



ISSUE #64 DECEMBER 1990

FOR THE RECORD
by Ed Bittner



Each article over the past five years has had its particular twist. Indeed, this one does also ! In addition each of our activities at the West Penn 99'ers is centered around the TI 99/4A, as is this one !! Our club after 5+ years is active and healthy, witness for example the election results below which has given us a complete change in officers from those earlier years..stagnation -certainly NO - willingness to become active and participate certainly YES !!! We are alive and vibrantly so !!!!

The November meeting of the West Penn 99'ers was opened by Mickey Schmitt at 7:09 PM. with the President's special thanks going to Judy,Ralph, Mike and Chris who are co-editors/producers/reproducers and distributors of the Newsletter beginning in 1991. We wish them good luck. Officers reports were brief with Scott Coleman providing much electronic Bric-a Brac at the Right Price- free !! Many of the TI 99/4A West Penn 99'ers loved it.

Gary T. gave a BB update hoping that the HFDC will be installed by the end of November. Mickey , Norm, and Joe talked briefly on the Chicago show and the upcoming Festwest'91 (LA) , Feb 16,17th ; the DC show in April and the Lima show on May 18, 1991.

Reflecting over the past five years, I've enjoyed writing "For The Record" and chess shorts, stunts, and innuendos (not subtleties); riddles, rhymes, and license for the month, I will miss dearly. (Not deadlines, however). It's good to move on and FRANKLY, ZIC has demonstrated his exceptional ability. (I have, through I'm sure he would use it, offered him a spellchecker, however).

With a now completed transfer of leadership from our original set of officers we will continue to promote the use of the TI 99/4A with excitement and vigor. Its great to be part of this community - The West Penn 99'ers.

In finality submitted,
Ed (Scoops) Bittner

V. President J Willforth
Librarian Bob Sadusky
Treasurer Lynn Gardner

Rec Sec. - Frank Zic
Cor Sec.- Mike Sealy
Pres. Mickey Schmitt

PS: Licence plate of the month : 4AGR8TIME

WEST PENN 99'ERS CLUB INFORMATION

NEXT MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 18, 1990
MEETING LOCATION: ST. STEPHEN'S BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
JUST OFF ROUTE 30 BETHEL ROAD, NORWIN
TIME OF MEETING: 7:00 P.M.

LIST OF WEST PENN OFFICERS FOR 1990

PRESIDENT: MICKEY 335-0163
VICE PRESIDENT: SCOTT 523-3754
TREASURER: LYNN 835-4304
RECORDING SEC: ED 864-4924
CORRESPONDING SEC: GENE 829-0469
LIBRARIAN: BOB 863-5672
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: JOHN 527-6656

GENERAL ITINERARY OF THE CLUB'S MEETING

6:45 P.M. DOORS OPEN
7:00 P.M. GENERAL MEETING
7:45 P.M. DEMOS AND NEW INFO
8:45 P.M. HARDWARE & PRINTERS
8:45 P.M. INTRO TO ASSEMBLY
11:00 P.M. DOORS CLOSE

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR THIS MONTH

LATEST T.I. NEWS AND SOFTWARE DISCOUNTS
LATEST NEWS CONCERNING OUR NEWSLETTER
UPDATE ON THE NEW HFDC CARD FROM ESD
BACKSTEINE, A GAME DEMO BY NORMAN ROKKE
"FORTRAN FOR THE TI-99/4A" BY AL BEARD
"CHRISTMAS PRESENTS" FROM SANTA TO ALL!

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES!

\$15.00 PER YEAR FOR INDIVIDUAL / FAMILY
\$10.00 PER YEAR FOR JUST THE NEWSLETTER

ON MYARC.....

I've seen a splash or two in the newsletters I receive stating that there was a message on the phone system that the phone line to MYARC (in Alabama) was disconnected. After reading this, I called the phone number printed in the December MICROpendium ad for MYARC on page 9. An answering machine responded with a message telling me to call back between certain A.M. hours, E.S.T.. I didn't have the chance to try again, but did learn two things.

FIRST: The phone line (205) 854-5843 isn't disconnected.

