that it is added to the library. If your program is unique we can submit it to the International Users Group and, if they accept it, they will send us five of their programs. This is the best way I know of to increase our software for our club. So please send us your programs.

A listing of the current software programs will be available at the next meeting. Until then keep your fingers on the keys.

Bob Conner  
Chairman, Library

### ANNOUNCEMENT

We are actively looking for a larger place to meet. The requirements are: the room must be able to hold at least 100 people, free, prefer breakout rooms for the demonstrations, allow or provide refreshments, and we prefer a central location.

We would like your help in this matter.

If you know of a large church, school, or other meeting hall, please contact Lee Avant, Bart Jones or Curtis Ringold as soon as possible.

Howard Watson

### \*\*\*\* TidBit \*\*\*\*

Mickey Mouse stars in the new line of Walt Disney educational software for personal computers. Nearly 50 titles are being introduced this year. These are being produced for the TI 994/2 as well as other home/personal computers.

Brenda Watson

### EDUCATION BIT

"The visible world is no longer a reality and the unseen world is no longer a dream" William B. Yeats

This declaration will become truer and truer as the computerized age goes on.

Elizabeth Davis  
Chairman, Education

### EQUIPMENT BIT

I learned a lot at the last meeting while I was trying to demonstrate something for you.

The incompatibility between the Anchor Mark III modem and the telephone at The Computer Center meant that I couldn't call the local billboards using my computer. When Ben Barton hooked up his Color Computer and it worked right off, I was just a tad miffed.

Moral: Use only the older, modular Bell System telephones with the Mark III modem. Be sure you try any phone before you buy it.

Dick Vandenberg

\*\*\*\* TidBit \*\*\*\*

If you want to buy some great TI compatible software, go to THE COMPUTER CENTER in poplar Plaza. They are getting more new software in for TI's all the time. And not just games either. So drop by and take a look at what they have. They are the only source (at the present) that carries anything for TI's.

Bert Jones

#### CONTEST BIT

All right folks, where are those LOGOs and FLAG displays? How can I run a contest if no one even enters? Is the prize not enough? Well here's another incentive! The winner of this and any other contest (posted by me, Bert Jones) will receive a game tape or disk and a \$20.00 dollar gift certificate for software at The Computer Center! How's that? I hope this gets the ball rolling, I'd hate to have only one person enter. To date that's all, just one. So help me out folks. PLEASE!!!!!!!!

Bert Jones

#### SHOPPERS CORNER

Have a used item you want to sell or need to find? Anyone wanting to buy, trade or sell any 99/4A product may post a notice in the Shoppers Corner. Free for members - \$1 per item for non-members. Notices may be given to Curtis Ringold (Treasurer) or Brenda Watson (Newsletter Editor) at any Users Group meeting.

\*\*\*\* TidBit \*\*\*\*

#### "SPRITE ONE LINER"

Want to frustrate and amaze your Atari, VIC-20 and Color Computer friends? Just enter the following in Extended BASIC command mode.

```
CALL CLEAR::CALL SCREEN(5)::CALL MAGNIFY(2)::FOR I=1 TO 28::CALL  
SPRITE(#1,64+I,16,80,80,3*I,8)::NEXT I::FOR J=1 TO 5000::NEXT J
```

Hit enter and watch all 28 sprites do their tricks. To see it again, simply hit function REDO and ENTER again as many times as you wish.

You can INSERT, DELETE, etc. to try different speeds, colors, characters, or add a line number to have a one line program.

Barron Bartlett, Birmingham Users Group

#### KID KORNER

Hi! Does anyone enjoy games? For the next users group meeting the Kid's Korner will demonstrate games we have actually programmed. Any (game) program that you can bring would be great. Let's see what kind of programmers we have in our group!

Here is a very small program for you to key in (in BASIC).

```
10 REM FANTASY ART #1  
20 CALL CLEAR  
30 DATA 3,5,4,6,8,7,-1  
40 FOR ROW=1 TO 24  
50 FOR COL=1 TO 32  
60 READ COLOR  
70 IF COLOR<>-1 THEN 100  
80 RESTORE  
90 READ COLOR  
100 CALL COLOR(14,COLOR,COLOR)  
110 CALL VCHAR(ROW,COL,143)  
120 NEXT COL  
130 NEXT ROW  
140 GOTO 140
```

Brian Abbot

\*\*\*\* TidBit \*\*\*\*

Here is how to use your TI as a calculator:

You just key in one of the following forms of command statements:

```
PRINT 1+1  
PRINT 2-1  
PRINT 2*2  
PRINT 15/3
```

As you have probably noticed, these are nothing more than the BASIC arithmetic statements listed in your Beginners Guide to BASIC and your TI-99/4A Users Guide with a "PRINT" statement prefixed on them. Any of the mathematical functions can be used and by using parentheses some fairly complex calculations can be done without having to write a long program.

Liz Davis

### NOVICE CORNER

Just a few tips to the beginners in our group (some of you know-it-alls might read this too).

If you are having trouble with your tape recorder you might try the following procedures to clear it up:

1. Be sure you are not recording over something else. Erase the portion of the tape you are going to use before re-recording. To erase a tape, simply pull out the REMOTE wire and press record while not recording anything.
2. Periodically use a tape head cleaner cartridge to clean the tape recorder heads.
3. Try a fresh tape.
4. Check the tone and volume settings on the tape recorder. A tone and volume setting just under the maximum seem to work best on my GE recorder. Maximum settings on most units will cause distortion and low settings will cause a weak signal.
5. If all else fails, try someone else's recorder, cable, or console. You may have a true machine failure or a cable or cable connection problem.

