

CPUUG NEWSLETTER



Volume 8 Number 6

99er

June, 1989

MINI-MINUTES

May 22, 1989

Amos Myers opened the meeting in the absence of our President, Dave Ratcliffe who is ill with the flu.

The 1989 EXPO is off and running with reservations starting to come in the mail. The latest was the West Penn Users Group. Thank you Mickey Schmitt for responding so soon. The EXPO is also mentioned in the latest issue of MICROPENDIUM. Gary Taylor, President of the Pittsburgh Users Group has sent a letter to many of the Users Groups in the Western part of the region announcing the EXPO. Thank you Gary. Enclosed in last month's newsletter is a copy of Gary's letter.

The BBBB in Clinto MD is down. It seems that the board was hit with lightning and Bob's board is out of operation until further notice.

Our own WIZ/TIB will be up and running shortly with complete new look. Ed note: It's operating now, so check it out.

Barry talked about "PRESS". He had talked via phone to Chriss Bobbit just a few hours before the meeting. Chris hopes to be shipping before the Summer is over. "PRESS" is just about finished. All of the main program is operating. Just has to intergrate the other programs, ie: printer files, etc.

A motion was made to publish our Users Group list in the newsletter. This is the list of Groups that we correspon with each month. Barry indicated that he would have it ready.

Finally, the results of our recent election was announce. The results were:

President: Dave Ratcliffe
V-Pres: Amos Myers
V-Pres: Dave Hultberg
S/Treas: Barry Long
Ex Board: Dot Swartz and Tony DeDonatis
Editor: Nick Varnalis
Education: Dave Hultberg
Library: Mark Stoner
Events: Harry Long

Many thanks to the members who took the time to return their ballots. Thanks to Terry Longenecker and Francis Downey for taking the time to tabulate the results.

The meeting adjourned at 8pm and 25+ members were busy copying the library from the three systems that were set up.

Till Next Time,
Barry Long, Secretary

NEXT METTING: MONDAY JULY 17

Central Pa 99/4A Users Group

THE EXECUTIVE WASHROOM

By Dave Ratcliffe
 Da Prez, Central Pa. 99/4A UG,
 Harrisburg, Pa.

Well, after many promises, LOTS of problems and some last minute decisions, the new CPUG sponsored BBS is on line. It's NOT what we have been working on all these months but it got us on-line with a potentially more powerful computer than we had planned on. Not only that, but the name has been changed. What we used to call WIZ/TIB is now known as The Data Factory. The new system is running on a DTK 88386 tower running SCO/XENIX and a BBS package called XBBS. The nice thing about this software is that it is written in C and we can modify it any way want and make it better than it is now. Even nicer is the fact that with the release of the MDOS C-compiler by Clint Pulley, I'll be able to do edit work on it with my Geneve and just move the code over after it has been debugged. Now all I have to do is learn C (sigh). If you call at 300 and 1200 baud. As of this writing, the TI download section has over 4.5 meg of software in it with more coming. There is also an area for RLE and GIF pictures as well as a Geneve download section. Message bases include TI Tech and General, Myarc HFDC, TI Flea, Myarc Flea, CPUG Expo info and CPUG on a total of 9 message bases. Private and public messages are supported in EVERY message base. For file transfer protocols, you can choose from Xmodem Checksum, Xmodem CRC or ASCII. Ymodem is provided for but TELCO doesn't always work with it and MASS TRANSFER's Ymodem isn't even close. We are still experimenting with this new system and learning in the process. As good as the software is, the documentation is pathetic and we will be making mistakes. Just PLEASE bear with us while we learn.

If you are interested in calling to see what it looks like, feel free! The numbers are:
 (717)657-4997 or (717)657-4992

Both are active 24 hours a day but there is NO rollover from one number to the other so you'll have to dial each seperately. Both numbers are currently 300/1200 baud with 2400 coming shortly.

