GENERAL MEETING JUNE 24th, 1996

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WORDPLAY PORTLAND,OREGON   JUNE 1996
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WHAT'S HAPPENIN' THIS MONTH

JUNE MEETING -- June 24, 1996
    See information below on how to get to home
of Terry Priest.

    No specific program is planned but as
always there are plenty of things to discuss.

    Some progress has been made in getting PUNN
members on the Internet but not too successful
when using the TI.   Telco works but after
years of using Fasterm it's hard to get used
to Telco.

    Bring in your problems or questions -- also
what programs for the TI would you want. Our
library is gathering dust -- actually!!

    Don Steffen, our hard-copy librarian will
be glad to check out the PUNN library for
whatever you may need.

    Remember! MONDAY, JUNE 24TH 7:00 PM.
                              -Ted and Ron

DIRECTIONS TO TERRY PRIEST HOME

Westbound from Beaverton on TV Hwy turn right
(north) on SW 198th. Go to Rock Road, then
turn left to 204th.   Right on 204th   to
Francis. Terry's house is right there at
20465 SW Francis.

E MAIL ADDRESS

In last month WORDPLAY we listed some of
the e/mail address wrong. Below is the
correct numbers:
    Dale Kirkwood   kirkwod@agora.rdrop.com
    J.T.Stimac   jtdd@agora.rdrop.com
We are sorry for the the trouble that
this may have caused.

RAMDISKS.

A ramdisk is a set of disks that will let you store a group of programs or files in the computer memory at all times. They can be any size from 128K to 6 meg. If you go by sectors the total can be from 512 sectors to 24,432 sectors. With 24,432 sectors you could have every thing you will ever need on the computer at all times.

The cost of these drives are going down all the time. The price of the 1 1/2 meg drive went down $188.00 from the time that I ordered it and now. The cost of the 1 1/2 extension is $40.00 and then each chip is now $35.00 to add to it. Each chip will add 512 sectors, up to 12 on each extension.

The ram disk can be divided in any units that you would like to with the following exceptions. You cannot use more then 1600 sectors on each drive and you cannot have more then 10 drives on each sub disks. You can have 2 sub disks in your PE box. So if you get the right chips you can extend the subdisks to 16,000 sectors each.

Something that you should think about when you set up your disk units is that you will want to back up the disks on your 5 1/4 floppies and as they comes in SSSD SSDD DSSD or DSDD, you will need to use their units. I set 1 subdisk up with 7 720 sectors, 2 360 sectors, and one at 384 sectors. They will never come out correct as a 128k chip will not divide out to exctly the size of any drive. You can also set them up with any units but they will not come out even if you have a 1 1/2 meg disk or any of the others. If you have a 1 1/2 meg disk you can expand them in units of 128k to 3 meg each.

On your first disks on your first subdisk you will want to put on either BOOT, PW, or MEMO. They will send you MEMO but as it is allmost the same as BOOT and I like BOOT better. So when you subdivide the main disk you will make your set up so that one of these will be run when you power up. This will have to be done on your first ram disk. By doing this when you turn on your computer or reset the computer the Boot, etc. will come up within 1 second and then you can enter the program you want to load. When you enter the number for BA WRITER etc., their header will appear within a second or so. You can then start working on what you want to do.

It is essential that you back up your main programs because if you do something wrong some time the ram disks will go bad and you will have to redo them and reload your main programs. I did this 3 times before I knew what I was doing wrong. I have not had this trouble from that time on.

You cannot use DM1000 that you use now because it will not accept any drive other then 1 to 9. If you use DSK1,2,3,4, for your 5 1/4 drives you will then only have 6-9 for you ram disks. This will only give you 5 numbers. When you set up your ramdisks you can then use DSKA - DSKZ and will have 36 drives you can use. Try to skip I and o becasue they will get mixed up with 1 and 0. They will give you a new version of DM1000 to use that will work on Drive DSK A - Z.

The SD mode of BA WRITER, PW, TI WRITER and other printing programs will not work for drive A-Z. If you want to see a listing of the programs on a file and you are working on one of them, file the program on one of your ram disks and go to the DM1000 and get a listing. This will not take over 20 seconds and then go back to your other programs.

You can run all programs or files on a ram disk except PR BASE FILES, You may have to change some of the program to look for DSKA or B etc. When you set up your ram disk, name one of them PRBASE and then you can run the programs useing DSKx for the files.

I have used #8 for scratch, A for programs for where I work, 9 for one of the other clubs I belong to, etc.

Try it and you will enjoy it. You can speed up all of your computer times with a ram disk. A 45 sector TI Writer file will take 3-4 seconds to bring back.

   Ted

LED

Extracted form North County 99er who extracted it from article by Glen Bernasek of TIa-Chips.

No matter how traumatic and frustrating a lock-up of your TI99/4A is a lot can be learned from looking at the LEDs

First, determine what is expected or not expected.

   1. The TI console has a red power indicator Led right up front, which should be on when the computer is on.

   2. On the peripheral Box the following Led should be as follows:

The white PEB card LED should be lit as long as the PEB is turned on when the TI is sending or receiving commands to or from the PEB

The 32K memory Card has a white LED that is lit all the time.

The disk controller card LED will remain on only when the main screen is active. This Led should blink only when commands are being sent to, or received from the disk controller card and disk drives.

The LED on the disk drives should glow only when the disk is being addressed.

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RECORDING COMPUTER IMAGES ON VIDEO TAPE

At some time, every one that has a computer and a VCR has wanted to combine them to make some type of video. This can be a game, a display, technical video, or some other type of picture. This article will help you to do this.

