

Southside News

Changes are going on the club you should know about. President Billy Denny is hosting discussions about changing the times and location of the meetings. The proposed sites are:

- 1) Tidewater Community Collage, fredrick
- 2) The. New Library on Va Beach Blvd.

This topic was discussed at the March 1st 15th meetings.

By vote it was decided not to change the current location and meeting dates.

Coming soon to a park near you: The 2nd Annual Club Picnic. Located in the great outdoors, You too can stuff you face and your brain by attending this great event. If you have alittle time to spare contact Pres Billy or V Pres Allen to volenteer your help.

Every meeting at 6:30, Mike Couture, our own instructor, teaches highly refined assembly language techniques. What? You can't make heads or tails of assembly? That because your not here at 6:30 pm. Get here early and get in on Assembly.

On February 16,1988 President Billy won an as is 300 baud modem as a door prize! Well hold on to your hats. On April 19 we will give away as a door prize a Signalman 300 baud dumb modem. batteries not included. Officers of the club are not eligible for the drawing. Sorry Billy
Note: This is my old modem. ED

For some time now the club was divided into two chapters, the peninsula chapter and the southside chapter. This has changed. The Peninsula group has decided to desolve and join the southside group. This was done to save paperwork and to provide better services by consolidation to all concerned. As VP I bid all welcome.

Coming soon to a newsletter near you. Ken Woodcock is writing a series of articles for the newsletter on the subject of extended basic. How it works. What makes it go, ect.

Product Review and Information

Subject: Novation Parrot 1200 baud Modem

Product Quality	---->	A
Performance	---->	A
Documentation	---->	D
Customer Service	---->	B
Final Grade	---->	B

Score Key "A" excellent
"B" Highly Sat
"C" Sat
"D" Marginal
"E" Unsat

A long time ago (September 87) Far Far away, (my house) I saw an advertisement in "Online Today" for the Parrot 1200 modem.

The ad told of a new modem, 1200 baud, Weighing 3oz. and requires no external power or batteries. Its fully AT-compatible and retails for \$119.

Well, Being in the market for a 1200 baud modem and my wall socket looking like a rats nest, the thought of 1 less thing plugged in the wall appealed to me.

Well to make a long story short, I got my grubby little hands on one. When I opened the box I was a little surprised. The modem looked like a cassette tape box. You know, the little box cassette tapes come in. It weighed 3oz. no external power Sleek and shiny, and no cables. (After all I just ordered the modem).

So now a trip to Radio Shack was in order. To hook up the modem to your T.I. You will need a 25 pin Sub D connector and a 6 pin modular connector. The sub D connector they got. The 6 pin modular they never heard of. Don't panic.

You will need to take a trip to your local ATT phone store. Ask for a 6 pin modular extension cord. It should cost about \$6.00. Cut it in half and share it with a friend.

The wiring goes like this:

25 pin sub-d	6 pin modular
6 -----	1
2 -----	2
17 -----	3
3 -----	4
5 -----	5
Optional for TECHIE BBS SYSTEM	
19 -----	6

The plug with the cord towards you and the connections facing up, counting left to right.



Now that we have the cable hooked up, we plug it in and turn on the computer. The Parrot has no dip switches to set the parameters. Instead data is stored in non-volatile memory. The data can be changed anytime by using the "AT" commands.

The quality of the modem is noticed the first time you go on-line at 1200 baud. It is of excellent design and workmanship. The Parrot performs exactly as promised.

I wish I could give this product straight "A"'s across the board. The manual that comes with the modem is small and could contain more information on how to use the Parrot. The cable hookup info is incomplete (i.e. does not adequately describe each line function) The manual does not tell you how to turn off the auto-answer mode. (try ATSO=0)

The customer service people try to be helpful but they never heard of a T.I. home computer. (But they have now!)

One of the ways to tell how good the a company is to their customers is when you have a problem. One of the modems I bought had a problem. I called customer service and they told me to return the modem to them. They fixed it and promptly returned it to me. No problem!

