


CPUUG NEWSLETTER



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December, 1992

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MINUTES FOR MONTHLY MEETING:

NOVEMBER 2, 1992

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Tony. Previously, since 6pm, our systems were being set up and used. Also, a guest brought his used system to hook up, with hopes that someone could solve his problem with it.

Tony then introduced Jeff Wissler, and the 2 other guests from the York area User Group, John Galetta and John Woestman. Others from the group were expected to come and demo a new AMS memory card, but were unable to do so this month.

Motions were made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report and the secretary's report as shown in the newsletter.

Tony displayed a 5 page article by Chris Bobbit ("Future Developments for TI") that would be placed on the table for anyone to read after the meeting.

John Maul made mention of several new products: 1)the SCSI disk controller (runs about \$170); 2)a word processor with many new features, by Asgard at about \$40; 3)an updated version of Plus! by Jack Sughrue, about \$10 on an archived disk.

Eyewitness report of the 1992 Chicago TI International Faire.

By Dave Howell in consultation with Ross Caruana and Norb Sitter

(This is being written on the way home from the 1992 Chicago Faire-460 miles from Erie and went to press within hours upon arrival in Erie).

All those who attended the Faire left with no doubt in their minds that the TI community will see its 10th anniversary of independent existence at next year's Chicago Faire. The number of hardware and software vendors in proportion to the number of TI systems in use today is as great today as it was in the mid/1980s. This was very apparent at the Faire. There were 23 booths listed in the Program Guide. We understand 2 more booths were added since the Guide was printed. Space does not permit listing all of them but some of the notable vendors often mentioned in TI literature include: Asgard Software(Rockville MD), Bud Mills Services-Western Horizon(Toledo OH), C.a.D.D. Electronics(Raymond NH), Genial Computerware(Phila.PA), Harrison Software(Hyattsville MD), L.L.Conner (Lafayette TN), MICROpendium Magazine(Round Rock TX), 9640 News(Memphis TN), Notung Software(Tujunga CA), Oasis Pensive Abacutors(Toronto Canada) and Ramcharged Computers (Brookpark OH).

There were also booths maintained by TI User Groups from as far away as Amsterdam, The Netherlands. They call themselves VERENIGING TI-GEBRUIKERSGROEP (Dutch TI Users Group).

In attending Faires like this, it never ceases to amaze us how many new ways to use the orphaned TI show up each year. As Norb commented after the Faire, "walking into the Chicago Faire was like walking into Disneyland for a TI'er. If there's something new to be seen, its probably there."

Ross said that "the most impressive sight at the Faire was the TI Logo emulated on a "386" PC screen!

A series of 13 seminars covering a variety of topics zeroed in on a number of new developments. Among them are:

1. Creating a TI-emulator on an IBM-PC. Programs are available permitting the transfer of files from PC to TI and vice-versa.
2. Asgard introduced a new P-box card, similar to the MEMEX card, that expands the RAM operating memory up to 128K and replaces the 32K card. But unlike the MEMEX unit, the memory in the Asgard card is "transparent" to the 99 and needs no software to access it.
3. Western Horizon introduced a redesigned RAM card with sockets to accept enough chips to suit your needs. The demonstration card contained 16 megabytes of memory for data and programs. Up to 4 of these cards can be installed in the P-box. Together with the 4A MEMEX card, huge programs for DIGI-port and graphics can be instantly accessed and played.

Western Horizon also introduced its Digi-port - a unique combination of hardware and software to allow the TI-99/4A or 9640 to play sounds from a MAC, Amiga, PC or any other digitized sound through its PIO port. It sells for \$40. Horizon also announced that the ACCELERATOR is dead!

5. Western Horizon is working on a Small Computer Standard Interface (SCSI) card. This card will allow easy access to up to seven SCSI hard and floppy drives (both 3.5 and 5.25 with capacities up to 4 megabytes) and even Winchester drives up to 1.6 gigabytes of hard disk storage. It will read in all current formats including PC compatible data. (The PC TRANSFER is built-in without having to convert.) Cost is expected to be about \$170.

6. New software releases from Asgard includes First Draft, a word processor with a built-in spell checker and pull down menus. The software will accept TI-Writer files and Page Pro graphics.

