WEST PENN 99 ERS NEWS

Volume 11 Number 1

October 1995

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN..

Yes, folks, once again it's time to start thinking about our West Penn 99'er club officers for 1996.

Now's your chance to volunteer "SOMEBODY ELSE" - even a "CURRENT OFFICER" -- RNY-BODY - JUST AS LONG AS IT ISN'T YOU!)

(Isn't that usually how these things go?)

BE HONEST - YOU KNOW IT IS!

Ever want to quiet down a room F-A-S-I-? Ask for a volunteer - for ANYTHING!

All joking (and humor) aside, October is the month that we open the floor for nominations for club officers for the upcoming year...

YOU show up and voice YOUR NONINATIONS.

Let's ALL give this year's elections some serious thought.

Many of you have served and many of you are "NEW", but each and everyone of us is capable of doing something!



A PLEA 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

I'm sure Ed would be most appreciative to hear from anyone who can help.

NEWS FLASH!

The Pittsburgh Users Group will be having a II/Geneve Flea Market Day on Sunday, November 12th at the Whitehall Boro Building from 3:00 P.N. till ?

So, come on out! Browse, buy, and spend the day with fellow II enthusiasts.

NEUSLETTER EDITOR IN SHOCK!!

WOW! Would you believe that I had too much stuff to put in this month's newsletter?

It's true! (So, some of our BASIC COLUMNS got cut a bit short this month AND some stuff will have to wait till next month's newsletter.

NOW THAT'S EVERY NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S DREAM!

NEW SOFTWARE RELEASED

UPDATE - Nickey Cendrouski released her NEW FRIRWARE PROGRAM at the N.U.N.C.H. Computer Show on September 30th 1995.

Although she was not able to attend the show personally, Jack Sughrue, (a member of the M.U.N.C.H. User Group), was scheduled to give the demo in her absence.

Of MAJOR disappointment was

the DELETION of the MOUSE SUPPORT and the name change from MOUSE WORKS to LOAD NASTER.

Since space is "tight" this month, you will all have to wait until next month, for a full look and explanation of this program and why the last minute change...

However...those attending our October 17th meeting, won't have to sit and wait "on edge" till next month, since Nickey plans on demoing her new program at THIS MONTH'S NEETING.

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WEST PENN 99'ERS CLUB INFO

Next Meeting Date:

October 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.N. Ocors Open
7:00 P.N. General Meeting
7:45 P.N. Demos and New Info
8:45 P.M. Page Pro 99 SIG
8:45 P.N. 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

Nominations (Taken From The Floor) For Officers For 1996

Demo - Load Master V.1.2 - Demo by Nickey Cendrowski

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

LIST OF WEST PENN OFFICERS FOR 1995

President: Vice-President: Treasurer: Recording Secretary: Corresponding Secretary:	Open Norm Rokke Lynn Gardner Paul Brock Paul Brock	614-264-6442 412-835-4304 412-478-2754 412-478-2754
Librarian:	John Whelan	412-823-3312
Newsletter Editor:	Nickey Cendrowski	412-265-5201
Assistant Editor:	Nike Cendrowski	412-265-5201



The West Penn 99'ers Users Group is a Non-Profit organization, dedicated to encouraging the continued use of the TI-99/48 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 / Papsi Wars.

* And ... entertainment by one of the biggest II-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 II-99/4A computer.

SEE PAGE 10 FOR OUR WEST PENN NENBERSHIP APPLICATION.



FOR THE RECORD BY PAUL BROCK

SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Starting the September meeting was slow. Everyone was getting important information about their II's. John Whelan, our disk librarian was having a little trouble

hopes to have a partial list of the library in the near future. Norm Rokke called the meeting to order at about 7:33 P.M. Lynn Gardner, our Treasurer was not present, therefore Art Gardner gave the Treasurer's Report. There were no coffee drinkers, so Art didn't make coffee. Comments were made about the minutes (complimentary). Reports were given of the upg II-Fairs. Dick Ohi was unable to attend, but the

coming II-Fairs. Dick Ohi was unable to attend, but the video library was available. Scott Coleman and his son stopped in with some II equipment. A nice donation guys! Some of these items will be given as raffle prizes at our October meeting. There were 13 members present. Scott gave some input on software and Jim Wiegand showed off the layout of his II with a Zeno board installed.

