



West Penn 99'ers



Supporting the TI-99/4A Home Computer

Established 1985

ISSUE #78

February 1992

**IN THIS
ISSUE**

2

West Penn
Information

3

Paul Brock

4

TI Tips

7

TICOFF
March 14th

8

Calendar

*Next Month:
return of
Mickey's
Cassette Series*

FOR THE RECORD

by: Frank Zic

The January meeting started at 7:15 PM. (He! He! don't tell Mickey, but she started really late.) The first order of business, as usual, was Mickey giving thanks. On the receiving end were Art Gardner for his invaluable help in handling the re-inking, coffee, soft drinks (*Coke & others*), cakes, cookies and on and on. Thanks Art from all of us; Paul Brock for bringing in the club equipment each meeting; and Frank Cardello for running home to bring in a needed XB module. Lynn Gardner gave a favorable Treasurers report. (Boy! Lynn really takes good care of our finances, even restricting certain outside purchases). Our new officers this year are; Pres-Mickey Schmitt, VP-Norman Rokke, Treasurer-Lynn Gardner, Cor/Sec-Paul Brock, Editor-Chris Pratt, Dist/Staff-Judy Muir and Ralph Vasko, Librarian-Bob Sadusky and Rec/Sec-Frank Zic. Chris, everyone said HI! There was a delay in delivery of the December newsletter. Mickey, always trying to improve our club, made a list of some things she thought we could do better. She will place appropriate BBS notices and will let us all know what her thoughts are. I'm sure she would welcome any individual suggestions, so think about what you would like to see changed or added and let her know. One thing added at this meeting was the availability of new programs to take home, in return, all you need do is demo the program at some near future meeting (that's near future, Norm).

TI notices were again handed out. These we should post in our local shopping areas. Hopefully they will gain us some new members. In the near future a TV ad will be run on TCI cable for new recruits. Do your part, by verbally contacting someone or offering to help some of our newer members. Check the Dec. MICROpendium p25 for dates on up-coming Faires. It has been noted that the State College TI group has disbanded. In the near future Mickey will demo SGW? By the way, I still have a demo of the French version of Runner to show also. This is an interesting and challenging game. Today's demos were: Gary on a nice discription of how our BBS works; Norm on his new, hot off the press, released tonight "Sliding Block Puzzles Series III" (very nice job once again Norm) and Mickey showed a musical and graphic release of Star Trek. BTW, Norm's puzzle is sold under the MSX label at our club for the small price of \$7.95. Last on the program was the regularly held raffle. Prizes were; An Oscar(digital scanner), Sliding Blocks III, fan fold paper and Star Trek. A re-inked ribbon is waiting to be claimed, perhaps by Hue Woodson of Greensburg?

May the good 4's be with you.

WEST PENN 99'ERS CLUB INFORMATION

NEXT MEETING DATE

FEBRUARY 18, 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 AND 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
- * REPORT ON THE FEST WEST SHOW IN PHOENIX
- * ASGARD'S "SGW" - DEMO BY MICKEY SCHMITT
- * "TIPS MANIPULATOR" - DEMO BY MIKE SEALY
- * "ON-LINE GRAPEVINE" DISK #7 BY VONRICKY
- * SURPRISE DEMO - FROM ONE OF OUR MEMBERS

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES!

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

From the Editor...

The following is an excerpt from the "Captain's Log" [aka Your President's mouth].

HELP WANTED

Individuals willing to contribute about one hour of their time, once a month to write an article for their club's newsletter. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. Topics for articles are your choice, as long as they pertain to the TI-99/4A. FLEXIBLE HOURS. Benefits too numerous to mention.

To apply, submit your article to Mickey Schmitt, our club president, at any one of our regular West Penn 99'ers meetings or send them directly to our newsletter editor, Christopher Pratt, 801 15th Street South, Apartment #605, Arlington, Virginia 22202-5017.

MAILING DEADLINE for submissions is the "SUNDAY" after the regular West Penn 99'ers meeting. Articles mailed after that date will be used for the next month's issue.

So, do not delay start today! CDP

--WP♦





West Penn 99'ers

by Paul A. Brock



Last month I talked about our software library. I would like to add that we also have a module and cassette library, this is organized by Norm Rokke. There is something for anyone that would like to try them out. I think that it has come a long way since I started. There is some educational modules and instruction books with almost all them. A good start for those that only have a console.

