



NEPACC NEWS

NORTH EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA AMATEUR COMPUTER CLUB

Vol. V

No. 3

SOLID STATE TECHNOLOGIST FEATURED SPEAKER AT NOVEMBER MEETING

The program for November will include an address by Dr. Herbert McKinstry, Associate Professor of Solid State Technology at the University Park Campus of the Pennsylvania State University. The title of Dr. McKinstry's presentation is The Versatile Apple. He will discuss and demonstrate a wide variety of software for the Apple II, including computer music, graphics, and application programs in materials research. Dr. McKinstry is an officer in the Microcomputer Users Group of Central Pennsylvania (MUG).

The November NEPACC meeting will be held Friday, the 12th. Registration for the tutorial sessions will be held at 6:45pm in room 119. The tutorial session will begin at 7:00 in room C-121. The regular meeting will begin promptly at 8:00pm in C-209. Members not participating in the tutorial are invited to meet informally in room 209 any time after 7:00pm.

All members are encouraged to attend to hear Dr. McKinstry. Refreshments will be served following the meeting. Come on out and bring a friend.

TUTORIAL SESSION TAKES ON NEW LOOK

NEPACC began holding tutorial sessions in BASIC in the fall of last year. The tutorial sessions have been mainly the work of Dr. Joe Dandois with the assistance of other NEPACC members. Since last fall the popularity of these sessions has grown steadily. Recently attendance at these sessions has been larger than could be accommodated under the informal format established last year. In addition, the fact that new members were constantly joining the sessions made it difficult to provide for continued progress of the sessions. In an effort to make the BASIC tutorial sessions more productive some changes in format have been established by the club.

First the sessions are planned to provide a brief course in BASIC programming which will last approximately three to four months. The tutorial sessions will be limited in enrollment to the number of NEPACC members which can be accommodated in the computer lab. Registration for the tutorial session will be necessary. All students will be required to purchase a textbook, "Introduction to BASIC Programming", by Steven L. Mandell. This book is written to provide a general working knowledge of BASIC. It includes specific instructions for owners of Apple, PET, IBM, and TRS-80 computers and can be applied, with some modification, to TI-99 BASIC. The cost of the book is \$8.95.

The tutorial sessions will allow completion of the book in three or four months. It is most important that persons taking the tutorial have access to a microcomputer other than those at Penn State since participants will be expected to work on their own between sessions.

The first series of sessions, which will begin Friday night, will feature a lecture on programming by Jim Sahaida. Dr. Joe Dandois will be leading the lab session. Registration for the first series of sessions will be held at 6:45 pm. in Room 119 of the Classroom Building.

The Club wishes to express its sincere thanks to Dave Hersker, past club president, for originating the idea of a tutorial session. We also wish to thank Dr. Dandois and the other club members who have generously contributed their time in these tutorial sessions. All club members with proficiency in BASIC are invited to help with the tutorial sessions.

OCTOBER MEETING BREAKS ATTENDANCE RECORD

Over fifty persons attended the October 8th meeting of NEPACC. Of this number over half were attending their first NEPACC meeting. The meeting included lively discussions on projects and programs planned or proposed for the 1982-83 season. One proposed project was a one day computer seminar to be held at Boscov's Department Store in the Laurel Mall. (See additional information elsewhere in the newsletter.) In addition a club publicity committee was established. Plans for a computer fair, COMPUFAIR '83, to be held in May were discussed. A tentative date of May 1, 1983 is currently under discussion.

A brilliant program on installing disk drives in the TRS-80 model III was presented. Members present were treated to a first hand look at an Osborn Computer which was demonstrated by Adam Rozanski.

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CLUB MEMBERSHIP GROWING

During the October the club gained 15 new members. We are pleased to welcome the following new NEPACCers; Tom Antolick, James Baker, C.E. Barrett, Pat Galisto, Joe Gardecki, John Gardecki, Alyssa Greif, Joe Marchesani, Alan Roman, Todd Wardel, Jack Wyeth, Kim Woitko, Joseph Woitko, Donna Yannuzzi, Jacine Yannuzzi.

Dues for 1982-83 are now due from all NEPACC members. Membership dues in NEPACC exist in several categories.

REGULAR MEMBER	\$5.00 / year.	
FAMILY MEMBER	\$1.00 / year	(Immediate family of regular member.)
STUDENT MEMBER	\$2.00 / year	(full-time student over 14 years of age.)

If you haven't paid your 1982-83 dues please see club treasurer, George Lee. We are planning the publication of a membership directory soon. Please be sure that your dues are paid and that we have your correct address, phone number, and users group preference. Newsletters can only be sent to members in good standing.

TI 99 USERS GROUP BEARING UP

The newly reorganized TI 99 users group is planning meetings for the first Tuesday following the regular NEPACC meeting. Their next meeting will be held at Dan Cooper's on November 16th at 7:30 pm. Call Dan Cooper at 454-0323 for more information. NEPACC NEWS has become aware that the number of TI owners is rapidly growing in the Hazleton Area. If you know a TI owner who is not acquainted with NEPACC invite them to the next meeting.

