WEST PENN 99 ERS NEWS

Volume 10 Number 3

December 1994

FRONT PAGE NEWS

There will be NO BECEMBER meeting on Becember 20th, due to the fact that it will be so close to the Christmas holiday.

However, in lieu of our Becember meeting, Mickey and Mike Cendrowski will be having an Open Christmas Party - for all West Penn members and their guests.

This party will be on Saturday, December 17th at 7:00 P.M.

For those of you needing directions to Mickey and Mike's, you will find a map to their home on page 8 of this newsletter.

As a courtesy, Mickey and Mike request that you call them at 412-265-5201 if you plan on attending.

Although, there will be no formal meeting - I have it on very good authority that some of those in attendance may wish to talk about COMPUTERS - imagine that!

Hopefully, a good time will be had by all!

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

As many of you may notice, Our club newsletter is still under construction.

This past month I purchased Asgard Software's Page Pro Composer, from Ramcharged Computers.

Using this program, I can now put two Page Pro pages on a single page.

Thus, our newsletter, which is 5 pages, is actually 20 Page Pro pages.

That means getting more information into each newsletter that we produce.

This month I decided to concentrate on articles that would help many of our newcomers, (and some of our old timers) determine what programs are on their disks and how one goes about trying to access them.

This information should prove to be invaluable.

My appreciation to all of those authors who wrote the original articles.

HIGH GAME SCORES

As some of you may already know, my husband and I have been having alot of funtrying to beat those high game scores that are listed on page 9 of this newsletter.

One of the reasons we have been having so much fun is that we have also been competing with each other.

Just as soon as one of us has the "edge," the other becomes more determined than ever, to be the best.

This past month, Mike broke two of the National II Game Scores, while yours truly, didn't break any, (although I did have alot of fun trying).

Needless to say, Mike and I are now trying to knock some other poor unsuspecting soul off the list.

Actually, it's all in having fun and using our computers, and that's what it's all about.

Congratulations Mike!



Please see Lynn Gardner, our West Penn 99'ers Treasurer, to renew your membership.

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WEST PENN 99'ERS CLUB INFO

Next Meeting Date:

January 17 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
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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
A First-hand Look At How Our NEW Newsletter Is Being Done
Creating Cards For Any Occassion - Using Your TI-99/4A
Page Pro 99 SIG - Immediately Following The Main Meeting

LIST OF WEST PENN OFFICERS FOR 1995

President:	Mickey Cendrouski	412-265-5201
Vice-President:	Norm Řokke	614-264-6442
Treasurer:	Lynn Gardner	412-835-4304
Recording Secretary:	Paul Brock	412-478-2754
Corresponding Secretary:	Paul Brock	412-478-2754
Librariani	John Whelan	412-823-3312
Newsletter Editor:	Mickey Cendrowski	412-265-5201
Assistant Editor:	Ralph Vasko	412-379-8762



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.
- * \$18.88 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 18 FOR OUR WEST PENN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.

FOR THE RECORD

MINUTES BY FRANK N. ZIC

The November 15, 1994 meeting of the West Penn 99'ers started early at 7:10 P.M. This was to allow more time for the election officers and to specify the specific order for toppings on the Pizza. Mickey gave thanks to me for being Recording Secretary 311 these many years. It was truly my pleasure. The election nominees were: President-Mickeu Cendrowski Vice-President - Norm Rokke Treasurer - Lynn Gardner; Recording and Corresponding Secretary - Paul Brock; and Librarian - John Whelan. Mickey Cendrowski and Ralph Vasko will be sharing the job of Newsletter Editor. Needless to say the slate was unanimously approved. The good thing about this is that the club will be in good hands for another campaion. Our newsletter will be continued in the comina year and exchanges are made with 40 TI clubs worldwide. Mickey will still be doing some experimenting with the format and contents of the newsletter. Don't forget that club dues are required by December 31. 1994.