I have a problem getting my grandchildren interested in the TI games, after they play with their super video games. They seem to have problems using the TI joystick. I was informed that they don't have push buttons. Personally I think that the the keyboard has a nice velction! Anyways I would like to mention that we have a module library. This is why I express my opion, to help someone.



Thumb up for our great custodians that take care of the librargys. I am glad that we have a outetanding membership.

Something special that I found in an newsletter The PUNN Newsletter (WORDPLAY) 11, 1991

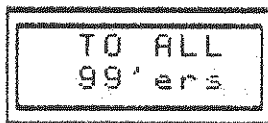
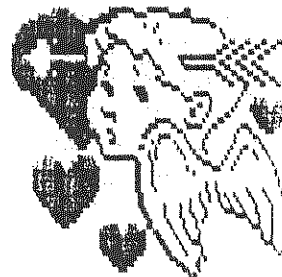


DO YOU KNOW YOUR TI'S BIRTHDAY?

! From the "Trivia for the month." !
BUG NEWS, Brea 99'ers UG.
Southern Calif.

If you wish to find out when your TI computer was manufactured, turn your computer over and read the LTA number on the bottom. The frist two digets are the week and the last two digets are the year that your console was manufactured.

Happy belated Valentines day



MADE IN THE U.S.A.

TIPS MANIPULATOR--A REVIEW

by Dick Beery

A month or so ago, Jim Peterson asked me if I would review this program which Patrick Powell, its creator, had sent to him. I said that I would, wondering why as I did so. It seemed obvious to me that all that was necessary in using TIPS pictures was to go to the appropriate file and pull out what was deemed appropriate. I was wrong ! As I began to use this program I discovered how many files of TIPS pictures there are, that they lack a common index, and that trying to find all the pictures on a given topic can be very time-consuming. I now recommend that a number of people make use of this program, create files on subjects that interest them, and then make these "homogeneous" files available to others. Two people at the C.O.N.N.I. meeting during which I demonstrated this program volunteered to do one special topic file apiece, and when mine is completed, we will place the results of all three in the C.O.N.N.I. disk library. Maybe we will also place them on our Clearinghouse BBS, so that others across the country can have access to them.

The program itself, Tips Manipulator version 2.1, comes with over seven pages of documentation, but it is quite easy to use. I suggest a careful reading of the docs before beginning to use the program, then the use of the Sequence of Events (Docs, page 7). Tips Manipulator is a modified version of Ed Johnson's TIPS2PP program (Jan. 1991) that has also been modified by Ed's co-author Bob Kaat. This latest version, 2.1, allows renaming of pictures, forcing of uppercase, and has been prescanned to increase speed of operation. It is written in Extended Basic, and comes with a modified version of Irwin Hott's Load program.

Once you have loaded the program, you will be permitted to change the screen background colors to your choice. Also, you then remove the program disk and insert your TIPS file disk. As I have two drives, I place the disk that is to receive my newly-created file in drive two. If you have only one drive, you will need to make sure your original TIPS file disk has enough room to receive the new file as well, as the program does not yet support the changing of disks. (Maybe a later version will!). The printer parameter menu permits you to change your printer designation to PIO, RS232 or whatever.

The main menu offers the following choices: manipulate files, sort file, print file, catalog a disk, rename pictures, reset color/printer, and exit.

I found, that since picture names do not always reveal the complete nature of the picture, that it worked best for me to skim the pages of pictures I have printed out and saved in a looseleaf notebook, jot the name of the file (e.g. GRCD.TXT) and the names of the pictures wanted and then move to the Tips Manipulator (hereafter referred to as TM) program. Since the operation of the TM requires that you use the picture's number within the file, I found it indispensable first to use the Print File option to print out each of the TIPS picture files I planned to use. This gives you a printout with the picture number and name but no graphic printout. You can thus circle the numbers you want and use these sheets as a guide when accessing the Manipulator function.

The Manipulator function offers the possibility of printing files, but since you have already done this, select "N". You will then be asked for the drivenumber and filename of the source file (e.g. GMAZ.TXT) and the same for the new file you are creating. While you can input up to seven characters for the source file, the program works well with a four-character input (e.g. GMAZ). You are limited to four characters in your output (new) file. Since my file deals with computer-related items, I named it COMP. The program adds the necessary .TXT and .XXX extenders.