Dan Cooper recently provided us with a copy of the newsletter of a Pittsburgh based TI-99 Users group. The following tip for TI-99 Users is from Vol. 2, No. 3 of Peripheral.

PROGRAMMING TIP - One question often facing the programmer of the TI-99 is that of determining the length of a program stored in memory. The following two line program can answer that question if typed in at the beginning of a regular basic program.

```
1 A=A+0
2 GOSUB 1
```

After you run this program at the beginning of your program the greater than sign, or prompt (">") will appear, indicating that you are in the command mode again. When this occurs type "PRINT A" with no line number. The number printed will be the number of unused bytes of memory remaining.

When considering this number, however, be aware of several things: The computer does not store each letter or number as a single byte. The computer scans the program as you type it in and stores it in its special format. This format turns most commands into a single byte and then adds other information so the computer will know how to interpret the rest of the line.

CALL statements are an interesting exception to the above. The word CALL becomes a single byte followed by the representation in ASCII of the rest of the CALL. (CALL HCHAR, for example, would take six bytes while CALL SCREEN would take seven bytes.)

What this boils down to is this: a lot of short, simple command statements will take up much less memory than statements with many CALLS and PRINT statements.

Another point: just because you still have a thousand bytes of memory left, don't jump for joy. The computer needs a certain amount of free memory to print things on the screen, store variables, etc. This space varies from one program to another. If you try to convert a program from another dialect of BASIC into TI BASIC you may want to leave out REM statements and any instructions included in the program until you know it will fit.

P.S. Don't forget to remove the size program (lines 1 and 2) before you try to run your program.

TI users will be interested to know that a program on software for the 99 is currently being planned for NEPACC's January meeting.

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TRS-80 USERS GROUP

Thirty people showed up at the last TRS-80 Users group meeting. Such response indicates that there are a lot of TRS-80s in use in the area. The users group meets to provide owners and users an opportunity to exchange ideas and provide help with programming problems. Group Members are invited to bring in programs they are willing to share, as well as questions they may have encountered in the use of their systems. This month members are especially invited to share short programs such as the following reflex test. Type it into your computer and try your luck.

```
1 CLS:FORP=0TO15:PRINTP#64+28,STRING$(8,191);:NEXT:PRINT@960, "HIT ENTER";:FOR Z=1 TO 9E9:IFINKEY$(<>CHR$(13) THEN
  NEXTELSEFOR P=1TORND(3000)+900:NEXT:X$=INKEY$:FORTX=1TO 46:RESET(63,TX):RESET(64,TX):PRINT@960, "TIME:"TX" "; IF
  INKEY$=""THEN NEXT
2 PRINT@1010,"HIT ANY KEY";:IF INKEY$=""THEN 2 ELSE RUN
```

NEPACC'S TRS-80 Users Group will hold its regular meeting on Friday November 12th. The meeting will be held in room 121 of the Classroom Building on the Hazleton Campus of Penn State. TRS-80 users, owners, and would-be owners are encouraged to attend.

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MALL DEMONSTRATION PLANNED FOR AFTER CHRISTMAS

At the October meeting plans were discussed for holding a computer demonstration day in the Laurel Mall. Boscov's Department Store has been contacted and has indicated their willingness to provide their auditorium as a site for the demonstration. While no date has been established for this program we expect it will take place after the Holidays. The purpose of this program is to provide NEPACC an opportunity to meet the general public and to provide information on computers and the club. Several club members have already volunteered to help with this project. If you are interested in demonstrating your computer see club president, Paula Krisa.

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CLASSIFIED?

Perhaps NEPACC NEWS could sell a piece of computer equipment you no longer need. Starting next month members will be permitted to place an ad in NEPACC NEWS free of charge. If you're interested contact the NEWS editor, Dave Orbin.

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PENN STATE LIBRARY ADDS APPLE SOFTWARE TO ITS COLLECTION

As the NEWS has indicated in the past the Hazleton Campus Library has a wide variety of books and periodicals devoted to microcomputers and their uses. A recent addition to the collection is titled MICRO on the Apple, Vol. 2. This book is a collection of articles and programs from MICRO magazine, the 6502/6809 Journal. The book includes articles and programs in such areas as machine language aids, I/O enhancements, runtime utilities, graphics and games, and hardware. This interesting and useful book comes complete with a disk of 47 programs discussed in the book. Programs are presented in a variety of formats for both integer and applesoft language cards.

This book should be of interest to all apple owners and users. The Campus library is open to all members of the community and subscribes to a wide variety of micro related magazines and has a wealth of books for micro users. You are invited to drop by the library, which is open from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Friday, 12:30 to 4:30 Saturday and 6:00 to 10:00 pm Sunday during the academic term. For more specific information call the library.

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Paula Krisa, President David Richards, Vice-president James Sahaida, Secretary George Lee, Treasurer

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FIRST CLASS