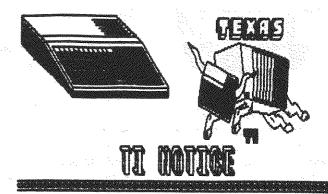
We are nearing the end of the year, discussion of nominations for the coming year means that we will be fishing for fresh fish. October is the month that we throw out the hook. We need all members to turn out. The Newsletter Editor is looking for some articles. Do you have something to share?

Let us hear from you. Submit your articles to muself or Mickey.

The demo for the month was TI WORKSHOP by Norm Rokke. This is a module that Norm uses. II WORKSHOP is a combination disk manager, sector editor and assembly language program development environment. See Micro Reviews in the July 1995 issue of Micropendium. Norm showed how nice it was to use without a lot of switching.

See you all at the next meeting on October 17th. Do you know why stores hire extra help for the holidays? This way, customers who don't know what they want can be helped by people who don'tknow where to find it!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



As a member of the and Recording and Corresponding Secretary, I wish to inform you that I am putting forth an effort to get



some interest and members for the club. I wish to bring this interest to the Public. In doing so, I am taking my II equipment to set up and DENO at a Flea Market. I will also be selling a few items. Any help would be appreciated.



CITY CITY LOCATION



7201 SALTSBURG ROAD, PITTSBURGH, PA 15235

DINECTIONS

From the Parkway: Take Penn Hills Exit to Rodi Road. Follow to the end. At the "I", make a right on Frankstown Road. Count two more lights after Frankstown/Rodi intersection and make a right at second light on Saltsburg Road. Look for ROY PLAZA on left.

Summer Detonin 15 & && Time 8 800 an to Hoon

UPDATING THE **THE KALP**

Vould you believe that for the second time this year we have no changes to report in our membership status.

That's right folks, our membership count remains steady at 28 members.



This month I received ouite a few letters from fellow Vest Penn 99'er members.

In those letters were questions concerning various aspects of our II-99/4A computers.

Since, I do not know the answers to these questions. I thought that I would publish their questions, here, in this column.

Hopefully someone out there reading this column may be able to shed some light on these questions.

Dear Mickey.

I am interested in purchasing an inkject printer, to be used with my II-99/4A computer.

Do you know which inkject printers will work with a TI-99/4A computer (as well as their model numbers).

Also, do you need to have a "special" cable made, in order to connect the inkiet printer to the II-9974A computer.

Any info that you could pass along would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely.

An avid TI-99/4A user

Dear avid TI-99/4A user.

Sorry, but I do not know the answers to your questions. However, I, too, would like to know the answers to these questions. Hopefullu someone reading this column will know these answers, and be willing to share them with all of us in the II community.

You can be sure that I will publish AWY INFORMATION that I receive, just as soon as I receive it, so keep watching for your answers to appear in upcoming issues of the West Penn 99'ers News.

While we are on the subject of inkjet printers. I would also be interested in finding out what pieces of keuboards, but the OVERT software have page been successful in using with their inkject printers.

For example, how about II Writer or Funnelyeb, better yet, how about Page Pro 99 and Page Pro Composer.

You get the idea...

So, once again, PAW INFOR-NATION that anyone might have, please let me know, so that I can let the rest of the II community in on YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

Our next letter reads...

Dear Mickey,

What is "OVERTY". (This appears on the II-99/4A keyboard - second row. left side, first six letters).

Maybe someone can make something of it.

Sincerelu.

Ed Nandich

Dear Ed.

I'm afraid that I don't know a whole lot about this one.

I can tell your that QUERTY neans that a keuboard is a standard type keuboard, the type that most of used way back in the good old days when we used typewriters!

To the best of my knowledge

there are "other" tupes o keuboard is the standard.

If memory serves me cor rectly, when two ewriter were first produced the were very slow and thos that could type fairly fas kept jamming up the keys thus, someone came up wit the idea of changing th keyboard around, so the the most used keys were no so close together, such a the letters "E" and "I".

Anu more info than this (coming from me) would just be a quess.

Perhaps someone out then reading this article coul provide all of us in the T. community with more input.

NWONE out there wanting to share their knowledge with the rest of us in the 11 community can send their responses to me at the following address:

West Penn 99'ers c/o Mickey Cendrowski 100 Pine Street Russellton. Pa 15076

Additionally, if ANYONE else has ANY questions, I would be more than willing to publish your questions in any of our upcoming West Penn 99'ers Newsletters.

REMEMBER....The only "DUMB" questions are the ones that NEVER oet asked!

