# WEST PENN 99 ERS NEWS

### Volume 11 Number 2

# November 1995

# IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN...

Yes, folks, once again it's time for our annual Pizza-Party-Election-Night.

Our slate of candidates for 1996 are as follows:

President: Nickey Cendrowski

Vice-President: Norm Rokke

Treasurer: Ed Mandich

Recording Secretary: Paul Brock

Corresponding Secretary: Paul Brock

Librarian: John Whelan

and those accepting those appointed positions are:

Newsletter Editor: Mickey Cendrouski

Assistant Editor: Nike Cendrowski

Since all positions are filled (and no one is running against anyone), this year's elections should be a pretty quick one!

# WEST PENN 99'ERS RECEIVE GENEROUS DONATIONS

The West Penn 99'ers would like to take this time to THANK Paul and Nancy Feight for their recent donation of II equipment to our user group.

Speaking on behalf of our club, I promised them that we would see to it that everything would find a good home, where it would be used and greatly appreciated.

Additionally, the West Penn 99'ers would also like to thank our former President, Scott Coleman, for his recent donations to our club.

We appreciate receiving these donations, as it makes it possible for us to help those who are in need of these items, who may not be able to afford them otherwise, even at today's bargain basement prices.

# RISING COST OF PRINTER PAPER

What A Nightmare!

Anyone out there buy a box of 2500 count fan-fold printer paper lately?

If not, you will be shocked BEYOND BELIEF at the prices these days.

Would you believe that I just paid \$35.99 PLUS TRX for such a box.

WOW! Talk about a big chunk out of the ole pocket book!

U-N-B-E-L-I-E-V-A-B-L-E-!-!

If anyone reading this knows where one can get paper cheaper than this, please let me know.

Keep in mind that I am interested in 20 lb fan-fold, white paper (NOT RECYCLED).

In the meantime, you can be sure that I'll be treating this new box of mine, as if it were GOLD.

Heck, just think of all the Pepsi that I could have purchased with that same amount of money. (Almosts makes me want to cry!)



# A PLEI FOR HELP

West Penn 99'ers member, Ed Mandich, is in need of a printer manual for a Panasonic printer (Model KX-P1695).

If anyone can help Ed out, you can reach him at the following address:

Ed Mandich 304 Chicora Street East McKeesport, Pa 15035

Thanks in advance for helping this gou out!

# INSIDE INFO ITEM PAGE

# WEST PENN 99'ERS CLUB INFO

Mext Meeting Date:

November 21, 1995

Meeting Location:

Penns Woods Civic Association

Just off Route 30

N. Huntingdon, Pa

Time of Meeting:

7:00 P.M.

#### GENERAL ITINERARY OF OUR 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. Page Pro 99 SIG
8:45 P.M. One on One Help
8:45 P.M. Socializing

10:30 P.M. Doors Close

#### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR THIS MONTH

Latest T.I. News - Software Discounts - And Show Reports

Latest News Concerning Our West Penn 99'ers Disk Library

Election of our West Penn 99'er - Club Officers - for 1996

Annual Pizza Party Night - Come Prepared to Eat and Party!

Demo - Open Slot For Any Member Wishing To Demo A Program

#### LIST OF WEST PENN OFFICERS FOR 1995

President: Vice-President: Treasurer: Recording Secretary: Corresponding Secretary: Librarian: Newsletter Editor: Assistant Editor:	Open Norm Rokke Lynn Gardner Paul Brock Paul Brock John Whelan Mickey Cendrowski	614-264-6442 412-835-4304 412-478-2754 412-478-2754 412-823-3312 412-265-5201 412-265-5201
Hssistant Edutor:	Mike Lendrowski	416-665-5601



The West Penn 99 ers Users Group is a Non-Profit organization, dedicated to encouraging the continued use of the TI-99/4A home computer.

Our membership fee is:

\* \$15.00 per year for an INDIVIDUAL / FAMILY membership.

\* \$10.00 per year for a NEWSLETTER ONLY membership.

Those having FULL memberships are entitled to the many extra benefits our club has to offer.

Some of those benefits are:

\* Demos of the latest TI-99/4A software.

\* Free copying of our West Penn 99'ers Disk Library.

\* Latest T.I. news - Local - National - International.

\* One on one help / Problem Solving.

\* Participation in our Module Lending Library.

\* Participation in our Video Lending Library.

\* Ribbon re-inking - for just \$1.00 per ribbon.