SECONDLY: Somebody is still paying for those advertisements in the MICROpendium.

I'm not sure what to make of all the bad things reported against MYARC. I know many of you have been having problems getting items that were ordered, or items sent in for repair returned and working. You would hope at least to be able to communicate with a company that still advertises and has announced that their Streamer Tape Back-up Support is available to you NOW!

I'm sure you don't need my cautioning you to be careful in at least where you send your money for a MYARC product. If a controller made by MYARC is completely inoperable, and you or a good friend cannot attempt to repair it, then assuming that you can get a Return Material Authorization number, what do you have to lose by sending it in for repairs?

WHAT HAPPENED TO TRITON? (from HOOSIER U.G.)

Triton has decided to get out of the T.I. business. The remainder of their inventory has been sold to former owner and co-founder - Terry Miller. Terry has a strong commitment to the TI community and deserves our support. 1-800-336-9966, TM DIRECT PRODUCT MARKETING, 379 Beach Road, Burlington. CA 94010.

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* This is an article I was going to write but A.L. BEARD of 9T9'ers by way of the Kentuckiana 99/4A Computer society, JFW beat me to it.

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W-AGE/99 \* NEW-AGE/  
99 \* NEW-AGE/99 \* N  
EW-AGE/99 \* NEW-AGE  
/99 \* NEW-AGE/99 \*  
~~~~~

* by JACK SUGHRUE, Box 459, East Douglas, MA 01516 *

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THE LADY FROM LOWER BURRELL

Mickey Schmitt, president of the West Penn 99ers, is a young lady with extraordinarily varied T.I. interests and talents. She is an ardent fairgoer, ranging along the eastern seaboard inland to Lima, Ohio, and north to Canada, visiting with her hundreds of TI friends and fans and oftentimes representing groups or companies who couldn't attend.

Mickey is an author, programmer, tutor, collector, and adventure aficionado whose great sense of humor shows through almost all her activities. For example, in a very clever adventure she wrote for the TI Adventure Module (OLIVER'S TWIST - cassette or disk, Asgard, \$7.95), she requires the player to PUT BACK treasures in order to win the game. Her latest Asgard adventure, RATTLESNAKE BEND, is like John Wayne playing Viva Zapata. Wild, hilarious stuff. But hidden beneath the jocularity is a mean adventure guaranteed to please, pardner.

Adventuring seems to be in Mickey's blood. She is THE expert in the field. If there is an adventure for the TI she hasn't uncovered and played, it was probably written this morning.

A few years ago we had a chance to talk for awhile at one of the computer fairs, and she felt there was a real need to compile a listing of all the various adventures available for the TI so that users could have some kind of idea what is out there. I agreed but felt the task was formidable. Mickey didn't, fortunately for the TI community. She began collecting, sorting, doing, evaluating, and compiling every available adventure for the TI.

The result of this massive undertaking is THE ADVENTURE REFERENCE GUIDE, a 62-page, 8x11" commercially printed, easy to read book that not only gives a complete alphabetical listing of over 200 adventures but breaks them down into different sections by language (XB, E/A, etc.) and type (INFOCOM, Educational, Role-playing, etc.). There are astute reviews of selected adventures and sections on sources, utilities, and adventuring history. There is also a checklist for solving and comments. This is an indispensable guide for any adventuring TIER (from Asgard, Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20848; \$9.95 / \$2 S&H). [Last I heard, Mickey was continuing to test new and new-found adventures for updating this magnum opus.

If you own Scott Adams' ADVENTURE MODULE or the disk loader interpreter of this module available from user groups, I'd highly recommend investing in Mickey's two games.

