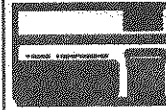




# West Penn 99'ers



Supporting the TI-99/4A Home Computer

*Established 1985*

**ISSUE #71**

**July 1991**

## FOR THE RECORD

by: Ralph Vasco

June 18, 1991

The meeting was opened at 7:26 PM by Mickey Schmitt after everyone arrived at the Penns Woods Civic Association thanks to Bob Sandusky's map in the newsletter. The president's appreciation thanked Ralph Vasko for giving her notes on the May meeting, Bob Sandusky for arranging the meeting place and Judy Muir and Ralph Vasko for the speed in getting newsletter in the mail. Mickey then gave herself a 400% pay increase! (Mickey, 4 X \$0.00 still equals \$0.00 even on a TI99/4A.) Mickey then explained John Willforth received a call that we could no longer meet at the North Huntingdon Townhouse, she had to type up the minutes for May, Bob gets a meeting place for June, Bob had to get a map to Chris, the newsletter masters get to Judy and Ralph Friday June 14, to the printer and printed while you wait, then the folding, labeling, stamping and to the mailbox Friday evening for Sat. 5:30 AM pickup, Jerry Petrulak receives his Sat. June 15 and on Monday the 17th the rest of the local members. (Mickey nervous? Noooooo...)

Treasurer report by Lynn Gardner. Bob Sandusky reported the monthly ON LINE GRAPELINE disk will be \$1.00 for the current month and \$2.00 after it is in the library. Mike Sealy reported on newsletters received. Due to Joe Ekl working there was no membership report.

Old Business: A Disk Manager cartridge was donated by Jack Skinner for the club's module expander.

Commercial: Lynn Gardner sales pitch, AC cables for \$3.00, disks generic or Sony, disk mailers, 60 minute cassettes \$.25, Cassette booklets \$1.00 and the ribbon reinker had a 14 ribbon waiting line. John Willforth MFM hard drives 44 meg \$125 and 71 meg \$175.

BBS report by Mickey that the system seems OK but few users due to summer months. LIMA show report an income of \$83.50 and thanks for Joe and Rob Ekl for manning the table. The 1991 Lima video tapes, 3 for a total of 18 hours are now available and suggested one tape per person to allow more members to view them each month. Mickey may provide a mini series in the newsletter on cassette use as she finds new material.

Commercial: Mike Sealy presented the 6 entries in the poster contest of which the winner was MICKEY SCHMITT!

(Continued on page 6...)

## WEST PENN 99'ERS CLUB INFORMATION

### NEXT MEETING DATE

JULY 16, 1991  
7:00 P.M.

### MEETING LOCATION

PENNS WOODS  
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

JUST OFF ROUTE 30  
N. HUNTINDON, PA

### LIST OF WEST PENN OFFICERS FOR 1991

PRESIDENT:	Mickey	412-335-0163
VICE PRESIDENT:	John	412-527-6656
TREASURER:	Lynn	412-835-4304
RECORDING SEC:	Frank	412-751-6065
CORRESPONDING SEC:	Mike	614-282-5627
LIBRARIAN:	Bob	412-863-5672
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Chris	703-415-3964

### GENERAL ITINERARY OF THE CLUB'S MEETING

6:45 P.M.	DOORS OPEN
7:00 P.M.	GENERAL MEETING
7:45 P.M.	DEMOS & NEW INFO
8:45 P.M.	ASSEMBLY FORUM
8:45 P.M.	HARDWARE SIG
11:00 P.M.	DOORS CLOSE

### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR THIS MONTH

- \* LATEST T.I. NEWS AND SOFTWARE DISCOUNTS
- \* LATEST NEWS CONCERNING OUR NEW T-SHIRTS
- \* NEW ASSEMBLY FORUM GETS UNDERWAY TONITE
- \* "CONEY GAMES" -- DEMO BY MICKEY SCHMITT
- \* "ON-LINE GRAPEVINE" DISK #3 BY VONRICKY
- \* AN "ALL-BEIGE TI SYSTEM" BY GARY TAYLOR

### RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES!

\$15.00 PER YEAR FOR INDIVIDUAL / FAMILY  
\$10.00 PER YEAR FOR ONLY OUR NEWSLETTER

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### From the Editor...