\* Various computer supplies - at a substantial savings.

\* Participation in our Coke / Pepsi Wars.

\* And ... entertainment by one of the biggest TI-99/4A supporters around.

We meet the third Tuesday of each month at the Penns Woods Civic Association in North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, at 7:00 P.M.

If you can't make it to our meetings ... at least become a NEWSLETTER member - and enjoy our NEW NEWSLETTER FORMAT - done ENTIRELY on a TI-99/4A computer.

SEE PAGE 10 FOR OUR WEST PENN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.



## FOR THE RECORD RROGY

## OCTOBER

We had 19 members turn out for our October meeting. Norm opened the meeting at approximately 7:30 P.M. We had the Treasurer's Report (which was very good). There weren't any corrections to last month's minutes, so I quess that I'll still be hanging in there. John Whelan is still having a little trouble with our library listing, although he has come a long way since taking office. As your Corresponding Secretary, the reports are slow. I called a few members. I also made an effort to recruit some new members. Lynn will let me know if I was successful. I got a lot of talkers. Norm talked of the upcoming Chicago show. We also talked about the by-laws. We need some input.



As we all know, November is vote nite. It also means that there will be a certain tradition. PIZZA!!! We are looking for a large turn out. Norm is going to be away. He said that he would pick his pizza up at the airport. Nominations were made. As it stands we have Nickey running for President and Ed Mandich running for Treasurer. The rest of the offices will remain the same.

We had a very good demo of a TI HOME SECURITY. This was done using a spare II console and a few connections. The demo was given by Jim Wiegand and he may have an article of his work in a future West Penn 99'ers newsletter.

Mickey demoed the software program that she was working on, called Load Master. She put a copy of it in our library. The program WAS to be for those owning a mouse. Look out IBM. Mickey has WINDOWS ON THE TI!



Mickey also announced that the Pittsburgh Users Group will be raffling off an AMS card at their December meeting. See Art Gardner at our November meeting if you wish to buy a ticket.



## CHRISTMAS IN NOUEMBER?

That's right folks. Partu-Election-Night will also be looking mas Season, by showthat you can Holiday Season.

Well, maybe not 1001 the idea. Don't you?

So, come on out and November 21st meet-

Enjoy the pizza. friends, and check Display.



amongst our Pizzathe West Penn 99'ers ahead to the Christing you 1001 ways your II-99/4A's this

ways, but you get

join the fun at our

visit with fellow II Christnas

As a matter-of-fact, we have it on very good authority that ole Saint Nick himself is expected to make an early appearance, bearing a gift for a certain individual.

And least you might not be that certain individual. Santa will be passing out wish lists, so that others might have the opportunity of receiving a gift from Santa next month.

Who knows, maybe, just maybe, Santa will be able to make your wish come true, too!

But, you'll never know unless you show up at our November 21st meeting.



# SOMEONE STOP THIS NONSENSE

SORRY GUYS...

Merry Christmas IT'S TOO LATE

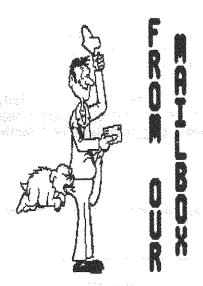
# UPDATING THE MEMBERSHIP

The West Penn 99'ers would like to welcome our NEWEST MEMBER to our club.

WELCOME ...

RAYMOND MIHALKO

This brings our 1995 meabership count up to 29 meabers.



This has been a VERY GOOD month as far as incoming mail goes.

As a matter-of-fact, I've received so much mail this month, that I will have to publish some of this months mail, next month.

Who knows, by then I may even have an entire newsletter devoted to our mail again, but that's fine with me, since that is the stuff that seems to help our membership the most.

So...keep those QUESTIONS coming in...as there are alot of people out there in the TI community who know the ANSWERS...and who are willing to SHARE them with all of us in the II community.

Dur first letter this month is in response to my Load Master program.

Dear Mickey,

I received your latest revision of Load Master a couple days ago and think it's one of those things that gets better and better. This must be a labor of love.

I figured Jim Cox might have contacted you after our fair. Sorry I didn't let you know immediately how well it went. I presented your software at the first session in the morning. It was the most crowded one of the day, and alot of people had questions. I think the presentation met with very positive response as I'm sure it will in Chicago.

Although we all had a grand time, there were not too many IIers at our fair.

Still, we're hoping to have a larger one next year. I hope more word gets around.