Life is strange. At least the life that goes on inside my head. When I sat down to write this article I was planning a review of Mickey's newest book on cassette systems. But I pulled out THE ADVENTURE REFERENCE GUIDE from the Mickey Schmitt section of my TI library by mistake and couldn't resist rereading it. Then I couldn't resist playing SORCERER (an INFOCOM game reviewed in the book by Mickey which I had started but never finished). Then I couldn't resist eating lunch, still thinking of the spells and magic items I needed to get out of the SORCERER.) Finally, I put all that stuff behind (more from frustration than feeling the noble urge to return to task) and got back to doing

TALES OF A POWER SUPPLY

By AL Beard, 9T9 Newsletter

Ever noticed your PEB gets really hot? Wished for a hard drive mounted in the PEB but know your PEB power supply can't handle it? Tired of your GENEVE and HDPC cards slowly turning brown around the power regulators?

I've been worried about it for quite some time... Tony Lewis advised me a while ago that the PEB power supply wasn't really designed for all these new drives and cards being mounted in them. After losing a power supply (and sending \$50.00 to TI to get a new one) I decided that the way to go was to replace the power supply with a new "switching" type supply.

TI designed the power supply around the technology of the time. The power supply is a "linear" supply. That means that your PEB has inside, a huge power transformer, with simple regulating circuits that provide the power to the bus in the TI computer.

A switching supply avoids the huge transformer and heat problems by switching the power on and off very quickly (this has caused some interesting problems in offices that contain large amounts of PC based equipment). Switching supplies are very cheap due to their wide applicability to PCs.

One mistake (in terms that it has caused untold grief for board designers of the PEB) is that the TI linear power supply is underpowered and generates too high a voltage for the cards on the

bus of the PEB.

This is what the TI PEB manual says the voltages going to the PEB bus should be out of the power supply:

Brown - +16v
Yellow - -16v
Green - + 8v
Black - Ground

Per the TI design, the cards you plug into the PEB must drop these voltages to something they can tolerate with their circuits:

+16v drops to +12v
-16v drops to -12v
+ 8v drops to + 5v

This isn't too bad, but the actual voltages I measured coming out of the TI supply were even higher than listed (I measured +20v instead of +16v, etc.). The drop in voltage means the cards must get rid of the excess energy somehow and that means HEAT!

Also, the power going to the floppy drive(s) is not adequate for two full height drives, or even one 5 1/4" hard drive. I wanted to mount a 5 1/4" drive along side a 1/2 height floppy drive for a complete self-contained machine.

A NEW SUPPLY

Browsing at the Trenton Computer Fair (in pouring rain) I found a Highland brand new power supply for \$50. Not a bargain, but I didn't want to trust this project to a used supply or one without a guarantee. The supply I picked up came mounted in a metal case ready to drop into an IBM AT compatible. Because it was mounted in a metal case, it came with a few extra goodies, like a

new power connector for the back of the PEB and a low voltage (and quieter) fan.

The supply I picked up is a 200 watt supply, which I decided would have enough for my PEB with full complement of cards.

I started this project on a Sunday evening by opening up my PEB (I have a spare so I wasn't too worried about destroying this PEB) and removing the following from the left hand power section of the PEB:

- a. Power Transformer (remove four nuts)
- b. Terminal strip (remove two nuts)
- c. Power connector (remove two screws)
- d. Power Supply (remove two screws and unsolder wires to PEB bus)
- e. Fan (remove four nuts)

I kept the wiring to the front power switch and to the fuse (new model PEBs seem to have removed the fuse on the rear of the PEB). I carefully cut the two wires from the front power switch and soldered the 120 VAC power connections to the power plug which goes to the new power supply.

Working on the new power supply, I unscrewed the low voltage fan and mounted it on the back of the PEB after first cleaning everything in the PEB (amazing how dirty it gets after six years!) using the four nuts which held the previous fan. I unsoldered the 110/220 VAC switch on the power supply and soldered the wires together (to force 110VAC) and taped the wires to prevent a short.

(continued on next page)

CONT. FROM P. 7

For more information contact:
ASGARD SOFTWARE 703 255-3085
P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD. 20849