Mickey reported that lost a good club member from North Carolina when she was informed that L.F. (Mac) Jones recently passed away. His wife wrote a nice letter to the club which Mickey read. We are glad that Mac enjoyed our newsletter and this makes us feel that the effort of producing one is worthwhile. We all signed a sympathy card which will be sent to Mrs. Jones - May Mac rest in Peace.

Mickey and her husband. Mike, graciously invited the entire club to their home on December 17th at 7:00 P.M. in lieu of our December 20th meeting. The innovations never cease coming from Mickey's active mind, she's really someone special. A map to their place is included in this newsletter. As I mentioned, the meeting was short but we did have a nice surprise when both the November and December raffles were both held this night. I was fortunate enough to win a nice prize, a power and telephone surge protected distribution box. Other prizes were red and green disk cases and envelopes, a monitor accessories kit, a large box of computer paper, a book on Adventure games, a diskette travel and more computer paper. Very nice prizes.

Norm reported the following on the Chicago Faire: Bud Mills gave an update on the SCSI card; a new CYA Utility program for Geneve owners released; Mike Wright covered a broad range of

subjects including the Music Maker by Bruce Harrison. PC99, use of simultaneous modules, De-Buggers and Emulators. Don Walden of Cecure has received over 300 phone calls for equipment repairs and questions. It's nice to see so much interest still out there. The %1 ·VCR tape of the 1994 Lima Faire is again available for distribution. We all want to wish Dick Ohi a fast and complete recovery from his recent surgery. I would now like to close with mu now familiar ...

"May the good 4's be with you".

Unfortunately this will be the last time I will be using this phrase in the newsletter since I will be, as they say, moving on to my lifes work. I have enjoyed very much being your Recording Secretary. I've made many life long friends and will think of you often.

God bless each and everyone.

MANTED

Individuals 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, just as long as they pertain to the TI-99/4A.

Flexible hours.

Benefits too numerous to mention.

To apply, submit your article to Mickey Cendrowski at any one of our regular West Penn 99'ers meetings, or mail them to her at the following address:

Mickey Cendrowski 100 Pine Street Russellton, Pa 15076

THE FEW THE PROUD THE SOMEBODY

BE A SOMEBODY VOLUNTEER NOW

THE WEST PENN 99'ERS NEED YOU!



WHO OWNS THE ZEBRA

Answers to last month's puzzle - the Norwegian drinks the water and the Japanese owns the zebra.

UPDATING THE MEMBERSHIP

The West Penn 99'ers would like to acknowledge the following members for renewing their memberships for the 1995 season...

Paul Brock Sr Ed Mandich Bill Vorp John Vukman John Whelan

In addition to those listed above, we've also added a NEW MEMBER.

WELCOME...SKIP PARK!



This month I would like to thank our Vice-President, Norm Rokke, for taking the time to purchase raffle prizes for our club when he was at the Chicago Faire on November 12, 1994.

In addition, I would also like to thank Norm for preparing for our monthly demo and for keeping us up-todate with the Micropendium highlights.

Who says that the VP is just a figure-head?

Thanks for everything Norm!



This month I received quite a bunch of mail from my fellow II friends.

John Bull, from the K-town 99'ers mailed me a copy of his ALWIND program. Look for me to demo this at our January 17th meeting.

Skip Park sent me a disk of some of his original work. Look for me to demo this at our february 15th meeting.

Rick Kellogg, long time member of the Cin-Day User Group, sent me a letter on how he created some real nice Christmas cards, using his TI-99/4A computer.

Our very own member, Ed Mandich sent me a bunch of newsletter articles that he felt might benefit the membership.

And, last, but certainly not least, Ralph Rees, the newsletter editor of the Vast User Group sent me some disks and a letter explaining how he puts together his exceptional newsletter.



NEWS VIA NA BELL

Once again, I've had the pleasure of talking with Skip Park this month and I am happy to report that he is now a West Penn 99'ers member.

Closer to home, I received a call from Paul Brock, who is our 1995 Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary.