I know a few people made copies of Load Master, but I have no way of knowing how many. I was busy most of the day and didn't get a chance to see how many

people got the disk. I'm sure you'll be hearing from a few.

Meanwhile, I hope everything is going well for you. Miss running into you at the fairs.

Take Care.

As Always,

Jack Sughrue

Editor's Note:

Jack Sughrue is a long-time friend of yours truly.

He also is a member of the M.U.N.C.H. User Group which hosted a II Fair on September 30th of this year.

Since I was unable to make it to the show, Jack voluntered to demo Load Master in my place.

Thanks Jack!

Jack also had this to say about Load Master (which appears in the October 1995 issue of Micropendium, page 29).

During the morning sessions I had the honor of introducing Mickey Cendrowski's 
latest piece of software: 
Load Master. Originally 
conceived as Mouse Works, a 
loader program for the II 
Mouse, it was changed during beta testing because so 
many people wanted keyboard 
access. Both mouse and keyboard code made the program

too large and slow, so Mickey trimmed it down to operate as a fast keyboard loader with lots of exceptional qualities, including window layering (a la Funnelweb). In addition to providing exceptional loading properties, the program also supplies the user with a friendly method of changing defaults immediately and permanently (until the user intentionally writes over): screen and text colors, printer and so on. Many people at the fair went home with this shareware utility, which Mickey Cendrowski says is still evolving. To secure this disk, contact your user group library or write her (I hope with a donation) at 100 Pine Street, Russellton Pa 15076.

Editor's Note:

Jack,

Thanks for the kind words about Load Master.

Hopefully, this program will be able to help those who are fairly new to the II-99/4R computer, who have been overwhelmed with the task of trying to figure out how to access each of the different types of files that can be found on our II-99/4A disks.

Next month a lot more mail, including responses about the QWERTY-type keyboard, injet printers, and our own newsletter format.

## LOAD MASTER UERSION 1.2

Program Documentation File Copyright 1995 Mickey Cendrowski

Send Fairware Donations To:

Mickey Cendrowski 100 Pine Street Russellton, Pa 15076

(Any Donations Gladly Accepted)

#### Disk Contents:

DEFAULTS - 2 Sectors - D/V 80 File DOCS - 45 Sectors - D/V 80 File LOAD - 39 Sectors - Program File OPTIONS - 16 Sectors - Program File

#### Equipment Needed:

TI-99/4R Console Monitor or JV Screen Disk Drive System (Minimum Setup - 1 SS/SD Drive) 32K Memory Expansion Extended BASIC Module

#### Introduction:

The best laid plans of mice and men often go astray ... and so it was with the creation of Mouse Works Version 1.8.

Originally conceived and written to utilize only mouse input, I was asked by many in the II community if I would also include keyboard input, so that those not owning a mouse could also make use of my program.

After doing so, however, I became very disappointed in the speed and the size of my program.

Thus, in order to make this program as user-friendly as possible, as useful as possible, and as quick as possible, I decided to delete the mouse routines entirely.

This meant undergoing a name change, as it would have been ridiculous for me to continue calling my program Mouse Works (without any mouse support), thus the birth of Load Master Version 1.1.

Essentially, Load Master Version 1.1 is Mouse Works Version 1.0 (without the mouse support)...

...and Load Master Version 1.2 is Load Master Version 1.1 (with enhanced documentation).

Who knows, maybe someday when this program is as useful as possible (with ALL the features that I want and that YOU want), I will probably put the mouse support back in...

However, then I will have to have the program transcribed into Assembly or C99, as Extended BASIC will not be able to handle all of the code efficiently.

Now, on with the program.

#### First Things First:

Please place a write-protect tab on your original disk. Then make yourself up a backup copy of this disk and put your original disk away for safe keeping.

Since you will be reading and writing to your backup disk, do not place a write-protect tab on your backup disk.

Renember...

Always work using your backup disk.

#### Loading Instructions:

Turn on your computer and disk system.

Insert the Extended BASIC module into the module port.

Insert your backup disk into Drive #1.

Press any key to get the II menu screen.

Select "2" for the Extended BASIC module.

Your Load Master program disk will now autoload.

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#### Program Overview:

Load Master was written to help those who are fairly new to the TI-99/4A computer, who have been overwhelmed with the task of trying to figure out how to access each of the different types of files that can be found on our TI-99/4A disks.