For those of you out there who object to a TI UG running a BBS on non-TI hardware, Sorry. I use support where I find it. We can support the TI/Geneve world VERY well with this system and even if the CPUG should vote to withdraw support of this system, I will continue to maintain it as an information base for the TI/GENEVE world.

If you call The Data Factory from out-of-town, let me know you are calling for the TI/GENEVE stuff and I'll crank up your daily usage time a bit. Just leave a message in closing comments or to me in the ASK THE SYSOP message base.

Finally, pass the word about the Data Factory around to other members of your UG. While PCP does not support Harrisburg with an outdial, I understand Starlink does. Maybe we'll see you on the system??????

That's all for this month....

)) Dave ((

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2, Wilkes-Barre Ham & Compute Fest, Ice-A-Rama Complex

July 30, BRATS Hamfest, Timonium, Md. Fairgrounds

August 28, New Delmarva Hamfest, Kent Vo-Tech North, Dover, De.

September 23 & 24, York Hamfest & Computer Show, York Fairgrounds

October 15, Cumberland Count HamFest hosting the third annual CPUG TI computer Expo, Carlisle, Pa.

October 15, CARA HamFest, Howard County Fairgrounds, Md.

Central Pa 99/4A Users Group

PLEASE
Part 4

By Barry Long, CPUG

First off, I want to opologize for not having this article prepare in time for the May newsletter. I had an illness in the family (me) and could not spare the energy to complete my task. Sorry.....

This month we will take up the fine art of **PRINTING** your data onto a piece of paper. After all, what good is having information, if you can't take it with you? Whoops, wrong comment Oh well, you know what I mean.

By now, you should be rather familiar with Command Files, and their creation and structure. I will assume that (I hope you don't assume me, If you know what I mean). I will skip the redundant portions of the file and get into the heart of it.

Remember, Don't type in the line numbers, they are for reference only.

*Command file LIST

```
1 CLEAR
2 CLOSE ALL
3 SET TALK OFF
4 SET RECNUM OF
5 SET HEADING OFF
6 PRINTER EPSON
7 SET PAGE 68
8 CLEAR LOCAL
9 WRITE 10,8,"PRINTING MEMBERSHIP LIST
10 LOCAL NAME C 25
11 LOCAL ADDRESS C 25
12 LOCAL CITY C 30
13 LOCAL INF C 25
14 LOCAL BLANK C 1
15 SELECT 1
16 USE MEMBERS
17 SORT ON LN
18 TOP
19 CLEAR
20 WHILE .NOT. (EOF)
21 REPLACE NAME WITH TRIM(LN):", ":FN
22 REPLACE ADDRESS WITH TRIM(ADD)
23 REPLACE CITY WITH TRIM(CITY) :", ":ST:
24 REPLACE INF WITH PHH:" ":MEMDATE
25 PRINT (CM) (HT) (B) NAME ADDRESS
26 DISPLAY LN FN MEMDATE
27 MOVE
28 ENDDHILE
29 CLEAR
30 EJECT
31 WRITE 10,15,"END OF DATA"
32 CLOSE ALL
33 CLEAR LOCAL
34 CLEAR
35 RETURN
```

Line 6 is your printer default. This will open the PRINTER file on your system disk and use the values of the printer you select. In this case I use EPSON.

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WORDS FROM YOUR EDITOR

Just wanted to take a little time here and say that I hope with your help we can make this newsletter stand out from the rest.

I have some ideas which I would like to share with the members and see what you think. First I will, in the near future to using a HP Laserjet for printing the newsletter, which should make for a more professionally looking piece of work. I would like if possible, and with your help in contributing articles have a different theme for each months newsletter.

One month might consist of articles having to deal with graphics, another month maybe about file handling with disk drives or TI-WRITER. What do you think? All these things are possible with your help in contributing articles to the newsletter.

I also might add that since we exchange with about 100 other users groups I have in my possession hundreds of newsletters with many interesting articles and will be using some of these in the next couple of newsletters.