TRANSFERRING PROGRAMS FROM CRSSETTE TO DISK

By Nike Poskitt

I was sifting through my fairly large collection of II related memorabilia the other day, when I discovered some cassettes containing long forgotten II BASIC programs that I had omitted to transfer to disk when I expanded my II-99/4A way back in 1988.

...Ah yes, I remember it well. I was staying with family in Weymouth in the Summer of 1988, and feeling flush having just pocketed my pay check. Armed with a heavily laden wallet (the likes of which has never been repeated), I drove the 40 miles to Honiton where I eagerly descended upon the home of Mr. PARCO himself - Francis Parrish - in a leafy country lane on the outskirts of the town. His garage proved to be a veritable Aladdin's cave of II-99/4R hardware, software, magazines and books. I greedily snapped up lots of bargains, including a full expansion system with it's mind-boggling 32K of extra RAM. It was second-hand of course, but hey, it was built like a tank (fish tank?) and it has functioned faultlessly ever since. Anyway, I digress...

Yes, finding the aforementioned cassettes encouraged me to search out some utilities previously acquired from Stephen Shaw's massive Disk Library, in order to make the task of transferring the programs easier. Having extracted these utilities, I thought it worthwhile telling you about them, if only to encourage some more activity on the Disk Library front!

Now, for those who haven't actually tried it before, you may be forgiven for thinking that to transfer a TI BASIC or Extended BASIC program you simply type OLD CS1, then SAVE DSK1.xxxx (where xxxx is the name of the program). Well yes, this may work, but attaching a disk system to your console results in a disk buffer claiming some of the available RAM, leaving less for your program. Unfortunately the II's cassette utilities only use the console's UOP RAM and cannot access the extra 32K RAM in the expansion box. So if your program uses most of the available RAM, you may be able to load it from cassette into an unexpanded system, but not into a disk based system.

In actual fact, the exact amount of space required by the disk system depends on the number of files which are

allowed to be open at any given time. The default number is 3, and the disk system then uses 2088 bytes of your precious RAM! You can use the CRLL FILES command to change the number of files that may be open, bearing in mind that the greater the number of allowable open files, the more memory the disk system uses. (The amount of RAM available is reduced by 534 bytes when a disk drive is attached, plus 518 bytes for each allowable opened file).

The CALL FILES command (it must not be used as a statement in a II BASIC program) is used as follows:

CALL FILES(number)

(Where "number" is any number from 1 to 9)

MEU

Using the command CALL FILES(1) may release sufficient memory, otherwise the options available to you are DIV methods or utilities designed for the job. Let us start with the DIV option:

- 1. Disconnect the disk drive system by switching on your console without first powering up the expansion box. This rids your VDP RAM of that nasty, intrusive, nay downright parasitic, slimy little RAM-eating disk buffer.
- 2. Load your program from cassette in the usual way.
- 3. If there are lots of obviously unnecessary lines of code—I'm thinking REMark statements in particular—then remove them, save your program to cassette and then reload with the disk drive system powered up. Still not enough memory? Then take the following steps:
- 4. You will need to split the program into bits. So, load it from cassette again with the disk drive disconnected.
- 5. Start deleting lines from the beginning of the program and then save to tape A. Now reload the original unadulterated program and delete lines from the end. Then save to tape 8.
- 6. Now reconnect the disk system and load tape A; save to disk.
- 7. Load tape B and save to disk in NERGE format.
- 8. Load A from disk, then merge in B and you have a complete program which can be saved/loaded to/from disk.
- 9. If you are lucky enough to possess Triton's Super Extended BASIC Module, this process is a lot easier. You

Continued on Page 6

Continued from Page 5

simply block delete the first half of the program and save to disk, then block delete the second half of the program and save, then merge the two halves.

PHEU!!!

few measly quid, and send them to Stephen Shaw in exchange for some useful utilities.

Let us look at some of the utilities that I found particularly useful. First on the agenda is a program called DSKBUF. It works like this:

RUN "DSKxDSKBUF/EXB"

CALL LINK("SAVE") (this will save the disk buffer)

OLD CS1 (load the program now)

CALL LINK("LOAD") (this will restore the disk buffer)

SAVE DSKx.PROGRAM (insert the name of your program)

OK, so now that you have your program safely installed on disk, you may wish to convert your II BASIC program so that it runs in Extended BASIC-particularly useful if you want to autoload a menu so that a program can be selected by a simple key press (anyone with an expanded system will know that if II Extended BASIC is selected, it searches for a program named LOAD on the disk in Drive 1. If such a program exists, it is placed in memory and run; or perhaps you want to add extra code to the program and therefore need to take advantage of the extra memory available to II Extended BASIC programs (remember that II BASIC can only make use of the 16K VDP RAM in the II-99/4A console.)