It's summertime and I must confess I have not been behind the computer keyboard too much. Unfortunately the membership is going to suffer because this issue will not be in everyone's hands by the meeting date. I knew I would never be able to live up to John Willforth's reputation. I assure you however that the August issue will be in your hands shortly!

Kick back with a cool glass of lemonade and enjoy this month's issue...  
CDP.

WP♦

### Best Buys July '91

This month I wish to bring to everyone's attention the new low price of 3½" diskettes from MEI/Micro Center, 1100 Steelwood RD, Columbus, OH 43212; (800) 634-3478. MEI offers 3½" DS/DD (720K) diskettes for \$0.35 each and 3½" DS/HD (1.44MB) diskettes for \$0.59 each both in lots of 25. MEI also offers 5¼" diskettes and other computer accessories at very competitive prices.

WP♦

# CONFIDENTIAL FILE

A monthly series  
By: Christopher Pratt

From the TI echo...

From: Rory Binkerd  
To: All  
Subject: The New Asgard

Msg #557, 07/04/91 09:15

\*\*\*\*\*DOWNLOADED FROM GENIE...July 4, 1991\*\*\*\*\*

Asgard Software  
P.O. Box 10306  
Rockville, MD 20849  
(702) 255-3085

June 29, 1991

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Since Asgard Software was founded in 1984, I have been responsible for all aspects of the business-end of things. While there have been a parade of assistants and temporary helpers over the years, the vast majority of all marketing, manufacturing, distribution, service, and much product conceptualization, and testing, and some development, have been done by just one over worked person.

While this system was fine for a company with a few dozen different products, it has just become too much for a mature company with over 130 products, and dozens of new ones under development. The crush of managing the business has resulted in extensive delays in order fulfillment, product service, our magazine, and every other project and task related to Asgard. Add to this the burden of keeping track of everything, and its plain that something had to be done or soon nothing would get done.

Asgard Software is pleased to announce that our staff will be increasing by at least 100%. After years of search, I have finally found someone who is trustworthy, has an almost unmatched depth of knowledge in both running a business and the TI community, and has the time, energy and inclination to help me put Asgard on the right track. Additionally, this individual is well-known within the TI community as a controversial author of both magazine articles and books. While I don't always agree with him, we have enough respect for each other to work honestly and openly, and he has been a friend of mine for years. After months of preparation, starting July 1, Harry Brashear will be responsible for almost all order fulfillment, and acting in the

capacity as a limited partner. Lengthy delays in getting orders and update requests filled has been the biggest problem most people have had in dealing with Asgard. It has cost us many orders and a few friends over the years - but just couldn't be helped. Currently, orders take anywhere from 2 weeks to 8 or more to be filled. Our goal is to have all orders - both new orders, as well as service and catalog requests, and updates, out the door within a week of receiving them.

While the prudent side of me expects that this transformation will not happen overnight, the optimist in me says that you can expect this level of service from us by the end of July. Since I currently spend roughly 75% of my time on order fulfillment, I expect that this single change will have a tremendous impact on everything else related to running Asgard. My first order of business will be to resume the publication of Reflections/Asgard News - publishing had been suspended last Fall. Our marketing efforts should improve, with more attention paid to getting catalogs out and users more quickly updated on new developments. I will have more time to keep up with all of the paperwork - from getting checks out quicker to authors and creditors to informing customers of new updates. The additional time will also allow me to concentrate more on new product development. Asgard has over a dozen software items sitting on the shelf, only lacking documentation, time and attention to turn them into marketable products. I will also have time to be of much greater assistance to authors developing software for publishing through Asgard. Finally, I've been doing much more programming lately myself, and I hope to try my hand at a few projects - the reason I started Asgard in the first place was to publish my own work.

