

New Hampshire 99'ers

JANUARY 1987

Newsletter

VOL. 5 No. 1

NH99UG NEWSLETTER - POB 5991 - MANCHESTER, NH 03108

>OLD

I warned you! If you didn't make it to the January meeting, you may not have seen MYARC's new computer - the MYARC 9640 (they've dropped GENEVE because of potential conflict with another computer). Thanks are due to Peter Hoddie and Walt Howe of the Boston Computer Society for driving up for our little get together. Both gentlemen were informative and eager to share with us. The computer shown was not a production model but was impressive non the less. Technical difficulties with monitors (not the computer!) prevented a good demonstration of the graphics, colors, 80 columns, etc. Take heart, though. Two of our club members are 'on the list'. Sometime after production models hit the streets, you will see one at club meetings.

Peter Hoddie also brought along some of his software that is being distributed by Asgard. His PRE-SCAN-IT package, in particular, can drastically speed up the load and run time of your programs.

Thanks again, Peter and Walt. We would be happy to host further exchanges of software and/or hardware.

Remember the Peripheral Expansion Box that Andre' Roy donated? We finally raffled it off. The winner? Mike Vespraukas. Mike? Are you out there? Please pick it up - it takes up too much room in the trunk of my car.

Meetings have been held from 7:30 to after 9:30. We really need to have more respect for Bonanza's closing time. Mondays are slow for them and we are always the last people out the door. I propose that we start meetings at 7:00 and 'end' at 9:00. Hopefully we can get our equipment out before 9:30.

Finally - don't expect to make copies of disks at the meetings. For one thing, it takes up too much time. If you want something from the club library, please let Richard Bailey know well in advance of the meeting. He will usually have it waiting for you (with nice labels, etc.). He is very good to us all - don't abuse the system.

RICHARD BAILEY
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>NEW

Paolo Bagneresi - of BA-WRITER fame - has sent me version 1.2 of his loader. It is completely MYARC RAM disk compatible and includes an excellent program for setting defaults, loading, etc. If you want the upgrade from the club, you can either pay the copy charge for a new disk, or bring in your old club disk and get the new version for free. Since Richard doesn't yet have the new version, don't call him until after the February meeting. **Note that this doesn't constitute the donation that is due to Mr. Bagneresi!** You should still make a donation to him if you haven't already.

Speaking of donations: our club has recently sent off \$55 to Mr. Bagneresi and \$45 to Tony and Will McBovern (FUNNELWRITER). I am happy that you people came forward, and I know that many of us sent off donations before. But really - has everyone in the club who is using either product given a donation? It isn't too late. Please make donations payable to the club or to me. Both developers asked me to collect the funds and send international postal orders (which I will pay for out of my pocket). I promise that your entire donation will be forwarded.

Elections are coming up more quickly than we realize. There must be a nominating committee established soon so that all members may review the slate in advance of the election. I can tell you one person who will not be on the ballot - me. I have filled the position of President for almost two years. I feel that it is time for new blood. I will still remain active in the club and will be happy to put on demonstrations. Whoever gets elected President may avail him/herself of my advice at any time.

We are also looking for two other positions: secretary and newsletter editor. I am currently doing the paste up on the articles each month. Together with Mike Mannion and Dick Quimby, I manage to get this thing out. Come-on people, let's get a little more action.

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031

Helene had an excellent idea whose time has come. Whoever volunteers to be editor gets to use the club equipment between meetings. The only stipulations are 1) the newsletter must be put together (copying will be handled separately) and 2) the equipment must be brought to each meeting. Anyone out there need a PEB with 32K, RS232, PIO, disk drive and a printer (and hopefully a color monitor - soon)?

TI FAIRS are coming, and soon! The closest one I can think of is the Fayuh put on by the BCS in conjunction with several other TI groups in New England. The exact dates escape me at this writing, but I believe it is scheduled for early April. There are also fairs being held in New Jersey, Canada, Chicago,

The question is whether we are participating in any of these? Granted, most of them are further away than most of would like, but the 'Fayuh' will probably be held in or around Lexington. Still a long drive for some, but not for most. If we are to be there, we need to organize NOW!

