

'Tis the season to be partying...

What a joyous time! So why do I feel like I just lived through the most hectic period of 1983? Just because I have all that shopping (still) to do. Just because I should write all those cards (before March this year?). Just because we like to close the shop for a few extra days? Just because the @\$#% reel-to-reel acted up again? No! It's because I dropped in here to write this at 5 AM after round 78 of "Come to our Holiday Open House." Lots of business friends and no brains in my head...



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*	Side	Title	Filename	Turns Count		
*				CTR-41	CTR-80	CCR-81
*						
*	****	New Year's Cover	A	16/234	9/138	6/114
*	** **	Bouncer	B	100/300	59/177	42/158
*	** **	TSOTERM (SYSTEM /	TERM	168/352	99/207	76/199
*	****					
*						
*	**	Star Finder	A	10/268	6/158	4/136
*	***	Quest for Fire (SYSTEM /)	QUEST	147/370	87/218	65/214
*	**	Sounds (Model III - SYSTEM /)	SOUNDS	233/436	137/256	113/278
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*	Tape CLOADing Notes - This tape may load at an ODD RECORDER VOLUME. Set the volume LOWER than normal for your first attempt, then increase it slightly until the tape loads. If the first copy of a program won't load, try the second. That is why it is there. Model I only: Put an AM radio very close to the keyboard, tune it to a non-station, and you can listen to the tape loading in. Adjust the recorder volume so the hash from the computer sounds 'cleanest' during a load. Model III only: Load the tapes at the LOW speed (POKE 10913,0).					
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*	Subscribers - The month on the mail label is the last month of your subscription. If you have a cassette subscription, the number next to the month is the amount it would cost to convert the rest of your subscription to the disk version (\$4.00 per issue for 0 or less months, \$3.75 per issue if more than 0 months).					
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Times Square in CLOAD - New Year's Cover (by Carl Yee) has the big clock and the fireworks...

Sequel time - Bouncer (by Scott Moore) is a brother to November 1983's Springer. The object is to use the left/right arrow keys to control your bounce from one safe point to the next until you complete the screen. Then you advance to the next screen (or level). There are 10 levels to go through (Grady 'mentioned' that he completed all ten - show off!). Worse than Dragon's Lair! Note: This time there is sound, so connect the large grey AUX plug to an amplifier.

Talk to the world with TSOTERM (by Ronald Tansky). This is a decent terminal program with many nice features for TRS-80's with some sort of RS232 setup. You can communicate with other computers directly with the right cable or over the phone lines (as you would with CompuServe) with a modem. Here's the features:

Printer control and configuration (baud rate, parity, stop bits, etc.) are done through full-screen menus and can be done while receiving data since the data is buffered. When you return to the normal screen, any new data will be displayed.

The <break> key is supported throughout.

Buffered line printer support.

Block-mode or character-mode transmissions. In block-mode, you can format an entire line before sending it.

Screen control notes (like <clear>) are screened out.

Lines exactly 64 characters long do not have an extra line feed added to avoid that annoying double-spaced display.

Upper/lower case or upper case lock are supported.

Auto repeat keyboard.

The last line sent in block-mode can be resent (partially or fully) using the <right arrow> key.

The "bell" character (CHR\$(7)), when received, is represented by flashing the screen white.

The <clear> key clears the screen without transmitting anything.

Buffer areas are set up automatically depending on the amount of memory your machine has.

How to run TSOTERM: If you have CLOAD on tape, type **SYSTEM**<enter>, answer the *? with **TERM**<enter>, and answer the next *? with /<enter>. From disk use the **AWAY** menu or type **TSOTERM**<enter> from DOS. The start, end, and entry addresses are 27392, 32009, and 27392 (in hex 6B00, 7D09, and 6B00).

The screen will appear mostly blank. The computer is now ready for block-mode transmission at 300 baud, full duplex (that's why nothing appears on the screen when you type), upper/lower case, 1 stop bit, even parity on, and 7 bit word. To get to the menu to change any of these configurations or the printer buffer status, hit <shift @>. You will then see a four-option menu. Let's say that you want to change the configurations to match most bulletin board systems. Hit N (for NEW CONFIGURATIONS). A whole screen of options will come up. Hit J to disable parity, Q to get 8 bit words, S for half duplex (so you can see what you type), and U to toggle to upper-case only. Now hit R to go back to the last menu, and hit R again to go back to the transmission screen. You are ready to talk to the world (some of it, anyway). Note: Tom's bulletin board is on a Max-80, is 300-1200 baud, and the number is (805) 964-6626.

Echoing received data to a printer: Hit <shift @> to get to the menu. Hit P (for PRINTER CONTROL). You will be faced with another four-option menu and PRINTER BUFFER addresses (note these). It is a good idea, at this point, to reinitialize the buffer by hitting AA (ABORT PRINTER IMMEDIATE twice). Hit N for PRINTER ON. This opens the PRINTER BUFFER. Hit RR to go back to the transmission screen. Now, 'whenever you are receiving data, the data will be put in the buffer. If you have a printer hooked up, the data will be read from the buffer and sent to the printer. Warning -- If the printer buffer fills up, any overflow will be lost or can crash the program. The printer buffer is only reset when the printer is caught up or you hit AA from the printer menu. If you only have 16k, I don't recommend trying to echo received data to a printer.