I would also like to take the time to ask that if you are contributing articles for the newsletter to please have them in my possession at least 2 weeks after our monthly meeting. I would prefer that the files be on disk and in D/V 80 format if possible, I will see that you get your diskette back. If you have a modem you may also upload them onto our BBS system and I will get them from there. Well thats it for now from your editor.

Nick Varnalis
Newsletter Editor



pagepro FROM ASGARD

PagePro was introduced in April at the Ottawa Fair. While there's not much chance of this program going into competition with Ventura Publisher, it gives the Tier a nice new world of graphics possibilities. Up to now the best we have had for creating a page of news, or flyer, has been Picasso. That program only gave us a half page at a time though.

PagePro allows the user to make up full 60 column by 66 line pages in one shot. You can place up to 28 pictures on the page too. The picture format is converted from Artist instances via a little utility that is included on the disk. Another utility allows you to switch large & small fonts that may be use at will in the program. The small fonts must be one char high and the large ones have to be three high X two wide. One other item included is a nice little column program. It will take any text file and format it just for a two column PagePro page. If it's a big text file, the program will make up consecutive files for you. That way you can prepare an entire newsletter and never leave this fantastic program. There is a also a complete set of graphic line characters that can be used for boxes, underlining, fancies, etc.

FOR SALE

CorComp Triple Tech card \$50.00
TI Speech Synthesizer \$20.00
TI 32K Memory Expansion \$35.00

Call Nick Varnalis
Monk 232-3660
Home 561-0534 after 6pm

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GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR CASSETTE SYSTEM
BY MICKEY SCHMITT
NUMBER 18

UNDERSTANDING CASSETTE ERROR CODES AND MESSAGES

Understanding cassette error codes and messages is not quite as difficult as it may seem. Unfortunately, trying to find a list of the error codes and messages that deal specifically with the cassette recorder has been a difficult task! In doing my research for this particular article, I have had to combine many different sources of information - in order to be as informative as complete as possible.

Basically, cassette error codes and messages can occur during one of two different types of commands. More specifically, I am referring to the "LOADING" (OLD CSI) procedure and the "SAVING" (SAVE CSI) procedure.

This month I will be examining the error codes and messages that can occur during the "SAVING" (SAVE CSI) procedure.

When the cassette recorder finishes saving your program - the computer will tell you whether or not the program was recorded successfully. If the program was recorded successfully, you would see the following message appear on your monitor or TV screen - after you complete the necessary steps in the "CHECKING" procedure:

```
*DATA OK
*PRESS CASSETTE STOP      CSI
  THEN PRESS ENTER
```

If, however, the cassette recorder did not successfully record your program onto the cassette tape, an error occurs and the computer prints one of the following messages:

```
*ERROR - NO DATA FOUND
  PRESS R TO RECORD      CSI
  PRESS C TO CHECK
  PRESS E TO EXIT
```

```
*ERROR IN DATA DETECTED
  PRESS R TO RECORD      CSI
  PRESS C TO CHECK
  PRESS E TO EXIT
```

When this occurs - you have a choice of using one of the following three options: Note, however, that the single-letter responses (R-C-E) that you type in at this time must be in upper-case characters!

1. Press R to repeat the recording procedure. However, before repeating this procedure, check to make sure that you have put the cassette

tape correctly - and that there is enough blank tape left on the cassette tape in which to record the program on. Then follow the directions as they appear on your monitor or TV screen.

2. Press C to check the data you have read into memory. At this point you may wish to adjust your cassette recorder's volume control and tone setting. Then follow the directions as they appear on your monitor or TV screen.

