



West Penn 99'ers



Supporting the TI-99/4A Home Computer

Established 1985

ISSUE #77

January 1992

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FOR THE RECORD

by: Frank Zic

The December meeting started at 7:15 PM. (Almost). The first order of business, as usual, was Mickey giving thanks. On the receiving end were Judy and Ralph for bringing in a scrumptious, large and beautifully decorated pan cake (It was graciously served by Judy, too). Next she thanked all the officers that served during the year; VP-John Willforth, Treas-Lynn Gardner, Cor/Sec-Mike Sealy, Lib-Bob Sadusky, Rec/Sec-Frank Zic, NL/Editor-Chris Pratt and NL-Asst. Judy Muir & Ralph Vasco. Then, too, let us not forget to give a special thanks to our dynamo leader who did such a great job, Mickey Schmitt. Next year's new officer changes were mentioned; VP-Norm Rokke and Cor/Sec-Paul Brock. Next Lynn gave a favorable Treas. report. Remember this is dues paying time, member & family \$15 and News Letter only \$10. Bob said that FNLWB ver 4.4 was in the library. Re-inking was brisk, said Art. Club inventory will be taken in January so if you have any club equipment out try to bring it in for accounting purposes then check it out again. A copy of Asgard's Reflections was passed around. Compridyne's Artist Card Shop and an update to Water Works were discussed. Joe made up some posters to recruit new members to our TI club. We are to put the posters on our own community bulletin boards.

Next month's demos; Mickey will demo Rock Runner and I will demo a challenging French version of Runner. The high light of next month's meeting, however, will be Dick Ohi showing us his new PE/2 P-box and key board. Mickey's Micro review for the Nov. (correct the front page month to Nov.) issue were; p2,3 Tex + Comp's good prices, p6 1992 Chicago TI fair, p26,27,28 the 1991 Chicago Faire report and p32 Reviews are back. Von Ricky's Dec. Grape Vine will be issued at the Jan. meeting. Mickey stated that she has heard that the 1992 Lima Faire will once again be held at the same location as previous years. Two demos were given, Mickey-FX sound and Paul-Guide Lines. Both were given as raffle prizes. It was noted by Paul that Guide Lines printed out only while using TI Artist Plus. The FX digital sound quality was pretty good and this without the need of a speech synthesizer. Well I guess this issue closes out another really fine year for our TI club. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our clubs best wishes to all our many friends throughout the world, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Next Month:
News about
T.I.C.O.F.F.*

May the good 4's be with you.

WEST PENN 99'ERS CLUB INFORMATION

NEXT MEETING DATE

JANUARY 21, 1992
7:00 P.M.

MEETING LOCATION

PENNS WOODS
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

JUST OFF ROUTE 30
N. HUNTINGDON, PA

LIST OF WEST PENN OFFICERS FOR 1992

PRESIDENT:	Mickey	412-335-0163
VICE PRESIDENT:	Norm	412-527-6656
TREASURER:	Lynn	412-835-4304
RECORDING SEC:	Frank	412-751-6065
CORRESPONDING SEC:	Paul	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 CLASS
11:00 P.M.	DOORS CLOSE

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR THIS MONTH

- * LATEST T.I. NEWS AND SOFTWARE DISCOUNTS
- * SPECIAL BBS PRESENTATION BY GARY TAYLOR
- * STAR TREK DISK - DEMO BY MICKEY SCHMITT
- * "NEW SOFTWARE" FROM MS EXPRESS SOFTWARE
- * SURPRISE DEMO - FROM ONE OF OUR MEMBERS
- * "ON-LINE GRAPEVINE" DISK #6 BY VONRICKY

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES!

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From the Editor...

I am pleased to be with you for another year of computing! I can not believe it has been one full year already. Well, I haven't started to go gray yet, but with 12 issues under my belt the job seems to be losing its luster.

Since I felt that way, I thought it was definitely time for some *change*, yes change [it is not a swear word you know]. As you probably already noticed this year's newsletter has a slightly different format. I placed the Table of Contents [aka In This Issue] on the front page along side the minutes to the meeting. I believe this new format will be more pleasing to the eye, allow readers to quickly spot what is in the issue, and most importantly allow me to squeeze more information in each issue! Feedback is always appreciated.

Please help your club's newsletter by submitting articles for publication. This allows YOU to directly influence the direction of OUR newsletter. Conveniently drop off your submissions to Mickey at the meetings [or whenever you may be fortunate enough to see her], or just as easy drop it in the mail directly to me:

Christopher Pratt
801 15th ST, S. APT 605
Arlington, VA 22202-5017

If you have any questions please feel free to call either of us [phone number on left].