Once you select picture numbers to be manipulated (transferred to the new file), you will be asked for the picture numbers they will have in the new file. The easiest way is to accept the default numbers at the bottom of the screen, and when you have your new file all or partially completed, use the Sort function to arrange them in alphabetical sequence, if this is desired. When your new file is complete, you may use it in the same ways you use your present TIPS picture files.

As soon as you have completed and sorted your new file, I suggest that you use the TM program to print the new file (numbers and names, remember?), and then move to one of your TIPS companion programs to print out the actual graphics, the same as for your other, heterogeneous, TIPS picture files.

When you print the file in the TM print function, you may find that not all picture names will print, the problem being that some came over from the other type of computer in lower case. The Rename Pictures function of TM will redo these in upper case, and you can then print out the entire file correctly.

I found the program to be very user-friendly and had only minor problems with it, and those I expect to eliminate when I have time to practice with it more in depth. I highly recommend it, and think that you will find a little time spent in organizing your TIPS pictures into homogeneous files will save you much time and frustration when you have a quick project to execute and little time in which to do it.

The program is released as Disk Ware, and the author states that "I do not grant any company or person other than Jim Peterson/Tigercub Software to charge any copying fee for this program..." In other words, you can give it away, but don't sell it! He also asks that those who use the program send a note, or a copy of the club's newsletter, or a disk from the club's library (or why not a disk from your personal collection?) to him.

Address: TI EXPRESS
C/O PATRICK R. POWELL
P.O. BOX 496
OCEAN PARK, ME
04063-0496

You may also contact him on Genie. Address: P.POWELL7

P.S. I give this an A-PLUS rating on both program and documentation. Hope you enjoy using it as much as I do!

Tip(s) on T. I. Artist
Stan Katzman
West Penn 99'rs

The use of the majority of T.I. Artist (Version 2) is very easy. What you cannot figure out can be obtained from the instruction manual. I felt that the Slides section of T.I. Artist was a little obscure. So I would like to discuss this section because it is a very valuable part of this program.

When you go into Enhancements you see the central menu and then around three of the sides there are the slides which are composed of electronic symbols. If you want to use these symbols move the cursor over one of them and press Enter, press the space bar and you will see the symbol in the drawing area of the Enhancement section. Use the cursor keys to move the symbol to where you want it and then press Enter to make it permanent. Press the space bar to return to the Enhancement menu and select another symbol and continue to build your drawing. This is fine if electronics is your bag, but what if you want a different set of symbols? You could possibly purchase some or you could create your own. This is what I would like to discuss. There is a minor limitation; size. A slide is a small item within the bounds of the frame, which about the size of four Enhancement sized letters square and you can have a maximum of 24.

Creation process of a slides file. In the main drawing program (or in the Enhancement screen) create a maximum of 24 small sized figures, go to the Enhancement section and select "Slides", you will see a menu that says "1) Define slides, 2) Erase slides, 3) Rotate slides, 4) Load slides, 5) Save slides file, 6) Load an instance file and 7) Save an instance file." Select (1) (Define slides), go to the main Enhancement screen, place the cursor over a selected slide, press Enter, press the space bar, a small box will now appear in the Enhancement drawing screen which is now placed over your slide drawing (using the cursor keys), press Enter, press the space bar and you will see the new slide in the place of the old slide in the Enhancement menu screen. Keep doing this until you replace your old slides with your new slides. Then select 5) Save slides file and save your new slides in a file name as directed. Now in the future you can call up your slides and use them in your creations.

FAMILY COMPUTER EXPOSITION - OUR 7TH YEAR!

T.I.C.O.F.F.'92

Roselle Park High School

(Exit 137 - N.J. Garden State Parkway)

Saturday, March 14, 1992

9:00 - 4:00

Admission: \$5.00

10% OF PAID ADMISSIONS WILL BE DONATED
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FEBRUARY						
		Tuesday * 18th				

**The West Penn meeting is on the 17th of this month.
Mark your calendar!**

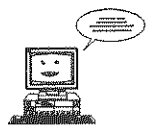
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