While Version 1.2 helps out with only Display/Variable 80 files and some Program files, future versions of this program will help out with the many other types of files that can be found on our II-99/4A disks.

It is my personal hope that eventually this program will help you load every type of file that can be loaded into memory and run immediately, as well as telling you what you need to run a file that cannot be loaded into memory and run immediately, such as a II-Artist font.

#### Using This Program:

Load Master Version 1.2 was written to be as user-friendly as possible.

It will automatically load out of Drive #1 when the Extended BASIC module wish in the module port, and you have selected Option 2 (for Extended BASIC) at the main menu screen.

Whenever the program is waiting for your input, you will find all of your choices listed at the bottom of your monitor or TV screen.

If you follow the directions at the bottom of your screen, you should not have any trouble using this program.

#### Notes:

If your default drive is set for Orive #1, you will need to swap this disk with the disk that you wish to catalog BEFORE you select the CATALOG OPTION.

If your default drive is set for Drive #2, etc., you may keep this disk in Drive #1. Just remember to place the disk that you wish to catalog into Drive #2, etc., BEFORE you select the CATALOG OPTION.

If your PROGRAM DISK is in any drive other than Drive #1, you may encounter a loading error IF the program that you selected needs to go back and access the disk again (which it THINKS is in Drive #1).

If that occurs, the easiest thing to do is to put your PROGRAM DISK into Drive #1 and manually load the program that you want.

I.e.,

OLD OSK1.PROGRAM

#### Added BONUS:

As an added BONUS to this program, you may receive a hardcopy printout of the contents of any disk (in disk-label format) by pressing "L" whenever the disk catalog information is displayed on your screen.

#### Technical Information:

I have added REM statements to both the LOAD file and the OPTIONS file, so that you may be able to get a better understanding of the flow of this program.

You may EDIT any of the lines in either the LOAD file or the OPTIONS file, with one exception. You CANNOT EDIT LINE 10 of the LOAD file.

Additionally, you can add NEW lines to either file, just as long as you DO NOT RESEQUENCE either file.

RESEQUENCING either file will destroy the embedded Assembly code.

#### Suggested Modifications:

Since this program was designed to be as user-friendly as possible, it is much larger than necessary.

Thus, if you have some Extended BASIC programming experience, you may wish to make the following changes to your backup disk:

In the LOAD file, change:

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#### Line 410

Add an exclamation point to the front of this line.

This change will keep Load Master Version 1.2 from accessing the DEFAULTS options file.

#### Line 420

Delete the exclamation point from the front of this line and change the default code information as desired.

BG = Background/Screen Color

FG = Foreground/Text Color

D\$ = Orive Default

P\$ = Printer Default

#### Line 710

Add an exclamation point to the front of this line.

Since Load Master Version 1.2 will no longer be looking to READ the DEFAULTS file, it is senseless to allow access to the OPTIONS file.

Making these minor programming changes will allow Load Master Version 1.2 to run more efficiently.

#### Note:

Although making the above changes will prohibit you from running the OPTIONS file, you can regain access to the OP-TIONS file again, simply by reversing the above procedure.

#### Printer Code Modifications:

Should you have trouble getting a disk label to print out properly, you may need to change the printer command codes, which can be found in the following lines of the LOAD file:

1080 - 1090 - 1100

#### Future Plans:

Some of the features that I plan on adding to future versions of Load Master are:

#### More Efficient Code

This feature will come about as I work more with Extended BASIC and with the embedded Assembly code routines that others have already written, and as a result of any help I may receive from others in the II community who may be able to show me how to write the same code in a more efficient manner.

#### Error Trapping

Currently, Load Master Version 1.2 does not have any error trapping.

#### 40-Column Display

This will give me more screen space, so that I will be able to be more descriptive about the files on any particular disk.

For example:

Version 1.2 displays a TI-Artist font file as:

FILE\_F 12 DIS/VAR 80 P

and I would like to be able to display this same file as:

FILE\_F 12 DIS/UAR 80 P II-ARTIST FONT

#### Future Releases:

It is my intent to keep working on Load Master until this program is as useful as possible.