Paul has a suggestion on how our club might be able to sell some of our unwanted II items, while possibly getting new people interested in our club.

Paul will talk about his suggestion at both the Christmas Party on December 17th and our next meeting on January 17th.



John Whelan is still working hard on getting our disk library cataloged.

Please do what you can to help John accomplish this MONUMENTAL TASK!



CLOSER LOOK

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

A family consisting of a father, a mother, two sons and a daughter are all employed with different firms in different capacities.

From the clues given below, can you name each member of the family and decide which job he or she performs for which company?

The daughter of the family works for the firm called Fuffe and Drumm, but not as a clerk. Roger is a machine operator; he does not work for Salt and Pepper. The member of the family who works as a caretaker works for Ball and Cheune: this is not the mother. Rex, who is younger than Tony, is employed by Waite and Sea. The elder son is employed as a mechanic. The father of the family does not work for the firm called Cash and Carrie. Ellen is not employed as a manager.

Answers, next month.

PEPSI UPDATE

According to the November 15th Examiner, 10 out of 10 people preferred PEPSI?

MY TIME

By Olden Warren Bluegrass SGers

This article discusses a subject very near and dear to Henry Kenion's heart. For several months he has asked for someone to explain a process for running programs from disks that have been long forgotten then recently rediscovered. We've said each time that this would be a good demonstration piece for one of our meetings, so I finally got around to spending some time to prepare myself to do it. In preparation for the meeting, I thought it might be helpful to discuss the general principles I will use during the demo. Henry, this one's for you!

Let's say you have just come across a disk that you either recently obtained or found in your overflowing stack of disks. The title looks interesting, so you want to run the program to see what it does. Where do you start? Well, if the disk does not have written instructions, you can start by cataloging the disk using any of the numerous disk manager programs. As an aside, I ALWAYS start this process by placing the disk in drive BSK1 because many programs are written assuming that they are loaded from there. This is especially true if the program is in sections or uses data files. I do not like programs that force you to use a certain drive, particularly since there are several ways around this; however that is a subject for another article.

Once you have listed the catalog, look for a file called README, one that begins or ends with BOC, or some other BISPLAY/VARIABLE 88 (B/V 88) file that may have some documentation. If you find a file like this, print it out and, hopefully, you will have instructions on what to do next. If you are not that lucky, look for a file called LOAD. If it is there, it is usually an XB file that will automatically run if the disk is in drive 1 when you start up the XB cartridge. From here you are usually home-free because these programs often guide you on. Sometimes, there will even be a chance to print out documentation after it autoloads.

If this does not get you started, you are not out of luck, yet. The next thing to do is to run a program like IDENTIFILE written by Mike Dodd in 1989. This program catalogs a disk and tries to identify the file characteristics for each file on the disk. When it is run, it prompts you for the drive to catalog (DSKI-DSK4). After you enter the

drive, it will form a catalog of the files and give the following information about each:

- (a) filename
- (b) file length
- (c) file type (i.e. D/V 80, I/F 254)
- (d) an assessment of what type of data the file holds (i.e. XB program, text).

From here it is pretty straightforward. If it identifies a file as BASIC or XB, run it as such. A file identified as E/A or XB Run Program file can be run using the Editor/Assembler's Option 5 (E/A 5) or equivalent. A file identified as E/A Load and Run can be run using the Editor/Assembler's Option 3 (E/A 3) or equivalent. Files identified as Archiver Compressed are obviously archived files and must be unarchived before executing (there are several archiver programs available to do the task).

Often there are several files on a disk that are related to a program. Which ones do you execute? Well, there are no hard and fast rules for this, only a little reasoning. Usually, a programmer will make the main file's name resemble the object of the program; for example, a tennis game program would usually be called TENNIS. Also, E/A 5 program file names must be sequential, e.g. TENNIS, TENNIT, TENNIU, and so on because after the loader loads each module, it increments the last character of the filename to find the next module (if one exists). If both XB and E/A type programs exist on the disk, run the XB program first. Many times the XB program is used to load the E/A program or it uses the E/A code as a subroutine.