Overall the Parrot 1200 modem by Novation is an great modem to use on your T.I. home computer. The fact it

doesn't require batteries or a wall transformer plus being American made makes it an excellent buy.

Note from the editor: Although the modem has been tested sat on a T.I. RS232 card it has been noted that problems have occurred using the Corcomp RS232. A similar problem may pop up using a Myarc RS232. The problem is on the DTR and RTS lines. They must have 7 volts or more to work. As the modifications come out, they will be published.

Allen Leibrand
Test Pilot, TI 99

HELP ALLEN DECIDE WHAT TO BUY

When I did my income tax return I was pleased to find I had some money coming in the form of a refund. Well, I had difficulty deciding what to buy with the money.

I want you to help me decide what to get. I have narrowed it down to a couple of selections.

Option 1. Myarc Hard Disk Controller.

Option 2. Myarc Geneve Computer card.

Option 3. Buy a IBM clone.

Discussion:

The HD controller was my first choice. The thought of 30 meg data storage was a intriguing thing. I am doing work on weather fax (pictures over short wave radio) These images take up a lot of memory. The HD controller would solve that problem nicely.

The Geneve was my second thought. It's high resolution screen and large VDP memory would be a joy to work with, not to think about its blinding speed.

When I brought this up at the meeting (mar 15) the 3rd option was suggested. Buy an IBM clone. This idea took me by surprise. For me I learned everything I know about computers from the T.I. I was surprised to find that over half of the members present at the meeting have a second non-T.I. computer.

What do you think I should do. Send comments to :

Allen Leibrand
Tidewater User's Group
4168 S. Military Hwy.
Lot #21
Chesapeake, Va. 23321

This is the first installment in a series of assembly language lessons. I hope you enjoy 'em. Allen

Introduction to Assembly Language.
By Allen Leibrand

Do you understand what assembly language is? When others speak about writing assembly language, do you smile and nod your head?

If you said yes to these questions this article is for you.

WHAT IS ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE?

Assembly language is using mnemonics to create machine code.

WHAT IS "MNEMONICS"?

Mnemonics is an easy to remember word which stands for something else.

WHAT IS MACHINE CODE?

Machine code is the internal language of the computer. It is numbers in binary.

Trying to "hand link" machine code is slow and difficult but in assembly language it is all taken care of for you. All you do is write your program in "easy to remember mnemonics". When you finish you assemble or compile your source code into machine code.

WHY ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE?

Why should a person program in assembly language? The answer is speed and control. Assembly language produces machine code which is fast. Very fast.

With assembly language you have total control of the computer. If it can be done, assembly can do it.

DISADVANTAGES OF ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE.

As you probably already know, assembly language is time consuming to write. Just to print to the screen a number from a register takes several lines of code.

THE MECHANICS OF ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE.

*CARTRIDGE *MANUAL *2 DISKS

The Editor/Assembler package contains the editor/assembler cartridge, manual, and two floppy disks.

To write your own program first plug in the editor/assembler cartridge. Turn on the computer and select editor/assembler from the menu. Insert editor disk "A" into disk drive #1.

Now select "edit" from the menu. You are now ready to type in your assembly program.

One concept the new programmer will find difficult to understand is the material you type in is not the program

you run. What you are typing in is the assembly instructions to be read by the assembler program.

EDITOR - write source code
to

SAVE TO DISK

to

ASSEMBLE - reads the source code

to

SAVES TO DISK - your finished program

When you finish, you will have two files on the disk. The source code and the object code. (the finished product)

-----TO BE CONTINUED-----

For Sale

- One console with a spare keyboard
- T.I. Color Monitor
- Two each 5 1/4 in. Disk Drives
- Two each Disk Controller Cards
- One each Peripheral Expansion Box
- One each 32k Memory Expansion Card
- One each RS232 Interface Card
- One each Speech Synthesizer
- One each Set of T.I. Duel Joysticks
- One each TAC-5 Joystick with Adapter
- One SEIKOSHA GP-100 Dot Matrix Printer
- One each Cable for Cassette Recorder