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# WEST PENN 99'ERS SCORES

GAME TITLE	SCORE	JOYSTICK JOCKEY	TI CLUB	DATE
MICRO PINBALL MIDNITE MASON MINEFIELD (A) (B) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (H) (I)	1000000 82600 301930 262460 3668 WON 52 131900 1776500 27100 0.00.05 0.00.12 0.00.31 0.00.47 0.02.13 0.02.13 0.02.13 0.02.13 0.02.13 0.03.51 0.03.51 202170 153000 47300 47300 15930 2208 31850	FRANK ZIC NIKE CENDROUSKI ELEANOR ZIC NICKEY CENDROUSKI NICKEY CENDROUSKI FRANK ZIC FRANK ZIC ELEANOR ZIC ELEANOR ZIC NORM ROKKE NOR	W/PENN 99	11/93 11/94 03/95 09/85 01/93 03/94 03/94 03/95 05/95 05/95 08/95 09/95 09/95 09/95 09/95 09/95 09/95 09/95 11/93



# NATIONAL TI GAME SCORES



GAME TITLE	SCORE	JOYSTICK JOCKEY	TI CLUB	DATE
HUSTLE JAUBREAKER JUMPY MICRO PINBALL MIDNITE MASON MINEFIELD (A) (C) (C) (E) (F) (G) (H) (I) MOON PATROL MUNCHMAN PACMAN PARSEC PKR SOLITAIRE	82600 301930 301930 1000000 262460 3668 4031826 4031826 15025 131900 1776500 27100 0:00:05	DAVID HANDLE MIKE CENDROUSKI RAY FRANTZ ELEANOR ZIC MICKEY CENDROUSKI JIN WAYNE MICKEY CENDROUSKI HARRY HOFFMAN FRANK ZIC FRANK ZIC TON BEERSMAN ELEANOR ZIC JIN WAYNE ELEANOR ZIC NORN ROKKE NORN ROK	DZARK 99 U/PENN 99	11/93 03/94 09/85 11/93 01/87 03/95 03/94 11/93 05/87 11/93 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/95 08/95 09/95 09/95 09/95 09/95 09/95 09/95 11/93 11/93 11/93 11/93 11/93 11/93 11/93 11/93

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Thus, I anticipate many future releases of this program.

Whenever a NEW release is made, I will mail a copy of my program to Charles Good, since Charles does an excellent job of making programs available to the II community through his club, the Lima User Group.

Additionally, I will mail an update notice to Micropendium for inclusion in their TI-99/4A magazine.

Since this program is released as FAIRWARE, feel free to pass along a copy to your friends or upload it to one of the many bulletin boards.

All I ask is that you pass along and upload all of my files as written.

If you make any changes to my program for your own benefit, that's fine, but please don't pass out your files as mine.

#### Bugsi

If any bugs are found with this version, please advise me of such, giving me as much information as you can, so that all bugs may be corrected as quickly as possible.

#### Closing Comments:

I welcome ANY and ALL comments and suggestions that you, the user, may have. My address is:

Mickey Cendrowski 100 Pine Street Russellton, Pa 15076

#### Acknowledgements:

I would like to thank the following people for their various contributions in making this program a reality:

Karl Romstedt

Author of the Freeloader III program

Tom Moran

Original author of the II Windows program

John Bull

Author of the Enhanced Version of the TI Windows program

Tod Kaplan

Author of the Alsave routines

Barry Traver

Author of the XXB package .

Norm Rokke

Programming assistance

Mike Cendrowski

Beta-tester of Load Master Version 1.2

Lynn Gardner

Proof reader of this file

# ADDITIONAL NOTES

Due to the fact that Load Master Version 1.2 contains embedded Assembly code routines, this program cannot be LISTED in our newsletter.

As of this writing, Load Master Version 1.2 is available from the Lima User Group, the N.U.N.C.H. User Group, the Vest Penn 99'ers and the Pittsburgh Users Group.

## WP MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name	
Address City State	Zip water
Please Check One	
Newsletter Membership No Library Privileges \$10.00 Per Year	Full Membership Library Privileges \$15.00 Per Year
Complete and Return	To
Lynn Gardner, 642 Lois Drive, Pit	tsburgh, Pa 15236

THIS NEWSLETTER WAS COMPOSED IN IT'S ENTIRETY USING A TEXAS INSTRUMENTS TI-99/4A COMPUTER

#### 7:00 P.M. NOVEMBER 21st MEETING

**WEST PENN 99'ERS** c/o Mickey Cendrowski 100 Pine Street Russellton, Pa 15076

NEWSLETTER EDITORS Please note new address and update your mailing list





FIRST CLASS MAIL

MICKEY CENDROWSKI 100 PINE STREET RUSSELLTON, PA 15076

EXPIRATION DATE 951231-F

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