On with the show....

>BYE

C-COLUMN

Jim Jagielski has offered to write a column on the C language. Programs could be compiled using the c99 compiler developed by Clint Pulley for the TI. This disk set is available from the club and is a FAIRWARE program - if you use it, pay for it!

I would like to thank Jim for volunteering to take on a column a month.

Any other volunteers? We have room for LOGO, FORTH, BASIC's, and ASSEMBLY as well. Please note that Jim Peterson has discontinued his articles. If you are still groping with the finer uses of the BASIC's, you will have to grope without Jim Peterson's help. Mr. Peterson's articles have cost us nothing and have been quite informative. Times being what they are, he can no longer support dozens of users groups by mailing out his monthly articles. Time is overdue for us to reciprocate...

COMPUTER SHOW

If you weren't at the show Sunday, you missed some good deals on hardware and supplies. I saw 1/2 height drives for \$50, disk cases (bought one for \$12, holds >100 with a lock, too!), cables, monitors, printers, etc. There was even a meager collection of TI hardware, though by far the star of the show was either the IBM or clone. Take heart - I hear there's another show like this coming around in March (or May?).

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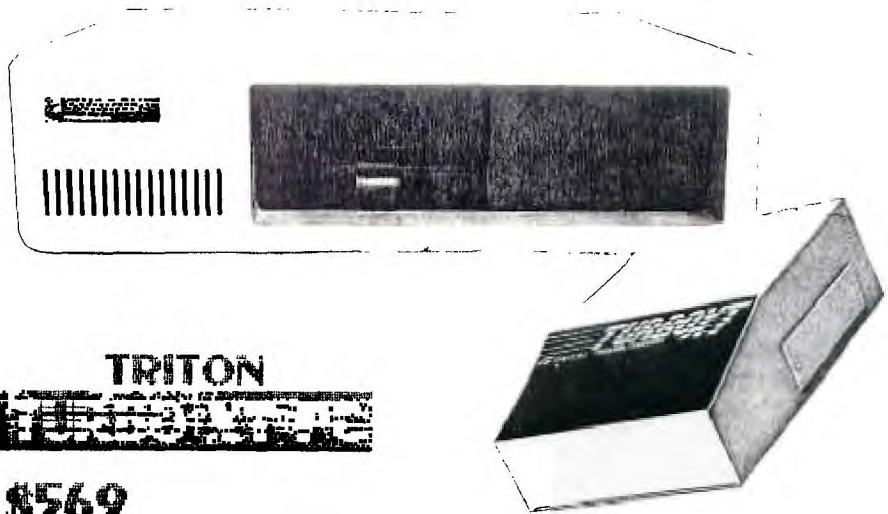
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RAMBLER