All customer service will still be handled by me directly - and I will remain Asgard's spokesman. Other than that, I expect nothing less than a complete transformation of what has become one of the largest TI software companies. Many people bought and continue to own TI-99/4A's because of the level of service that TI offered and still offers. I hope within a few months people will come to expect the same service from Asgard as well. Thank you for your patience and support over the years, and I hope we have many more ahead of us.

Sincerely,  
Chris Bobbitt

WP♦

## Geneve 9640 TIP

17-JUL. 15:51 9640 GENEVE; From: BBOONE To: ALL

This patch will allow the FCT-4 (BREAK) key to work properly from XBASIC in GPL mode. You must perform the SAME patch on TWO files. (XB and XB1) You must patch the FIRST TWO files of your dumped copy of TI XB in the following way:

Locate the following string: 83D6 020C 0024 30E0 change it to: 83D6 06A0 0020 1010

That's all there is to it. BARRY

WP♦

# West Penn News

## KEEPING UP WITH CASSETTES

BY MICKEY SCHMITT

NUMBER 1

Time and time again I have been asked by members of the TI community, "Will you ever write more cassette articles for the TI cassette user?"

My response has varied, but has always been something like, "I no longer use a cassette system" ... "I am pursuing other interests these days" ... "Most of my computer time is now spent working on projects for MS Express Software, ( a TI software company in which I am part owner )" ... "It's time for someone else to take over from where I left off."

Get the picture ... I am not doing anything more with cassettes these days ... at least that was until now.

The fact is, others HAVE written articles specifically for the cassette user - but most never got the recognition that they deserved!

Well, I hope to change all that with the start of this new series.

In all cases, I shall try my best to accurately give credit where credit is due.

This month's cassette tid-bit comes via the July 1990 issue of The Bluegrass 99 Computer Society's newsletter.

To abort cassette loading or saving hit SHIFT E.

For those of you who have not yet ordered my series, "Getting The Most From Your Cassette System" - a professionally typeset, loose-leaf, 52-page booklet - now is the time to do so, as I have only a few copies left.

The cost is \$9.95 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling.

My address is - Mickey Schmitt, 196 Broadway Avenue, Lower Burrell, Pa 15068. WP♦

Our new meeting place is now official and permanent! Extra special thanks go to Bob Sandusky for all of his efforts in finding us a place and for making all the arrangements.

'And the winner was...'  
The winner to the West Penn Flyer contest was none other than Mickey Schmitt, chairman of the contest. Hmmm... Just kidding Mickey and congratulations.

West Penn T-shirts are the talk of the town. In fact I heard that PUG may go in with us to purchase Pittsburgh TI T-shirts. That discussion will have to be left up to the diplomats though. Let me voice my opinion here [the only place I can speak from]. I originally brought up the idea of getting new t-shirts made up (I know we have done it in the past) because I was dazzled at a local computer conference with a computer T-shirt freebie. The shirt was of very good quality, comfortable, and had a logo I was proud to display. Since I would love to parade around down here in DC with a West Penn t-shirt on [especially when I attend the MANNERS TI meetings], I figured why not see if anyone else from our club was interested. So I asked and it is now up to you. I would ask another thing though: get the thick 100% cotton type with the high collar. That was the type that sparked my interest!

There will be a new assembly forum starting at this month's meeting! The forum will be using the Art of Assembly series that started in the May MICROpendium, p. 25. All are invited to participate.

WP♦

For the Record, continued from page 1...