Using these steps will usually get a program going; however, there are no guarantees. Mike Bodd's program is very good, but there are files that it cannot identify. Some programmers create their own file types to suit the unique needs of the program or deter hackers. If none of the above steps work, there is one more thing to try, provided you've got some time. Write-protect the disk, then try running each unidentifiable program as XB, E/A 5 and E/A 3 to see what happens.

I hope this helps rediscover some lost programming treasures. Happy hunting!

CHECK OUT PAGE 6 FOR MORE HELP IN IDENTIFYING FILES

HOW TO ACCESS / FILES

BY JERRY KEISLER

I have been asked by several members how to run some of the programs on our DOM. The following is a list of what you may find in your disk directory and how to run it.

If your disk has a LOAD file, it may run all the files on the disk regardless of type.

PROGRAM FILES (PG)

There are several options for running these files.

EXTENDED BASIC (XB)

Will load and run automatically when you select XB and the disk is in drive #1, if it has a LOAD file. Or can be run by typing:

RUN (enter) or RUN "DSK1.name" (enter)

If the program loads correctly but you get a BAD VALUE error when it runs, you need to load the program into BASIC (no CHARS above 143 are allowed in XB). If the program file is more than 45 sectors and won't load, you have to open up more memory. Bo this by typing:

CALL FILES(1) (enter)
NEW (enter)
OLD BSKn.name (enter)
RUN (enter)

BASIC

Programs need to be loaded by typing:

OLD DSKn.name (enter)
RUN (enter)

Most BASIC programs will load and run in XB but not viceversa. If you get a FOR-NEXT error in line xxx and when you edit the line you get a lot of nonsense, the program is written in XB. The same is true if the sectors are greater than 45. More space is needed in the computer. See CALL FILES above. If you still get a memory full and tried XB then most likely it can be run on tape (OLD CS1) without the expansion box turned on.

EDITOR ASSEMBLEA (EA)

If a program file will not load and run in BRSIC or XB and gives an I/O ERROR 50, it may be an assembly language program. These can be run using BOOT, the Editor Assembler module option *5 with DSKn.name or FUNNELWEB'S RUN option of Disk Review. These program files are listed in consecutive order such as MASS, MAST, MASU or UTIL1, UTIL2, UTIL3. The files will normally have 33 sectors.

GRAMULATOR

These require a GROM simulator card or box. The files contain 34 sectors and have the same name with the numbers 1 through 66 attached to files 2 through 8. Follow your GROM simulator instructions to load and run.

OTHER PROGRAM FILES

Some specialized program files can only be loaded from a special module such as ABVENTURE (54 sectors), PERSONAL RECORD KEEPING, STATISTICS, TUNNELS OF DOOM (52 sectors).

DIS/VAR 80 FILES (D/V 80)

These are usually text or documentation files (DOCS, READ-ME, ETC.). They are instructions on how to run programs on the disk. Read or print them using TI Writer, FUNNELWEB, BOOT or the (V. T or P) option of several disk managers.

DIS/VAR 163 FILES (D/V 163)

This is an XB file in MERGE format. It can be merged into a program already in computer memory. Type:

MERGE DSKn.name (enter)

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

You must do this even if no program is in memory. To save a file in MERGE format, type:

SAVE DSKn. name, MERGE - works in XB only.

DIS/FIX 80 FILES (D/F 80)

Use EDITOR ASSEMBLER MODULE, LAR or FUNNELWEB to load these. Some files will auto load and/or auto start. Use LOAD and RUN option \$3. Type:

DSKn.name (enter)

If the program does not run but asks for a second file name, you must do #1 and #2 or just #2 below.

#1 If there are multi files for the program, type:

DSKn.name (enter) for each file.

*2 Then press enter. If the program does not start, enter the program name. The program name could be START, BEGIN, GAME, LOAD, RUN, FIRST, etc. FUNNELWEB will give you a list of names found in the program.