I wish everyone a Happy 1992. May this year bring even more innovations to the TI community. Perhaps I'll even be able to visit you more often...I may be able to break away from the Capitol for a long weekend and make a few extra meetings this year. CDP

--WP♦



WEST PENN 99'ers U.G.

by PAUL A. BROCK

I would like to express my opinion on the software that we (West Penn User's Group) have in the library. I have been using the library for a long time and have found that it is very resortful. One of the many programs among the many, and I could list quite a few, is the amazing PLUS!. I am just guessing that everyone has a copy if they have Funnelweb/TI-WRITER. I am using it to write this article. I am not fully understanding of all that is in PLUS!. I am having fun learning all that I can.

This is PLUS! V.2.0, and is put together as Faieware, written by Jeff Sughrue and asking \$10.00 (well worth it), for the package. This is a disk of utilities and wordprocessing templates, tutorials, articles, codes, and programs. This will be the final version. I was amazed at it's capabilities.

The neat thing that I was able to do from the formatter was put name and date on my letters. But of course all the TI-WRITER fans knew how to do that. I didn't! I can also put litter heads on my letters with very little effort. The letters are all set up as templates ready to use. If you use a wordprosser a lot this I believe is the perfect tool.

For those that don't know about it I recomend that you ask some one that has a copy. If your library don't have a copy of PLUS! [GROUPWARE price is \$30.00 per user group].

I must also mention that there is instructions for changing the control keys, all the graphic keys, and the ITALICS or different prints, plus you can design your own. I haven't tried to change anything yet! There is also some programs that may be of intrest to many. For example TINYTEENY, worlds smallest wordprocessor, using subscip.

We at West Penn have a nice library, modules, cassettes, video, and disk. The Librarian for the disks is BOB SADUSKY. We have most of the listings updated in a nice book which someone has a copy of at the meeting. We also have lots of graphic programs with PICTURES.

WEST PENN has a very good demo every month, telling everyone what is on the market and showing how it works, gives everyone a chance to see it frist hand. We also have raffel prizes, Goodies and sometimes intertainment. My wife and I have a wounderful time. There is always information being shared, things being fixed, and letters to be read.

Maybe next month I will talk some more on software that I have. I have a few that I haven't got the bugs out or should I say that I don't know how to run. I use the library as a tool to help me along the way. Mickey keeps all of us pretty well informed as to new freeware, and Bob keeps the library updated.

HAPPY NEWYEAR EVERY ONE

Lets make a New year resolution! Everyone come the meeting. It's fun, and educational.

MADE IN THE U.S.A.

"TI EXPLOITS #3" by Ed Hall (MANNERS)

In my previous two articles, I left out all mention of dates. I need to reconstruct at least approximate dates of some of the major changes to show a trail which displays how long it actually took to create my "MONSTER" TI. Therefore, this article will include a brief history of my portable TI console's early life as well as the recent changes not yet put to paper.

I became a licensed amateur radio operator (ham) back in about 1978 and then a TI enthusiast around 1983. Being a ham operator as well as a TI enthusiast, I was quite interested in linking the two together. In some of my tinkering I used the joystick port as an input/output connection to control devices and eventually to key the transmitter of a hand held transceiver. Then I broke into a new area called packet radio around 1987.

Packet radio was great! It was very similar to phone links such as calling up a BBS or linking to computers via a modem. But, this was over the radio, which added some dimensions. For one, the communication is totally open. This means that conversations can be received by non-participants. Another is the capability to tie more than two stations together. And yet another is the ability to monitor several BBSs without actually connecting, which means that they can let you know if you have mail without you having to call them. This and the once a year event called "Field Day" led me to make several changes to my console over the years.

Field day is a contest weekend spent trying to make the most contacts possible in a 24 hour period, normally from a remote location on generator power. A contact is "talking" to another station and passing location and station type back and forth. For our radio club it means setting up a camp out in a field on Friday night, setting up antennas and equipment on Saturday morning and running the station(s) from Saturday afternoon to Sunday afternoon. This is where packet came in and my need (want) for my portable system.

In order to run truly portable I put a Radio Shack power supply in the console and ran it and a 12VDC television from the cigarette lighter in my car for the 1987 field day event. The other equipment involved was the TEII cartridge and a Boxcar RS232 connected to a packet radio controller hooked to my radio. The following months were spent making changes and about that time I wrote TI EXPLOITS #1 which explained some of the work I had done.

After that field day I continued to make changes in preparation for the next year. The first of these changes was to mount a 32K chip in the console. The next

item added was a stand-a-lone set of drives I constructed using a Percom controller and three Oki 1/3 height drives. These additions and some of the previous year's components saw me through field day 1988.