Mickey pointed out highlights of the current Micropendium, the Nov 1st and 2nd Chicago show and Fest West on Feb 15 and 16. Bob Sandusky reported the normal rent for the meeting room is \$35 and Penns Woods Civic Association meeting was being conducted in the next building at this time and we should receive an answer before we leave tonight. Rob Ekl has constructed a cable assembly to run 2 monitors at the same time and may use at the next meeting. Watch for an OSCAR demo in the near future. An assembly SIG based on Part 1 in this month's Micropendium will be held at the July meeting. Do your homework and read the article. A Modern SIG is another idea that would help make more use of the BBS. Mike Sealy is still having problems with the Film library's second disk. Raffle winners were Jerry Petrulak 100 continuous light blue #10 envelopes and Ralph Vasko a pack of green address labels. I failed to obtain the 3rd name or the disk program's name. Mickey then polled the group concerning the sale of a club T shirt and 50% are interested. Meeting adjourned at 9:33 PM.

Substitute Acting Secretary, Ralph J Vasko

PS: We have received approval to meet at the Penns Woods Civic Association.

PPS: Frank please hurry back!

WP ♦

I found the following post from Cynthia Becker to be very inspiring...

From: Cynthia Becker

To: All

Msg #261, 04/25/91 08:18am

Subject: Myarc, Et Al

23-apr 23:50 RE: msg 22909 From : WALTHOW There are still some wonderful people putting a lot of energy into the TI and 9640 world these days, but JPH isn't one of them. A lot of vendors have tried to keep things going beyond all financial reason, including CORCOMP, Myarc, JPH, Miller Graphics and maybe Asgard now, too. NOBODY gets a fair return on their time now, and as the service falls away, each vendor comes under ENORMOUS CRITICISM for not maintaining a high level of service and dedication. Only love for the machine and the people keep anyone going! Somehow, every time a Craig Miller or a Lou Phillips or a JPH drops out or becomes impossible to contact, a RAVE or a GARY BOWSER or a GRAMULATOR somehow manage to keep things going. And a few perennials hang on at the best level they can maintain -- Paul Charlton, Barry Boone and our own Jerry Coffey, just to name a few, who seem to love the challenge, whatever the return, and Bud Mills [and I might add, BEERY MILLER!] I call for a round of applause for everyone who has kept the TI world alive -- and understanding for those who can't keep their promises at the level they wish they could. No one who has dropped out has done it willingly. They have been far too optimistic, when cold business sense would have said to forget it, and cut the losses & disappear. Those who have tried to maintain the presence when everything is shouting at them to quit. EVERY product you buy now is far below cost! Anything you buy now, whatever the company, is probably returning 10 cents an hour on invested time, if that. Don't be too hard on those who have made promises far beyond all ability to perform. They tried, and they remained optimistic far too long, and the result is shattering criticism for not doing better. And if anyone still manages to make expenses, BRAVO for them! But above all, keep up the support for those who still keep finding the wonderful capabilities that never seem to find limits in the TI world. They aren't making any money, but the challenge to stretch the limits far beyond what TI once thought the machine could do, to learn, to share wonderful relationships with creative people are still worth the effort for some brilliant people who are still with us and still keep appearing. No one will ever get rich or even make a comfortable living anymore from the TI world, but there are still a lot of rewards to be realized of other kinds! KEEP IT GOING! the end is NOT in sight!

WP ♦

## 1991 LIMA VIDEO TAPES NOW AVAILABLE

The 1991 Lima Video Tapes are now available for viewing by any West Penn member. Simply see Mike Sealy at any regular club meeting to get your name on the sign-out sheet.

As suggested at last month's meeting, each member will be limited to taking only one video tape at a time, due to the fact that this years tapes run a total of 18 hours!

This procedure should allow the tapes to circulate at a much faster rate, giving all a chance to view the material at a more reasonable clip (6 hours a month, compared to 18 hours a month).

Just take a look at what these tapes offer:

### Tape 1

=====

Counter 0075 - Mike Sealy / Mickey Schmitt / Norm Rokke  
Software from MS Express Software

Counter 1025 - Eunice Spooner / Chris Bedard  
The Oakland Computer Club - an elementary school user group

Counter 2110 - Irwin Hott  
Current status of the newsletter article clearing house BBS

Counter 2770 - The MUG Conference  
A meeting of user group officers

Counter 3685 - Mike Wright  
Bits and pieces of TI history including a demo of the 99/2 computer

Counter 4235 - Gary Bowser  
Hardware products from O.P.A.