7. It seems the recent news of the M-DOS buyout spells the liberation of the Geneve 9640. Upon completion of the M-DOS configuration software, it appears the 9640 will finally have a stable environment within which its owners can realize their fondest but heretofore frustrated desires.

At the banquet following the Faire, it was announced that a chain of 50 hotels in southwest United States is using the TI-99/4A system for its operations. And you thought the TI is a "home computer." It seems its "user friendliness" with its immediate access to data counts for something after all.

The banquet was also the scene of the 2nd annual John Birdwell award for excellence throughout the TI community. The recipients of this year's coveted award are John Kohoen and Laura Burns, Publisher and Editor respectively, of MICROpendium. The award is given in honor of the deceased John Birdwell, a long time supporter of the TI and the author of the versatile "Disk Utilities."

In conclusion, it was never so obvious than at this Faire that the TI legend has no equal anywhere today or at anytime in the history of computing. Watching hundreds of people converging from afar at selected sites throughout the year, speaking the same language and striving to achieve new wonders and heights never dreamed possible by the TI-99/4A's original designers, is an amazing phenomenon for a machine orphaned for almost a decade!

Reprinted from the Nov.92 issue of the Eris 99'er User Group newsletter.

A SYSTEM SEARCH PROGRAM (XB)

by Ed Hall

From the MANNERS club

What was the name of that program? Seems like it had SEARCH in the name, but that wasn't the whole name. Well, let's see... FIND would work if I knew the whole name, and which hard drive or floppy I wanted to search. Maybe if I had that SYStem SEARCH program I wrote... THAT'S IT!

And here it is so others can use it too. This program is for those who have multiple subdirectories and drives. It is set up to search for partial names so you can find all occurrences of substrings within filenames.

In order to "customize" it for your system, set up the first data line so it contains the basic drives of your system. In the listing I show floppies 1 through 4 and RAMDISK 5 as well as hard drives 1 and 2. If one of these drives is empty, the error routine will skip it, however this will be slow. Alternately, a disk can be placed in the drive. Once running all subdirectories are picked up and placed in the array so that each will be checked. The subdirectories are checked by level. This may seem strange at first since the first level of each drive is checked before the second level is started, which causes the program to skip back and forth between the hard drives.

When the program is run it prompts for a search string. All filenames available to the system are searched for an occurrence of the search string within them. If a match is found, the path and filename information is displayed on the screen.

PROGRAM LISTING:

```

100 DIM DEVICES$(200):: A,B=0
110 INPUT "SEARCH STRING? ":SR$
120 A=A+1 :: READ DEVICES$(A) :: IF DEVICES$(A)<>"END" THEN 120
130 ON ERROR 130
140 B=B+1 :: IF DEVICES$(B)="END" THEN 230
150 OPEN #1:DEVICES$(B),INTERNAL,INPUT, FIXED
160 INPUT #1:B$,D,E,F
170 INPUT #1:B$,D,E,F
180 IF B$="" THEN 220
190 IF ABS(D)=6 THEN GOSUB 260
200 IF POS(B$,SR$,1)>0 THEN PRINT DEVICES$(B),B$;:: IF ABS(D)=6
    THEN PRINT TAB(25);"<D>" ELSE PRINT " "
210 GOTO 170
220 CLOSE #1 :: GOTO 130
230 END
240 DATA DSK1.,DSK2.,DSK3.,DSK4.,DSK5.,WDS1.,WDS2.
250 DATA END
260 DEVICES$(A+1)=DEVICES$(A)
270 DEVICES$(A)=DEVICES$(B)&B$&". "
280 A=A+1
290 RETURN

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From FRONT RANGER newsletter of October 1991

WE WILL LOOK FOR
YOU
 AT THESE MEETINGS

Circle your calendar with these meeting dates for 1993:

JANUARY	4,1993	JULY	5
FEBRUARY	1	AUGUST	2
MARCH	1	SEPTEMBER	11 SATURDAY
APRIL	5	OCTOBER	4
MAY	3	NOVEMBER	1
JUNE	7	DECEMBER	6 *-CHRISTMAS -*

All meetings begin at 7pm except Saturdays 12 noon at the CAMP HILL SHOPPING MALL COMMUNITY ROOM. The Group equipment will be UP and READY for use at approximately 1hr prior to meeting time.

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NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 4th,1993 at 7pm *-MONDAY-*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US AT CPUG