This is where the utility VDPUTIL2/N comes in handy. A few straightforward steps and the job is done:

- 1. Load your II BASIC program.
- 2. Make sure there are no lines numbered 1 to 5 (RESequence if necessary).
- 3. Type NERGE DSKx. VDPUTIL2/N.
- 4. Wait for the drive to stop before removing disk as it is accessed several times!
- 5. Insert a new line at the beginning of the program with CALL VDPUTIL2.
- 6. Save new program to disk.

Aha, I hear you say, but what about all those Mini Memory

programs that I have on cassette? Again, the Disk Library has a utility to transfer them to disk, MM>DISK/OB. This utility requires that you have a Mini Memory Module, 321 RAM and a Disk system (this of course begs the question: If you don't have the aforementioned, why would you want to use this utility?!).

What this machine code program does is to place itself in the 32K RAM. It then saves the contents of the Nini Memory 4K RAM (whatever they are) to disk, in memory image format ("program"). The program can then be used to load the memory image disk file back into the Nini Memory (the Nini Memory may contain a basic program, machine code program, or data).

This is what you have to do:

- 1. Place the information to be saved to disk into the Mini Memory module.
- 2. In command mode type: CALL LOAD(28706,160,0,255,224)
- 3. In command mode type: CALL LOAD("DSK1.MM>DISK/OB")
- 4. Now save the contents to disk by typing: CALL LINK("S AVE", "DSK1.NYPROG") (Where MYPROG may be any suitable disk file name).
- 5. To recall from disk, in command mode type:

CALL INIT CALL LOAD("DSK1.MM>DISK/OB") CALL LINK("LOAD","DSK1.NYPROG")

...and the Mini Memory will contain the data/program previously saved!

So, in summary, the utilities I have discussed are as follows:

OSKBUF...for transferring TI BASIC/Extended BASIC programs from cassette to disk.

VDPUTIL/M...for converting II BASIC programs to II Extended BASIC.

MM>DISK/08...for transferring Mini Memory programs from cassette to disk.

I hope this is of interest to some of you-as already mentioned (no apologies for repeating myself), all of the above utilities can be obtained from Stephen Shaw.

(Anyone out there have his current address?)

ANNIUERSARY GREETINGS FROM A HARD WORKING TI

By **Vayne** Garrison

(MOC-RCC STL99ers)

Last year my lovely wife and I celebrated 10 years of marriage to each other. As in most marriages, we felt the need to celebrate this milestone in a very special way. I know of couples who let it all hang out and go somewhere exotic like Europe or perhaps the Bahamas. Well unfortunately, our work schedules would not permit us to venture that far from home and for the amount of time it would take to really enjoy the trip. We sat down one evening and went through a large packet of information we had received from the Chamber of Commerce. We looked through tons of brochures of all of the major resorts within 250 miles. My wife did all the calling and arrangement making. She got us a special anniversary package which included four days and three nights with all fine dining included at their own gournet restaurant, cruises on a boat on the lake. plus other various specialty activities.

After getting settled into our luxurious room, I decided to check out the TV set and the list of movies on cable which would be showing during our stay. While channel hopping, I came across a channel which was dedicated to information about the resort where we were staying and schedules of its' many activities, restaurant information, and everything else which pertained to this large resort. At first glance, I noticed a resemblance between the lettering on the TV screen and the lettering I am used to seeing on my II system back home. The same size and number of characters per line were the case in point. I didn't think too much about it until a few small bits of graphics were introduced on the screen. They greatly resembled the graphics which are attainable when programming in II BASIC.

I realize that there are several different types of computers which would produce lettering and graphics identical to what I was seeing, but I had a certain amount of curiosity and if nothing else, I had stumbled across another interesting use of a computer. I decided to inquire about the matter at the front desk as soon as I would have a little time when my wife absolutely did not need me by her side, such as while she was getting her hair done at the resorts' hair boutique. The guy at the desk didn't know anything about it, but he referred me to