Counter 5070 - Berry Miller  
Software from 9640 news

### Tape 2

=====

Counter 0100 - Charles Good  
Preview of Funnelweb V.4.32 with support for DSKU file comments

Counter 1175 - Bruce Harrison  
Demo of Golf Score Analyzer / Harrison Word Processor / classical music disks

Counter 2165 - Barry Traver  
Programs that write other assembly and XB programs

Counter 3090 - Chris Bobbitt  
Screen Preview / Link / Classic Checkers / Video Tracker

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WP♦



A COMPUTER USERS CONVENTION

# FOR THE TI 99-4A

and the

# MYARC GENEVE 9640

**LOCATION:** Days Inn-Phoenix/Camelback  
502 W. Camelback, Phoenix, AZ 85013  
(602)264-9290 or 1-800-688-2021

**DATE/TIME:** Sat Feb 15, 1992-9am to 5pm  
Sun Feb 16, 1992-9am to 3pm

**PRIZES  
COLOR PRINTER**

**Other prizes to be Announced  
there will be some door prizes, Too!**

**Fest tickets are on sale now (\$5.00  
for both days). Any one under 15, is free  
if with an Adult.**

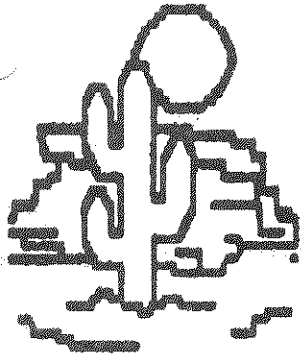
**Why not plan your THREE DAY weekend now!  
FESTWEST RATES \$54.00 (1 TO 4 PEOPLE per  
Room per Day).**

**TI FEST WEST '92  
THE BEST YOU CAN GET**

**Presented by: THE VALLEY OF THE SUN TI  
USER GROUP (VAST)**

**For more information: Call BBS 233-0790 or  
H. KNIGHT (602)-938-5446 or  
R. REES (602)-869-8145**

**VENDOR'S MEETING WILL BE HELD.  
TIME WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.**



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**SOFTWARE  
HARDWARE  
&  
ACCESSORIES**

The following messages concern the status of ESD's hard disk controller as of June 29. These messages were extracted from the General message base on Bob and Bill's Bulletin Board (the BBBB) in Clinton, Maryland (301-292-1482) (PCP 202-292-1482).

-----  
From: #186 SHANE TRUFFER  
Sub: ESD Goes IDE...  
To: ALL  
Date: Thu 6/20/91 Time: 12:45:10 pm

**NOTICE:**

The ESD Hard Drive Controller Card is now supporting IDE drives instead of MFM!!! There are many advantages to this:

- 1) Price. ESD will now ship a 40MB IDE drive with the controller card for approx. the same price (price to be set soon)!
- 2) Speed. The IDE drives have faster access times than all of the older designed MFM type drives.
- 3) Availability and Compatability. Because the controller card is directly on the hard drives themselves all that is needed is a simple interface between them and the TI. This will help insure compatability and will also eliminate all trouble we have been having with the availability with WD MFM controller chips.
- 4) Value. Hard drive included with the controller card... who can complain?

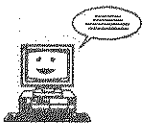
Also, ESD has issued refund checks for our customers of the MFM design, and they are given a chance to re-order (we thought that was only fair). I hope this new IDE interface and hard drive will give everyone in the TI community the compatibilty they want and at a price they can afford (in the \$225-\$250 range for both controller & 40 MB Hard Drive!). SST

**WEST PENN 99'ERS**

% Mike Sealy  
RD #1 Box 184  
Toronto, OH 43964

**ISSUE NUMBER 71**

July 1991



Call the PUG BBS:  
300/1200/2400 bps  
(412) 341-4820  
24 Hours a day