Shortly after field day I took the drives apart and made my major changes to the console. I took the Percom board and mounted it inside the console with a 3.5 inch floppy, and while I had the console apart, I mounted the RS232 inside also. This and the addition of a 12VDC 12 inch monitor got me through field day 1989.

About that time my user group (MANNERS) was making final plans for our International TI Expo here in Washington DC, and I knew that I needed (wanted) to add something more before the show. My addition was in the form of a 4 bank Supercart built into the console. This was accomplished with a 32K chip, E/A chip, memory cap, GROM port connector and 5 bank dip switch. I mounted all the components on a small PC board and mounted the board to the back of the GROM port. The final result was a 4 bank Supercart which was able to be turned on and off, an EDITOR/ASSEMBLER chip which was able to be turned on and off, and a RESET switch I added just because. The other two switches were used to swap between the 4 banks of Supercart memory. The switches are mounted so as to protrude through an opening in the vent slots just behind the GROM port. This was the console I showed at the TI Expo in September of 1989.

At the Expo I met Bud Mills from Horizon fame and we discussed the addition of a RAMDISK to the console. This was something already done by Jan Joel Janowski and described in MICROpendium during the recent summer (1989). My approach was somewhat different from the one in MICROpendium in that I used a board supplied to me by Bud Mills which had the edge connector removed and some slots cut so that it fit directly into the console above the main board. I traced out and decided on all my connections and then compared them to those in MICROpendium and most were identical. I did have one thing going for me the Jan Janowski had trouble with. I already had a disk drive in the console so I didn't need to add anything to fool the ROS as he did. Originally I started with 512K, but in late 1990 I added the additional 512K to bring the RAMDISK to 1 Megabyte.

Is my "Monster" finished? Probably not! What's left? Who knows! I would like to have a more portable monitor. Then again maybe I'll just leave it the way it is for a while. Here is a list of all the items thus far: Alpha lock diode to block joystick interference, 12volt DC input capable console power supply, 32K single chip memory expansion, Percom disk drive controller capable of running three drives, 3.5 inch floppy, BOXCAR RS232 with one parallel port and one serial port, built-in 4 bank Supercart/Editor/Assembler system with reset, and 1 Megabyte Horizon RAMDISK.

--WP♦

SHAKESPEARE on The TI-99/4A

Adapted From The Official Computer
Haters Handbook by Ed Machonis, QB-99'er

On the TI Pullout:

"The evil that men do
lives after them...."
Julius Caesar, III,1

Upon Reading The E/A Manual:

"Though this be madness,
yet there is method in 't."
Hamlet, II,2

Upon Writing His First Program:

"An ill-favoured thing, sir,
but mine own."
As You Like It, V,4

On User Groups:

"Misery acquaints a man with
strange bedfellows."
The Tempest, II,2

Upon Blowing His Last Back-up Disk:

"If you have tears,
prepare to shed them now."
Julius Caesar, III,2

On Programming Speech Synthesizers:

"Speak the speech, I pray you,
as I pronounce it to you,
trippingly on the tongue."
Hamlet, III,2

On The Price of Peripherals:

"Costly thy habit
as thy purse can buy..."
Hamlet, I,3

On His Subscription to Home Computer
Magazine:

"Oh what a goodly outside
falsehood hath."
Merchant of Venice, I,3

On TI's Packaging a SSD Drive
With a DSSD Controller:

"Something is rotten in the
state....of the art."
Hamlet, I,4

Whilst Playing an Adventure Game:

"Is this a dagger
which I see before me,....?"
Macbeth, II,1

After Losing a Night's Work to The
Quit Key (FCIM =):

"O villian, villian, smiling,
darned villian."
Hamlet, I,5

On The Turbo XT Keyboard:

"What's in a name?
That which we call a Rose
By any other name would smell....."
Romeo and Juliet, II,2

Upon Buying a Geneva with DOS .9:

"Have we eaten of the insane root
That takes the reason prisoner?"
Macbeth, I,3

On The TI-99/4A Grom Port:

"The Gods are just,
and of our pleasant vices
Make instruments to plague us."
King Lear, V,3

On Debugging Source Code:

"When sorrows come,
they come not single spies,
But in battalions."
Hamlet, IV,5

On The Speed of the TI-99:

"My flocks feed not,
My ewes breed not,
My RAMs speed not,
All is amiss."
The Passionate Pilgrim

On Purchasing Software:

"I am a man more sinned against
than sinning."
King Lear, III,2

On Software Pirates:

"One may smile, and smile,
and be a villian."
Hamlet, I,5

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