DIS/FIX 128 FILES (D/F 128)

These are usually ARCHIVED files. You must unarchive these files before you can run them. Use ARC303 or ARC3036.

INT/VAR 254 FILES (I/V 254)

These files usually have more than 45 sectors and are XB requiring memory expansion. They do not require CALL FILES (1). BASIC cannot be used. The same commands are used such as RUN or OLB BSKn.name. The programs are usually so long that they cannot be saved to tape. (SAVE CS1)

DATA FILES

Files such as INT/FIX 108, INT/VAR 128, INT/VAR 64 and some program files are data files that can be used by a program on the disk. They will not RUN and should be left on the disk with the other programs.

QUICK REFERENCE CHART

BY JERRY KEISLER

Education (Artistic Property Control Pro	emilwoodskirthwoodynamskirana	
TYPE	SIZE	TRY
PG PG PG PG DV80 DV80 DF128 IV245 IV254 ANY?	334 52 5 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	EXTENDED BASIC, BASIC, EDITOR/ASSEMBLER EDITOR/ASSEMBLER 5, BOOT, FUNNELWEB GROM SIMULATOR TUNNELS OF DOOM MODULE ADVENTURE MODULE TI WRITER, FUNNELWEB EXTENDED BASIC MERGE FORMAT EDITOR/ASSEMBLER 3 ARCHIVER EXTENDED BASIC EXTENDED BASIC EXTENDED BASIC DATA

TI-ARTIST FILES

ENDS VITH	TYPE	DESCRIPTION		
	PG25 DV80 DV254 PG25 DV80 DF12	PICTURES / COLOR FILE CHARACTER FONT FILE INSTANCE FILE MOVIE FILE PICTURES / PATTERN FILE SLIDES FILE VECTORS FILE		

TI-BASE FILES

ENDS WITH TYPE		DESCRIPTION		
/C /C /D /H /P /S	DV80 IF40 IF DV80 IF255 IF255	COMMAND FILE COMMAND FILE DATA BASE DATA FILE HELP FILE PROGRAM FILE DATA BASE STRUCTURE FILE		

FILES... FILES... FILES...

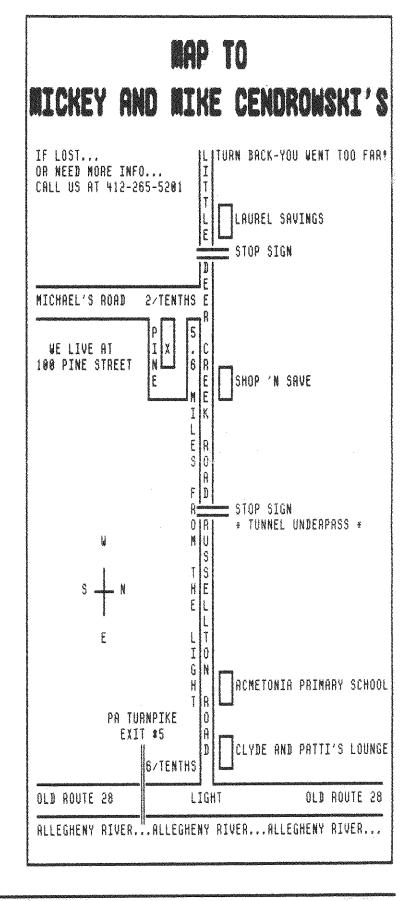
TAKEN FROM THE BOZO CHRONICLES
ORIGINAL CHARTS AND LAYOUTS BY GARTH POTTS
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73142

One of the first things I had to learn was that software programs are really made up of a series of files which work together or in sequence. The toughest part for me was once you catalog a disk, how do you get it to load and run. The following chart lays it all out, complete with the proper module to use:

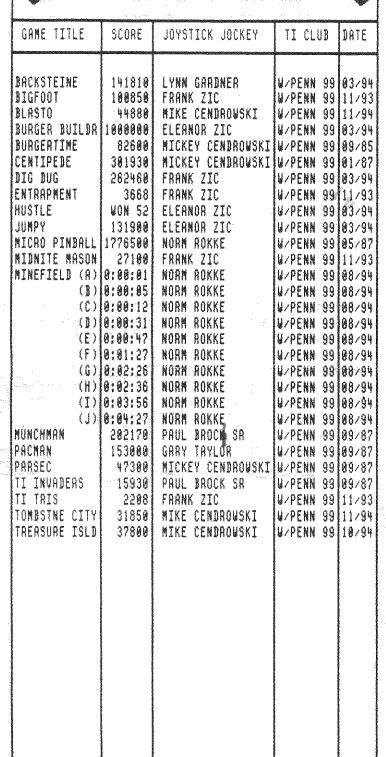
FILETYPE	LANGUAGE	TO LOAD	
>33 Sectors <33 Sectors 52 Sectors	E/A - Option 5 BASIC or XB BASIC, XB or E/A Tunnels of Doom Adventure Module	DSKn.name OLD DSKn.name or RUN "DSKn.name" If PROGRAM >45 sectors CALL FILES(1) - NEW OLD DSKn.name	

* "BAD VALUE" = BASIC "FOR-NEXT ERROR" = EXTENDED BASIC "MEMORY FULL" - try call files(1)

Ì.			.	
B)	DIS/VAR	80	TI Writer	FORMATTER option Lf."DSKn.name"
C)	DIS/VAR	163	XB subroutine in MERGE format To save>	MERGE DSKn.name SAVE "DSKn.name",MERGE
D)	DIS/FIX	88	•	DSKn.name - then enter Program Names: RUN-LOAD START-BEGIN-GAME - etc.
E)	INT/VAR	254	XB	OLD DSKn.name or RUN "DSKn.name"
LA.	INT/FIX INT/VAR INT/VAR	128	Datafiles	Used by some other program on the disk
G)	DIS/FIX	128	Archived	Use Archiver V.3.03
H)	INT/FIX	128	Compressed Arc.	Use Archiver V.3.03



PENN 99'ERS SCORES





MATIONAL TI GAME SCORES

GAME TITLE	SCORE	JOYSTICK JOCKEY	TI CLUB	DATE
BACKSTEINE BIGFOOT BLASTO BREAKTHROUGH BURGER BUILDR BURGERTIME CAR WARS CENTIPEDE DIG DUG ENTRAPMENT HOPPER HUSTLE JAWBREAKER JURPY MICRO PINBALL MIDNITE MASON MINEFIELD (A) (E) (C) (E)	141818 18858 44888 1858 18988 82688 82688 3819368 262468 4831826 15328 4831826 1576588 4831826 1576588 1776588 1776588 1776588 1776588 8:88:22 15388 8:88:22 8	LYNN GARDNER FRANK ZIC MIKE CENDROWSKI RAY FRANTZ ELEANOR ZIC MICKEY CENDROWSKI JIN WAYNE MICKEY CENDROWSKI FRANK ZIC TOM BEERSNAN ELEANOR ZIC JIM WAYNE ELEANOR ZIC NORM ROKKE	W/PENN 99	03/94 11/93 11/93 03/94 09/85 11/93 01/87 03/94 11/93 06/94 06/94 06/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94 08/94

WP MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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	t t s t c		
	Please Ch	eck One	
Newsletter No Library \$10.00 Per	Membership Privileges	Full M Librar	lembership y Privileges) Per Year
L_ \$10.00 Per	Year -	L_I \$15.00	Per Year
	Complete and	A W.V	
Lynn Gardner,	642 Lois Dri	ve, Pittsburgh	n, Pa 15236

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

NEXT

MEETING

JANUARY 17th

7:00 P.M.

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

MINTER ES

MICKEY CENDROWSKI 100 PINE ST RUSSELLTON FA 15078

FIRST CLASS MAIL