The maximum number of lines which can be keyed between "ENTER" keys is four.

At the end of the fourth line, the console will just beep at you until you press the "ENTER", "ERASE", "CLEAR", or some other action key.

Never stick your hand or anything else into the cartridge receptacle on your console. You may damage the contacts or get them dirty and your cartridges will have problems.

Never push back the "dust cover" panel on a cartridge to see what is inside. There are only a few microchips in there with no moving parts but, again, you may damage or dirty the contacts and cause problems.

Never place your console on a pad or other material that blocks the air flow through the cooling vents on the bottom or on the top. Your computer may overheat and cause major damage to the tiny components inside. Micro chips and circuits are very susceptible to heat and get weak and fail when overheated for an extended period of time.

Howard Watson

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS BIT

Are you looking for more information? Still searching for a book that will show you how to do more than turn on your computer? Here's a list that will help you:

- o Not for Kids Only (\$19.95)
- o TI Basic (\$12.95)
- o Using and Programming the TI-99/4A (\$9.95)
- o Programs for the TI Home Computer (\$14.95)
- o Programming Basic with the TI-99/4A Home Computer (\$19.95)
- o 36 Texas Instruments TI-99/4A Programs for Home, School, and Office (\$3.95)
- o 101 Programming Tips and Tricks for the Texas Instruments TI-99/4A Home Computer (\$8.95)
- o A Reference Guide to the TI-99/4A (\$14.95)

This book is a must for all TI owners. It is packed with all kinds of useful information on programming.

These and many other books on programming for the TI-99/4A can be found at one of these locations:

- o Computer Sales
- o The Computer Center
- o B. Dalton Booksellers

We are always on the look out for new books and software. If you happen to come across anything that would be of use to others, please let someone on the newsletter staff know so we can get it into the newsletter.

Bert Jones  
Chairman, Community Relations

### DISCLAIMER

The Mid-South 99 Users Group is not affiliated with or sponsored by Texas Instruments and has no relationship with them, implied or otherwise.

Any mention of a company or product is not an endorsement of either the company or product.

### KID BIT

Hello out there! Been waiting for a column for kids? Well, here it is! This column is designed for kids with the general ideas a kid has. In fact, I'm a kid myself. The main topic of this issue is Parsec, which in case you didn't know, is the most popular game module for the TI 99/4a. Please give your response to this article by calling me at 755-0877 and telling me what you thought of it and how you would like it changed.

#### Parsec High Score

(You must be under 18 to qualify for the High Score list.)

\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

#### Winning at Parsec

Until now Munchman was about the best game module. But now there is Parsec! And here are a few tips to help you get a score using secret strategies:

1. Use Lift 2 for all screens except for Dramites and Bynites.
2. Use Lift 3 for Dramites and Bynites.
3. Use lift 1 for the refueling tunnels.
4. Out maneuver the Urbites, Dramites and Bynites until they change color automatically. Then you need only shoot them from one to three times depending on the level you are on. They are protected from all your shots until they change color.
5. Always stay back as far as possible so you will have more time to react to an enemy threat.
6. To help practice your maneuvering, don't press "fire" but put your ship into Lift 1 and try to dip into valleys and back out before you crash into the ground.
7. When you get to the Asteroid Belt, don't even try to shoot all of the asteroids! Unless you are very good your laser will overheat.
8. On level 2, you must hit everything twice and from level 3 on everything must be hit three times.
9. Lasers overheat more quickly with each succeeding level.

#### GOOD LUCK!

Brian Abbett  
Chairman, Kid's Korner

### ANNOUNCEMENT

The TidBits newsletter is available in "LARGER PRINT" for the visually impaired. Contact Brenda Watson for copies.

We have received a suggestion that a member name, address and phone number list be made available to the members so we can contact each other throughout the month.

Since we cannot print anyone's information without their permission, you are asked to "sign up" at the registration table at the next meeting or contact Lee Avant if you want to have all or part of your information included on the (to be distributed) list.

Brenda Watson

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 12, 1983

This month the board met to discuss some items that have come up since our last meeting. To keep you up to date, we have summarized the points discussed below.

1. The board has decided to meet the last Thursday of each month.
2. The subject of splitting the group or finding a larger meeting place was discussed. The board has decided that the club could not survive such a split without major problems. The decision was made to look for a larger meeting place.
3. Wallace McDonald requested that he be relieved of the duties of chairman of the Library Committee. Bob Conner has agreed to chair this committee.
4. Newsletter article and advertising deadlines were discussed (see the editor's article on page 2). Advertising rates were deferred to the next board meeting.
5. The board decided to offer a junior membership of \$10 for individuals 15 and under.
6. Fonz Allen was named coordinator for the "Novice Corner".
7. It was decided to send only two newsletters to non-members.

The minutes of the board meetings will be published as a regular feature of the newsletter. If you have any questions or suggestions please be sure to bring them up at the open forum part of the regular meeting, at a board meeting, or see any one of the officers or committee chairmen.

Lee Avant  
Secretary