another gentleman who said he would be able to help me After a brief wait, the other gentleman came to the des from a room in the back. I identified myself and with the he offered to share everything he knew about it with me He lead me to a room which had a lot of electronic equipment in racks, along with several IV monitors. As in turned out, all of the cable IV stuff went through this room and the billing for pay-per-view shows was handled here. As far as the information channel was concerned, the feed for the resort was coming from an endless loop wider cantridge and a special video player. The guy showed me the corner of the room where the video information is entered. Just as my hunch had told me, it was done on a 11-99/4A. The gentleman told me that the guy who made the entries and special changes to the information channe video wasn't in that day, but he also said that it has once been one of his responsibilities. He said that the video output from the computer was fed directly to the tape machine for recording. It wasn't everyday that changes had to be made to the video, but it was done for special events. He very politely told me he was not happy with the use of this computer for the task due to the fact the keyboard was a little aukward and there was the usual II limit to the number of characters per line. He said this II had been in service for quite a number of years and that a new system was slated for installation in the near future.

We talked for about an hour and I explained that my wife and I were there celebrating our wedding anniversary. I told him my friends back in St. Louis would be interested in how this II was being used. I thanked him for his time and he congratulated me on my anniversary. Not long after I returned to my room, we left for the dining room and had a wonderful dinner. Later that night, I thought I would check the information channel for activities, schedules, and times. As I was watching and waiting for the right nformation to come up, a full screen message came up. It was a special congratulations to my wife and I for our wedding anniversary.

Once again I had come across a II computer being used for an important job. The II-99/4R computer was one of the first economically priced machines which could be bought and used for many different things. When the resort management decided to implement it's information channel back then, the price of a desktop PC was quite a bit higher than a II home computer. I think it is a tribute to our favorite computer and the company which gave it life, that this little machine is being used everyday all over the country for many different tasks. Though it's technology is rather old by todays' standards and it's

Continued on Page 9

WEST PENN 89'ERS SCORES

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capabilities in some areas is considered, sort of ancient. I still feel proud to still own one and operate it.

By the way, our wedding anniversary turned out to be exceptionally nice.

Happy Computing!

Wayne Garrison

AN OPEN LETTER TO VAYNE GARRISON

Dear Wayne,

Our club, the West Pann 99'ers, greatly appreciated reading your anniversary story.

Any chance in telling us the "NAME" of this "RESORT", and is this "RESORT" a "CHAIN", whereas there may be a local "RESORT" using the II as well.

It sure would be interesting to find out about ANY establishment which uses the II in ANY capacity.

At any rate, I hope that you share this info with us.

(Maybe an address too, and we could send them a card, just stating how nice it was to find out that they were using a II-99/4A in their business).

Sincerely,

The West Penn 99'ers

P.S.

If anyone else knows of a business that uses the II-99/4A computer, please consider sharing this information with the rest of us in the II community.

A little bit of PRIDE, goes a long way in keeping our TI-99/4A computers alive!

DON'T FORGET... NOMINATIONS FOR CLUB OFFICERS WILL TAKE PLACE ON 10/17/1995

THE ORIGIN OF THE GENEUE COMPUTER'S NAME

By Charles Good Lima Users Group

The clamshell containing the Myarc's computer-on-a-cart says "Myarc 9640 Family Computer". The box calls it "Geneve". What is the origin of these names? No, it has nothing to do with any computer chip. There is no such thing as a 9640 chip. The answer is in an article by Dave Wakely published in the August 30 1986 issue of the Chicago Times, a newsletter of the Chicago Users Group. This is the first published account of anybody actually seeing a working Myarc computer. The report is from the June 1986 Chicago Consumer Electronics Show.

"(Myarc owner Lou) Phillips stated that Texas Instruments asked him not to use "9900" in the name, but he retained the "9" and added "640" because that is the amount of RAT which comes with the machine."

"With Phillips behind the table was Joyhn Keown, author of Module Emulator, who is now doing extensive work with Myarc.

I inquired about the origin of the name. Keown jumped in and stated that it was his idea.

It seems that a few days before the Consumer Electronics Show, while they were working together, Keown told Phillips that he felt there should be a name for the new machine instead of just a number, "the 9640".

As they were heading down the staircase from Phillips' office there was a framed print on the wall. The name at the bottom was "Geneve", and when Keown suggested this, Phillips agreed to it."

FOR SALE...

The West Penn 99'ers has many back issues of Micropendiums (in mint condition), at various prices, depending upon the date of the issue. If you are interested in purchasing any of these back issues, see Ed Mandich at our next West Penn 99'ers meeting on October 17th. Ed will be more than happy to sell you how ever many issues you would like!

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

NEXT

MEETING OCTOBER 171h

7:00 P.M

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





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