3. Press E to exit from the saving procedure. At this time another error message is displayed, indicating that the cassette recorder did not properly save your program onto the cassette tape.

```
* WARNING:
  CHECK PROGRAM IN MEMORY
  * I/O ERROR 66
```

If I/O ERROR 66 appears, something definitely went wrong. But don't panic! generally speaking, when the error message "ERROR - NO DATA FOUND" occurs - the computer did not recognize the cassette recorder at all during the "SAVE CSI" routine. On the other hand - when the error message "ERROR IN DATA DETECTED" occurs - the computer recognized only part of the data the the cassette recorder was sending to the computer. When this happens, recheck your cassette recorder's volume control and tone setting. Then recheck your cassette cable. Make sure that both ends of the cable are attached to the computer and the cassette recorder. While you are at it - make sure that the color-coded wires leading to the cassette recorder are connected correctly. The cassette recorder will not operate properly if the color-coded wires are reversed!

Next month I will continue with the topic of understanding cassette error codes and messages. More specifically I will be giving you a general list of areas that should be checked when cassette errors codes and messages appear.

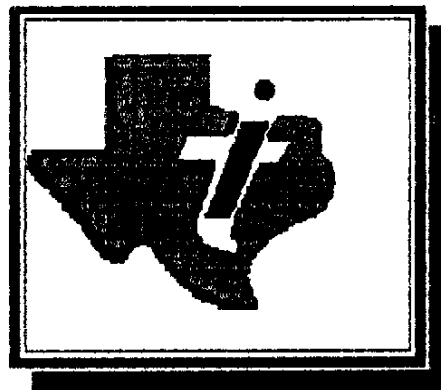
If you need any help understanding the cassette error codes and messages or are experiencing cassette errors - just give me a call (412-335-0163) and I'll try to help.

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Orphaned computers

-Speaking of orphaned computers, whatever happened to the following:

Acorn BBC Micro
Adam
Altos 586 PC
Apple III
Apricot F1
Apricot Portable
Apricot X1
Canon AS-100 PC
CDI DOT
Centron Teletalker
Columbia Vp portable
Columbia MPC
Commodore 16
Commodore LCD portable
Commodore PET
Commodore Plus 4
Commodore SX-64
Commodore VIC-20
Corona PC
Cromenco C-10
Dec Rainbow 100 Plus
Dimension 68000 PC
Eagle 1600 PC
Epson QX-10 and 16
Epson Geneva Portable
Hp 150 touchscreen
HP Intergral
HP Vectra
IBM PCjr
ITT xtra
Apple LISA
Mattel intellivision
NCR PC4 and PC6
NORTH STAR 8/16
Osborne 1
Osborne Vixen
Sinclair QL
Sinclair ZX80 and ZX81
Sanyo MBC 550
Seega Chameleon
Silver Fox
Sperry PC
Sperry Portable
S.M. Pied piper
Tandy TRS-80 model 4d and 4p
Tandy Model 1000
Timex Sinclair 2068
TI Pro PC
Victor 9000 PC
Zorbal Portable



And what about all of those Japanese MSX computers that were poised to flood the American market in late 1984? Computers like the NATIONAL CF2000, PIONEER PX-7, SONY HIT BIT, TOSHIBA HX-1000 and the YAMAHA CX-5

I guess the big difference between all these computers and the TI-99/4A is that we are still a viable community.

LIVE LONG AND PROSPER

WE'LL LOOK FOR
YOU ~~ME~~
AT THESE MEETINGS

Circle your Calendar with these meeting dates

JANUARY	15	JULY	17
FEBRUARY	13	AUGUST	21
MARCH	20	SEPTEMBER	25
APRIL	17	OCTOBER	16
MAY	22	NOVEMBER	20
JUNE	19	DECEMBER	18

All meetings begin at 7PM but the Group equipment will be set up and ready for use at approximately 6PM.
All meetings are held at the **CAMP HILL SHOPPING MALL COMMUNITY ROOM**

This newsletter is published monthly by the Central Pa 99/4A Users Group. Material may be reproduced without permission provided the author and the source are acknowledged. If you desire more information about the Central Pa. 99/4A Users Group, contact:

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NEXT MEETING: JULY 17th, 1989 at 7pm