SOME ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS for you who can never seem to find them when you need them.

BUD MILLS SERVICES, 166 Dartmouth Dr.
Toledo, OH 43614 419 385-5946
TI-COMM BBS 300/7/E 419 385-7484

HARRY T. BRASHEAR, 2753 Main Street,
Newfane, NY 14108

OPA (Gary Bowser), 432 Jarvis Street,
Suite 502, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M4Y-2H3 416 960-0925

JP SOFTWARE, 1014 Pine Street, Menlo
Park, CA 94025 415 328-0885

T&J SOFTWARE, 515 Alma Real Dr.,
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

NOTUNG SOFTWARE, 7647 McGroarty St.,
Tujunga, CA 91042 818 951-2718

TEXAMENTS, 53 Center Street,
Patchogue, NY 11772 516 475-3480 or
BBS 516 475-6463

COMPRODINE SOFTWARE, 1949 Evergreen
Ave., Fullerton, CA 92635
714 990-4577

L.L. CONNER ENTERPRISES, 1521 Ferry
Street, Lafayette, IN 47904
317 742-8146 (voice)
317 423-4879 (FAX)

9640 NEWS, P.O. Box 75-2465
Memphis, TN 38115

GREAT LAKES SOFTWARE, 804 E. Grand
River Av., Howell, MI 48843

BILL G. CHAVANNE (TI TAX)
4549 English Ave.
Ft. Meade, MD 20755 301 672-1980

COMPUTER BUYERS GUIDE
% Douglas Kilarski
P.O. Box 55886
Birmingham, AL 35255 800 366-0676

MICROpendium (\$25. 12 issues)
P.O. Box 1343, Round Rock, TX 78680

DataBioTics (order directly)
P.O. Box 1194 (for TI)
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

IDT (CorComp), 2211 E. Winston Rd.,
Suite G, Anaheim, CA 92806
714 635-1815 (be sure to call first
to get RMA for repair or availability
of product)

TIGERCUB SOFTWARE, 156 Collingwood Av
Columbus, OH 43213

ESD (Electronic Systems Development)
P.O. Box 23805, Washington D.C.
20026-3800 301 322-6150
(New HFDC card)

MS EXPRESS SOFTWARE, P.O. Box 498,
Richmond, OH 43944

It's time to say good-bye as the news letter editor of the West Penn 99'er. It has been over five years including the start-up newsletters. Most of it has been fun, and I certainly have received much from writing sixty-four consecutive newsletters, with a minimum of 10 pages each (gray hair). I've met or talked to a whole lot of (interesting should cover it) people. I've been called at every hour of the day, night, wee morn times (and have phone bills that my three daughters may never match to prove it). I've failed more times than I've succeeded (but I'll never tell exactly how many). Through it all my first TI is still running! There aren't many PC's, Atari's, Commodore's, that could have taken what I gave "and still keep ticking"! I plan to use the extra 28 to 40 hours a month that the whole effort has taken to learn more about what's goin' on here at home. You'll still be hearing from me.

PLEASE start sending articles to the new NEWSLETTER EDITOR, Chris Pratt,
5613 Hawthorne St., Cheverly, MD 20785
(301) 322-6150

**GALACTIC EMPERORS
BY ERIC KEPES**

Would you like to challenge a few of your friends to match wits against you on your TI-99/4A computer? Then let MS Express Software introduce you to Galactic Emperors.

Galactic Emperors is a multi-player, strategic simulation program which can be played by two, three, or four players, each of whom is trying to defeat his opponents by gaining control of all the planets that are in the galaxy.

Just how many planets are there in these galaxies? Well, that can be any number between four and 50 planets, depending upon how many planets you and your opponents agree to have in any given game.

Played on a computer-generated playing grid, this game is guaranteed to be different every time, and with other random events occurring during game play, you never run the risk of playing the same game twice.

This program is ideal for those who love to mentally challenge their opponents...and just in case the pressure gets a little too hot...a save game option is available, so that you can continue play at a later time.

So, what are you and your friends waiting for? Order Galactic Emperors today, and find out for yourself just who is the best of the best!

Galactic Emperors requires a TI-99/4A console, a color monitor or color TV screen, a disk drive system (minimum configuration of 1 SS/SD drive), 32K memory expansion, and the Extended BASIC Module.

MS EXPRESS SOFTWARE

P.O. BOX 498, RICHMOND, OHIO 43944

GALACTIC EMPERORS	___ x \$9.95				
NAME:	SUBTOTAL				
ADDRESS:	OHIO TAX				
CITY:	\$1/ITEM S&H				
STATE AND ZIP:	GRAND TOTAL				
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