Block-mode transmissions: You have a 127-byte buffer. Just type (and correct) the line you wish to send. When the line is ready, hit <enter> to send it with a carriage-return/line-feed or hit <shift right arrow> to send the line without a carriage-return/line-feed. You can restart the line before it is sent by hitting <shift left arrow>. After you sent a line, you can resend all or part of the line by spacing over with the <right arrow>. If you type a control character as the first character in a line, it will be sent immediately without a carriage-return/line-feed. On our Model I without the upper/lower case mod, any alpha-character in the first position is sent as if it is a

control character. It doesn't hurt anything, but the receiving system gets one character right away before the rest of the sentence appears. This can be avoided by starting every sentence with a <space>. Note: When communicating between our Model I and Model III, we discovered that 7200 baud was the fastest data transfer rate we could use in block-mode without dropping a character now and then.

Down-loading files to disk: - As you may have guessed, there is no way to upload files. However, there is a tricky way to download files. First, reinitialize and open the printer buffer by hitting <shift @>PAAN but TURN THE PRINTER OFF. Go back to the transmission screen (RR) and download the file from the host computer. When you have received the file, hit <shift @>P and NOTE THE PRINTER BUFFER ADDRESSES (start - end). Hit RD to exit to your DOS. At this point you can put the data in the buffer to the disk using the DUMP command or you can go to BASIC and use the following program (edit line 40 first, replacing the SSSS with the PRINTER BUFFER start address and replacing EEEE with the PRINTER BUFFER end address):

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10 DEFINT A-Z
20 INPUT "ENTER THE DESIRED FILENAME";N$
30 OPEN "O",1,N$
40 S=&HSSSS:E=&HEEEE: REM REPLACE SSSS AND EEEE BEFORE RUNNING
50 PRINT #1,CHR$(PEEK(S));
60 IF S=E THEN 90
70 IF S=32767 THEN S=-32768 ELSE S=S+1
80 GOTO 50
90 CLOSE

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City of the stars? Star Finder (by William Oaks) will give you the azimuth and altitude of 50 of the most prominent stars for any location on earth at any time. It defaults to the Seattle sky, but you can change the location interactively when running the program or edit lines 120-190 to change the default values.

It may burn you - Quest for Fire (by Anthony Wood) is our first machine language adventure. You can use four character abbreviations for commands (ie: EXAM CHES for EXAMINE CHEST) and one character abbreviations for allowable directions (ie: N for NORTH). Hitting <clear> clears the screen and reprints the place description. I (or INVENTORY) gives you a list of the things you are carrying, QUIT ends the game, and SAVE or LOAD lets you save or load the game status to tape or disk. GOing places, SWIMming places, and EXAMining things more than once can help.

To run the adventure from tape type SYSTEM<enter>, answer the *? with QUEST<enter>, and answer the next *? with /<enter>. The start, end, and entry addresses are 20992, 29479, and 20992 (in hex 5200, 7327, and 5200)

The Model III talks! Sounds (by David Lau and Clifford Mui) lets you input sounds through the recorder and play them back digitally through an amplifier connected to the large grey AUX plug. You choose the record and playback speeds (speed 1 gives 16 seconds of record/playback, speed 9 gives 37 seconds of record/playback). To run the program from tape type SYSTEM<enter>, answer the *? with SOUNDS<enter>, and answer the next *? with /<enter>. The start, end, and entry addresses are 28672, 29185, and 28672 (in hex 7000, 7201, and 7000).

The computer gets confused...

Line 272 in last month's Project Triad was syntactically correct, but the last RETURN was ignored (and you could have received an error message) unless you put a **THEN** after the "PLA". Don't ask me why, I just work here (sometimes)...

A time of year when we remember our friends...

Every month I write a little about the shop and the people who work around here and usually my pen is dipped in fun poison. This month, a few of the bodies get a chance to get back at me (it is the holidays...) and write their own thoughts:

From Donna, our keep-this-place-together person:

Ho! Ho! Ho! - Or should I say He! He! He! Boy, that David has told you all kinds of stories about me. Now I have my chance to get even. Well... he's got to be the best boss I've ever had!! (Santa's watching to see if I'm naughty or nice...)

From Kim, keeping the subscriptions in order and up to date:

He sees you when you're sleeping,
He knows when you're awake,
He eavesdrops on the phone line
And your office isn't safe.

Is it Santa? I don't think so, with that grin from ear to ear. Why surprise! It's our boss, David, peering in the window there (can't get any privacy around this place).

From Tom, our program editor and whatever else he does:

I've been waiting for this moment for a long time. At last a chance to redeem myself in the eyes of our subscribers. I have always been the brunt of Dave's harassment - I was either getting a mohawk, neglecting all of my work, or eating away the entire company's profits. Finally I have the chance to reveal the truth. I assure you that everything written about me is entirely incorrect (burp!). Oh, how that tired me out. I think I'll go lay down for a spell...

From Grady, our other program editor and unwilling production person:

Is it Christmas yet?

From Barry, our boy wonder:

I can't think of anything.

From me, chief storyteller and slavedriver, to you, our illustrious subscribers:

Until next year,

Done
ed.

Kim
Grady

Donna
Tom