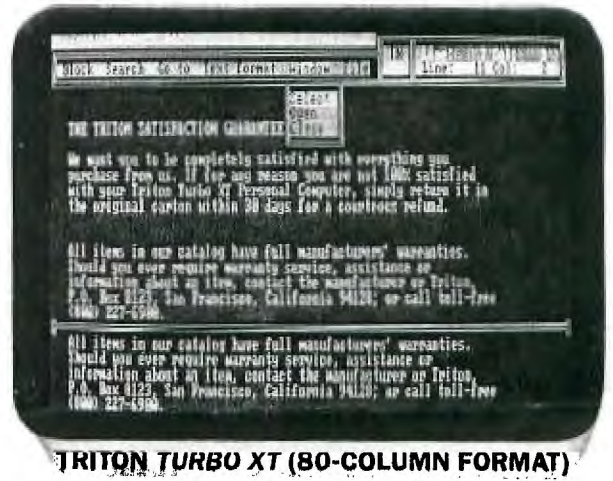
Helene M. LaBonville

I'm sure you couldn't help but notice the insets on this page. I just this weekend (01/24/87) received a flyer from TRITON Products Co. (POB 8123, San Francisco, CA 94128) introducing the Triton TurboXT PC for \$499 +S/H. Actually, a more precise price would be \$569 + S/H, because the MS-DOS (2.1)/GW-BASIC disk is "extra"! This is not a product endorsement by me just an announcement of availability. I just today was told by two NH99UG members of their dissatisfaction with TRITON's very slow shipping record. TRITON themselves note that "due to the anticipated demand, orders will be filled on a first-come, first-shipped basis." If you have further questions, PLEASE call TRITON at 1-800-227-6900.



TRITON

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DISK DRIVES... As you know, I have been selling bare Shugart 400L replacement drives. Many of you chose this opportunity to use them as second drives. Paul Stello, one of our Vermont members, chose a different approach for powering the drive:

...After 2 weeks of upgrading the power supply in my expansion box and building an enclosure for the disk drive, I finally got the system up and running. Funny thing about that 270 ohm resistor; the TI manual doesn't address it. (But it certainly is needed in DSK1).

One thing to watch out for anyone upgrading their expansion box using ECG 933 12V regulator to run 2 full height Shugarts; the PC board (in my case) was inadequate to keep the transistor cool! I had to mount it on an external heat sink and wire it back into the PC board. (Works great now!) In addition, the 2 existing diodes that feed the 12V supply (mounted on the board) need to be swapped out with 3 amp diodes. The existing diodes are rated at 1 amp and will eventually self destruct. With these changes there should never be a problem with the 12V supply...

This should serve as a warning of a potential problem which may arise when adding two half height, full powered drives. Some PEB's can handle the additional stress, but it would be wiser to buy half heights which are also designated as half powered. I intended to list a few here, but I have misplaced my references and Curtis is waiting for my column to finish printing the newsletter! Come to the next meeting or send me a S.A.S.E. if you are interested.

By the way, I'm not sure if Paul intended to buy a second drive or replace his "finicky" one, but because he was a member in good standing with our club, he was able to borrow the club's diagnostic module (PDM99) and apparently has solved that problem.

CORCOMP... At the last meeting, Walt Howe of the Boston Computer Society advised us that CORCOMP has filed Chapter 7 of the Federal Bankruptcy Law.

SPECIFICATIONS

TRITON TURBO XT Personal Computer

MICROPROCESSOR: Intel 8088, 8/4.77 MHz clock speed (software selectable).

OPERATING SYSTEM: MicroSoft® Disk Operating System (MS-DOS).

MEMORY: 256K RAM (Expandable to 640K).

DISK DRIVE: One 5 1/4" double-sided, double-density, 360K thin-line mini-floppy, 48 tracks per inch.

VIDEO: RGB/composite color graphics display adapter.

INTERNAL EXPANSION: Eight standard user-accessible IBM PC card slots.

EXTERNAL CONNECTIONS: Standard parallel printer port, composite video, RGB, AC outlet.

POWER: 120VAC, 50-60 Hz.

BRIDGE BOX

4A MODE: Common video out, 99/4A video in.

XT MODE: Keyboard out, video in, XT Video in. Selectable power-up mode callable from TI BASIC or Extended BASIC. Concurrent processing. Five LED status display.

Because of our reputation in the TI community, a MAJOR SOFT/HARDWARE WAREHOUSE contacted us to help them liquidate their remaining TI inventory. The items on this page are top quality, and all, but the individual cartridge software is TI factory-sealed! Since we are "kitchen table entrepreneurs" we do not accept credit cards, and must insist on payment by Money Order, Certified Check, or United Parcel Service C.O.D. If you have any questions, please call Helene (1-603/472-3369) from 7pm to 10pm (Eastern) any day except Saturday.

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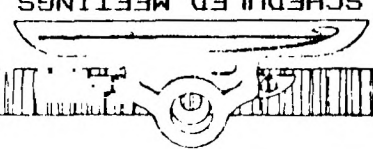
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