There are a couple of thing we should bring up first. Every time before you record on a new tape you should run the tape through your VCR on record first. By doing this, when you record your program on the tape you will all ready have a signal sink pauce on the tape and your picture will be better. This will also remove the slack on the tape from the manufacturer.

Most computers send out the signal to a monitor by a cable that has both a video and a audio line. There are two way that this can be done. One way is by a TV signal to a RF modulator and then to a TV turned to channel 3 or 4. The other way is direct to the video and audio input. This is the best way.

On the back of most VCRs there is a set of 6 plugs. One is the antenna input, the next one is the plug to the TV, and the other 4 are marked video input, video output, audio input and the last one, audio output.

If you have the type of computer that use the RF modulator, connect the computer to the antenna terminal. By connecting to this terminal you would not be able to talk into the tape, etc. unless you make a copy of the tape. I will cover this later.

If you can seperate the video and the audio you can connect them to the audio and video input connection to the back of the VCR. With this setup you can do a lot of different thing before you make the first tape.

On the video signal you can run it through a video processor and clean up the signal, change the color, make it sharper, etc., and then take the output of the video processor to the VCR. More later on.

On the audio you can feed in the computer signal , your voice, music, etc into a mixer and then to the VCR. I will cover this more later.

You can see what you are doing by looking at your own TV.

If your VCR is one of the new ones like Zenith, you can leave your computer hooked up all the time as it will not show untill you turn the AU control switch on your VCR. If you do this put a branch plug (about $3.00) between your VCR and monitor so that you can use the computer without the VCR turned on. When you run the VCR with the AU turned on both your TV and Monitor would have the picture on. With the AU turned off you could use the VCR like you now use it and you could use your computer on some thing else at the same time.

You now have a "Raw" tape and if you would like to edit it and make a good usefull tape you do the following.

You will need 1 VCR and your camcorder or the best way is 2 VCR.

If you have 2 or more tapes that you would like to combine, run then on the #1 VCR and list the sectors each part is on so that you can go back and find them. Then list out the order you would like the final tape to be with the tape #, starting sector # and ending sector # on.

At this point run a cable from the output video and audio to the input of the 2nd VCR that has a blank tape installed.

Between VCR #1 and VCR #2 you can make a lot of changes.

On the audio line you can mix music, your voice, the computer sound, etc. If you are going to talk you will want some type of preamp or amphifier (a listing is at the end) and a mike, run this into a mixer with all the other sorces of audio. (computer, music,etc). Then by adjusting the mixer you can control all the audio output. Take this signal to the audio input of #2 VCR.

On the video you should have some type of video processer. There are a large number on the market from $39.99 up to $250.00. A few are listed at the end. These will enhances the picture, Video Noise reduction, Control brightness, control color, fade in and out, control sharpness, etc. These video processers may be in one unit or in 2 or more units. If you are useing one like Radio Shacks Super Video Processer it is made up in one unit. If you are useing Videolink Color Processor and Videolink Datailer you will take the output of one into the input of the other. Run the output of the video processer to the input of VCR #2.

Donot overhance your picture. You cannot cut the enhanment but you can inhance all of your copies.

If you are going to make copies of the first good video, make all your copies from the first good copy as you will have some degration each time you make a copy.

Ted Peterson

MEMORY TEST

The following was extracted from an article by Glen Bernasek in the TI-Chips from North County 99ers.

A simple way to check your 32K memory expansion card to to type SIZE and press ENTER. If the 32K card is working, you will get the following message on the screen: "24400 BYTES OF PROGRAM SPACE FREE"

WORD PROCESSING

With this article we will take up word processing with the TI 994/A computer.

There are 4 main word processing programs that you can use with a TI99/4A. They are:

TI Writer
BA Writer
Funnelweb
Console Writer

The first 3 works the same and should be the way to go. The 4th one is a simple program to write a letter, print the letter and save it. It does not use any extra memery but use it own module

When the 99/4 came out TI made the TI/Writer module and when TI went out of the computer business the module was unable to be shipped overseas. Because of the lack of a module and as there were a few bugs in the TI-Writer module the TI computer people in both Australia and Italy had to come up with something better.

In Italy they came up with BA-Writer and in Australia they came up with Funnelweb.

The main different between these 2 and TI-Writer was you did not have to have the TI-Writer module and also there were some good updates installed.

These are all set up the same way and works the same with a few updates on the 2 new ones.

The programs have 3 main sections. The first is called Edit, the second Formatting, and the 3rd Util.

In the Edit program you have the options of seting up your article, changing the article or part, deleating the article or part, moving one line or group of lines from one part of the article to another part of the article, adding two or more parts from 2 or more different files together. You also set up the Formatting commands so that you can print the article, and you can build forms, All the different items that you can do are done in the Edit porgram.

The Formatting program is used for the printing end. You set the type of printer you have and the formatter commands that you set up in the Edit program will then print your article.

The Util program is used for Spellchecker, or any other program. This is the program that you use to run any EA, or Exbasic program. We talked about this part of of the TI Writer, BA Writer before.

If you need a good wordprocessing you will need the BA-Writer program. If you want a good Loader program with the word porcessing program you will want Funnelweb.

More information can be had with the TI Writer book. You will need a DV80 program called TI-CODES. Print it out.

Ted

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Watch the next few months because PUNN is varying its meeting dates from the usual 4th Monday.

JUNE   Fourth Monday, June 24th
            at home of Terry Priest.
JULY   Fourth Monday, July 22nd
            at home of Ted Peterson.
AUGUST   FIRST TUESDAY, August 6th.
            Picnic at Sellwood Park.
SEPTEMBER   Fourth Monday, Sept. 23rd.
            at home of Ron Mayer.