Cartridges:

- MicroSoft Multiplan
- TI-Extended Basic
- Disk Manager II
- Personal Real Estate
- TI-Writer/Word Processor
- Household Budget Management
- Personal Record Keeping
- Terminal Emulator II
- TI Logo
- Touch Typing Tutor

Game cartridges:

- Blasto
- Indoor Soccer
- TI Invaders
- Munch Man

Well over \$200 of Disks, including Beginner's Basic Tutor, Teach Yourself Basic, Teach Yourself Extended Basic, Auto-Spell Check, QS-sideways, TI-Artist Artist Companion, and many more!

Asking \$800

Contact: Leon England PH# 721-6833

TELCO REVIEW

by Michael Dormau

(Reprinted from TIDBITS, Mid South 99/4A
Users Group Newsletter)

When was the last time you received a program that really grabbed you and made you say "wow, this is neat"? For me, it was when I first ran Telco. I downloaded Telco from GBnie when it first appeared there. "Just what I need - another terminal emulator." I then uncompressed and unpacked the files with Barry Boone's wonderful Archiver 2.4. As usual I ran the program (I never read the docs first) and ... "boy this is neat!"

From the first moment the title screen appeared, I knew something different was about to happen. Drop down sliding-bar menus - just like some of my favorite PC programs. In fact, the menus look just like Borland's Reflex which uses Lotus-style menu options that can be chosen by arrowing down to a highlighted option or by pressing the first letter of each option. Choices - in a TI-99/4A program!

Even better, Telco will let me take advantage of my Geneve's 80 column capability. In fact, almost everything I imagined in a TI terminal emulator is an option in this program. That's the real key to this program - options! Choose your colors, your screen width, your terminal settings from within Telco. Then save your settings to diskette and they become your permanent defaults. (Permanent, that is, until you change them.)

Telco is a BIG program. Too big, in fact to fit into memory all at once. That's why Telco was developed using overlays. What this means is that Telco must call some functions from diskette. Up to 3 overlays (more with Minimem and Supercarts) will reside in memory. By using overlays, Telco is able to provide several modules that are usually separate programs in other terminal emulators for the 4A.

Telco allows you to choose between three different emulations: ADM3A, ANSI, and D410. Yes, this means you can call a PC BBS and view ANSI graphics. You no longer have to look at all those seemingly random characters. (Of course, you are limited to two colors because

of the text mode of the video chip.)

Well, what about a dialing directory? Okay, glad you asked that! up to 99 entries are available with separate baud rate, parity, and terminal emulations(!) settings. What's even better is that you don't have to use a separate program to add, change, or delete your phone numbers or settings. the dialer is actually a redialer which redials whichever numbers you select - up to 15 in a continuous cycle until you receive an answer.

There is a catalog routine in Telco that will not only catalog a disk(or ramdisk) but will also let you delete, protect and unprotect files. This comes in handy for making room for downloads and protecting archived files for uploading.

Another really nice feature in Telco is its macro editor. Macros allow the passing of repeated strings to the remote computer. This saves on having to manually retype the same information (for example, user id and logon information.) Telco lets you write up to twenty-six 36-character macros. Another nice feature of Telco's macros is the ability to link macros together.

Telco also has a review buffer and a print spooler. The Review buffer will allow you to save the screen to disk or printer. The print spooler will print your session to the printer if you have a TI or CorComp RS232 card and a parallel printer. The Myarc RS232 is not currently supported.

Other nice touches include a status line, beep/chimes option, selectable window width, and window scrolling (useful for viewing ansi graphics with a 40 column screen for 4A.) Ascii uploading is available for uploading DV80 files. Telco does not permit manual line by line uploading but does allow the replacement of blank lines to a line with a space by using an Expand toggle to send a CR/LF <space> CR/LF sequence for blank lines. This is useful for uploading text to a system that assumes a blank line is to be the end of the text.

Xmodem uploading/downloading counts blocks in decimal and shows the total

