



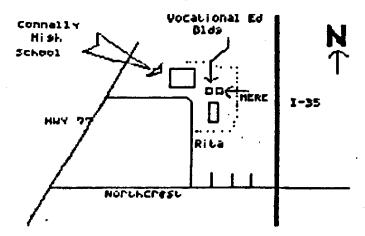
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NEXT MEETING

October 25, 1988 at Connally High School Vocational Education Department at 7:00 P.M. See map! The program will be given by John Creviston of the Dallas Users Group. He will be demonstrating a modification to the TI disk controller to allow the user to use four disk drives and a modification to the RS232 board which allows serial printers to use the command "SIO". The last item he will demonstrate is a grom board, if he can get a demo. Most of these were mentioned in the last Micropendium magazine. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



Postal flash: Frank bought a roll of stamps and discovered that the box rent is going up to \$28.00.

Tid-bits

Did you notice that there was no newsletter last month? Did we have the month of September this year? Oh, well. Let's go on with October.

We did have a coffee and a meeting in September. Because of the lack of a quorum, no business was conducted. However, we did a lot of visiting. Frank ran into some bad luck and missed the meeting and the October coffee. The librarians announced that the whole library has now been backed up. We wondered where Dave was hiding out; how Doc likes East Texas; why Amy has never learned to operate Acron 99; how much money Frank spent at 1st Saturday: and if Dave was using the synthesizer that he won at the last meeting. Nancy Fletcher was in attendence after a long absence. We adjourned and turned the program over to Gary. He was going to give a demonstration of his hard disk drive, but it wouldn't work. Now you out there in the reading audience know why we are forgetting the month of September.

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TI-Cares still cares. Frank got them to answer. If you don't believe it, just call 1-800-TI CARES. They don't answer all the time, but just keep trying. The lady on the phone said it would cost \$40.00 each to repair two CC 40's. When they arrived, the bill was \$71.00 each, but they were new.

# Installing A Hard Disk; A First Hand Account Gary Hux

When I first heard about the Myarc Hard/Floppy Disk Controller I knew a new world was about open up in fast file access for the 9640. To me it seemed to be the ultimate companion to the 9640, a device capable of fast disk to CPU information transfer, at a price rivalling a Ramdisk setup. I have not been disappointed, but I have been educated.

Before I ever recieved my controller card I purchased a 10Mb Rodime 352. This is a real nice 3.5", low power consumption, hard drive. The reason I chose this type of drive is that the TI PE box is tall enough to mount a 3.5" hard drive internally in the place of 2 cards. The idea was to keep 2 half height floppy drives but have the 10Mb mounted in the same case so that a seperate box would not be needed.

Using information obtained from an article in Micropendium, I modified my TI power supply to obtain the needed 1 amp 12 volt power source needed to run the hard disk motor at a steady speed. All this was accomplished with minimal difficulty at affordable cost. The power supply modifications cost about \$5 and the drive ran \$119.

Upon recieving the controller card the final part to the project was in hand, or so I thought. Several hours later after a lot of running around to various electronic stores puchasing ribbon cable and various connectors to make my hookup cables the system was finally complete. I tossed the shipping carton onto the floor and heard a strange noise for an empty carton to make. Closer examination showed the carton had hidden in one of its reinforcing shapes a very nice set of hookup cables! It sure would be nice if the manual or box stated this before I wasted \$12.

The next day using instructions from the manual, the drive was offically formatted. Several questions asked by the software (ver 1.15) were left to defaults due to opperator stupidity! Don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't know the answers, mistakes do cause problems. All of the questions asked by the software ARE important, and some are NOT covered in the manual.

I used WDS1 as the name for my drive since it is the #1 harddrive in the system. Head step time was left to the default after intering the correct number of heads and cylinders. I answered yes to the question concerning buffered step and proceded according to the manual. The drive came on and proceded to initialize the platters inside. It took approximately 25 minutes for the drive to complete this process but was worth the wait to see the status screen show a little over 38,000 error free sectors.

My harddrive crashed to total uselessness within the first hour of use! I was not happy....I was devistated. The drive was removed and checked out using a friends Big Blue machine, it was showing read error when access was attempted. A call to the selling vendor yeilded courtious warrantee approval and a repair authorization number. Off it went back to California and I'm setting around wondering what the @#%\* happened. I spent a good deal of money on all new equiptment and things aren't going as planned.

A couple of days later Jack Riley calls and asks for me to

return the controller card for updating of the eprom and to have some small mods done to the circuitry. To the best of my knowlege and his none of these should have caused me my problems. With Mr. Riley on the phone I am still to proud to ask the questions I had during the formatting!

Two weeks later I am moving out of town, the drive has been reinstalled along with the updated card. Time had not permitted the system to be reformatted or verified. It was several weeks before everything was set up again and could be used.

After reformatting the refurbished drive and checking it out it showed to have in excess of 500 bad sectors! Great care had been taken during the moving process to insure that the computer was treated better than most newborn babies. Programs where loaded into the drive and could be accessed very quickly but the system would not boot from the harddrive. Another call was made to the selling vendor and the same courtious responce was recieved, off to California again.

A new found friend lends me an older 5Mb Winchester to try but before formatting his drive I call Myarc customer service to get my questions answered about the formatting. It is a good testimonial to Rodime drives that it even worked at all considering what I learned from that call. Questions are worth asking, considering the results!

I had set the head step timing to 4, that would be a good speed if I was running a 10ms drive. A 65-85ms drive should be set some where in the neighborhood of of 20-28. The buffered head step is used in later type high speed drives, most of the older (over 1 year old) smaller size drives do not use buffered head step. The settings I had installed with the software were hurting my drive performance and possibly the drive itself. I was installing a Lambogini engine in a VW bug and expecting it to handle correctly.

After setting up the 5Mb on a piece of foam on top of the PE bow and stuffing some programs into it I finally was getting what I had wanted. The system booted from the harddrive and all my favorite programs were available at Ramdisk like speeds. Now I was happy. The retailer who was waranteeing my Rodime called later that week to tell me they were refunding my money due to the fact that they were unable to find the problem causing the drive failures. It was probably not the right thing to do, accepting the refund, but I guess I'll have to live with it. About 10 minutes after that phone call arrangements had already been made to purchase a refurbished 10Mb Seagate from another vendor. A new drive would be nice but economics just won't permit it and the Rodimes are no longer available at the earlier price.

After reciept of the Seagate another problem reared its ugly head, power supply failure. Even though the supplied current was sufficent to power the Winchester or the Rodime it was not enough current to let the Seagate achieve corrct running speed. The drive would power up, then slow down over and over again. This is a sign of not enough current, the drive tries to start but when it doesn't achieve opperating speed shuts itself off then tries again.

Take some advice from someone who has experienced these problems, listen to Myarc. They don't recommend putting the drives on the TI power supply and they do incourage owners to ask questions. Take advantage of this, if I would have I could have saved myself a whole bunch of grief! Even after doing absolutly

everything wrong I still managed to get the system functional, and it is deffinatly worth the effort.

By the way in case you are involved in a similar situation or would prefer to avoid this sort of thing;

Myarc Customer Service (205)854-5843

The October coffee was fun. We had some new faces and some old ones (not necessarily in age). Luther Barrick is back. Patrick Waldrep from Virginia brought his dad and learned to use his newly purchased TI. Frank was absent again. He had surgery on his wrist that day. We welcomed his call during the meeting, but we all wondered if he would remember what he said to us. He says he does remember the chocolate cake that Norman and Lelah delivered to his house the next day.

The mystery question is: "Where is Dave?" If you are out there somewhere, Dave, phone your computer home. If anyone out there has heard from him, or knows of his whereabouts, please let us know.

Frank down-loaded CF-Abbey adventure game off of Genie. Anybody interested?

He also has 4.21 Fun Web, Telco 2.21, and Arcive 3.2.

First Saturday flea market in Dallas is this next week-end. It is an exciting conglomerate of boothes and fun for any bargain hunters. lots of computer stuff!!

We are giving a door prize at the next meeting. It will be two game cartridges, "Cogo Bongo", and "demon attack". come and get your name in the hat!

Thank You for the great card(in living color) and concern about my minor operation. Norman & Lelah Beyer made two delicious chocolate cakes to aid me in my recovery! Thaks a bunch. They were great!

Some of you may want to know local access numbers of bulletin boards in Waco. Connection 80 is 754-1540.

## Local Access Numbers

The following BBS's and services are recommended by HQT MUG:

The Waco Connection The Twilight Zone		Atari 520 ST TRS-80 Model 4
Hello World BBS	840-2140	TRS-80 Model4
Herry's PBBS		TRS-B0 Model 4 Tandy 1000
Temporary Insanity BBS The Morgue		Commodore 64
Palindrome RES	776-7320	Tandy 1000 Sparrco PC Klone
Dead End BBS		Commodore 64
Omega BBS		Commodore 64 Subscription Requ
GEnie		Subscription Requ

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PAPER CATCHING BASKETS. NEW
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TABLE TOP PRINTER STANDS
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SEE FRANK CROSS OR CALL 848-4589