NITTANY USERS OF TEXAS INSTRUMENTS *



ARTICLES BEING FEATURED THIS ISSUE:

TIPS FROM THE TIGERCUB No. 61...J. PETERSON's poster program in XB. NEW-AGE/99 No. 13.. SUGHRUE: recording tutor als & faires on video. NJ FAIRE, FAMILY COMPUTER EXPO (formerly TICOFF) scheduled Mar. 9.

NEW MEETING DATE, LOCATION REPEATED Meetings are regularly scheduled for third Saturdays at 1:30 PM at the PSU Campus in Rm. 104, Earth & Mineral Sciences Museum (Steidle Bldg). NEXT MEETINGS: No March meeting (MIEC 15-16th); April meeting on 20th.

1991 MIEC & COMPUTER FAIR: As was discussed at our Group meeting on Feb. 16th, NUTI is to participate in the Tenth Annual Microcomputer Information Exchange Conference and Computer Fair at the Penn State's Conference Center on Friday afternoon, March 15th, and on Saturday morning until noon or mid-afternoon, March 16th, 1991. David Snell and Maurice Villano plan to be there and will set up a 4/A and a Geneve and associated software and gear. They will need support at the tables passing out literature, and in putting on demonstrations of your favorite TI programs. NUTI software !ibrary will be available to copy disks and tapes. Give David & Maurice a call if you can help.

TI CONFERENCE VIDEO TAPES AVAILABLE Reference the Sughrua article, we have the three VCR tapes of the Fair at Lima, OH on May 26, 1990. If interested, attend the April meeting. TIPS FROM THE TIGERCUB

No. 51

Tigercub Software 156 Collinwood Ave. Columbus, OH 43213

1 Aug. 1990

My stock of Tigercub Software catalogs is depleted and it would not pay me to reprint it. Therefore I have #1 :: STOP released all copyrighted 150 SUB HEX_BIN(H\$,B\$):: HX\$ the Nuts & Rolts Disks. for that no price or copying fee 011XL100X1101XL110X1111" cub programs have been added 1 :: X\$=SEG\$(H\$,J,1) to my TI-PD library and are 170 (*POS(HX\$, (\$,1)-1 :: T\$= Supplement #8.

My three Wuts & Bolts ND disks, each containing 100 on disk.

full as possible, provided spaces high. with loaders by full program which is deductible from the in ASCII 224 - 255. first purchase.

First key in this fontmaker. Screen Fonts disk.

: "Filename? DSK" :: ACCEPT A poster maker program. T(3,14)BEEP:F\$ 110 OPEN #1: "DGK"&F\$.OUTPUT

120 FOR J=32 TO 126 :: CALL CHARPAT (J, C\$) :: CALL HEX BIN (C\$.3\$):: FOR <=1 TO 64 130 [F SEG\$(B\$,K,1)="0" THEN

\$&CHR\$ (42) 140 NEXT K :: PRINT #1:CH\$:

: CH6="" :: NEXT J :: CLOSE

Tigercub programs, except *"0123456789ABCDEF" :: BN\$=" 000000001X601000011X01000010 free distribution providing 1X0110X0111X1000X1001X1010X1

is charged. All of my Tiger- 160 FOR J=LEN(H\$)TO 1 STEP -

cataloged, by category, in SEG\$(EN\$, X*5+1,4)&T\$:: NEXT J :: B\$=T\$:: T\$="" :: SUBE

This program reads the or noise subprograms, have hex code of each character been reduced to \$5.00. If I from ASCII 32 to 126, conrun out of printed documen- verts it to a 54-byte binary tatiion, it will be supplied string of 0's and 1's. then My TI-PD library now ton- ASCII 32 and each 1 to a sists of 419 disks of fair- primable character, and only) and public domain, all of patterns to print characarranged by category and as ters 8 spaces wide by 8

The 42 in line 130 creates name rather than filename, characters composed of ast-Basic programs converted to erisks. Change it to J and XBasic. etc. The price is the characters will be comjust \$1.50 per disk(!), post posed of themselves - the A paid if at least eight are will be made up of A's, etc. ordered. TI-PD catalog #3 Or, check your printer manlisting all titles and auth- ual and substitute one of AT(3,1)ERASE ALL: "Output fil ors, is available for \$1 the special graphic symbols e? DSK" :: ACCEPT AT(3,1?):0

The character patterns are designed from the hex codes This little program won't in memory, so you can first do any of the fancy things merge in a reidentified char that the sophisticated pos- set such as a CHARA1 file or ter programs do, but it may one of the fonts in my Muts do a few things they don't. & Bo.ts disks or in my 127

Create as many fonts as 100 DISPLAY AT(3,1) ERASE ALL you want, then key in this

100 OPEN #1: "PIO", VARIABLE 1 36 :: PRINT #1:CHR\$(27)&'0": 110 DIM CH\$(94):: Q.H=1 :: W ,SP=8 :: DB\$,SU\$="N" :: D\$,E \$="Y" :: GOTO 150 CH\$=CH\$&CHR\$(32)ELSE CH\$=CH 120 ?\$,CH\$(),J.Q\$,M\$,FLAG,OU T\$, A\$, S, SS, PC\$, H, T\$, L, A, K, K, T, X\$(), SK, ST.DD

130 CALL KEY :: CALL SOUND 140 !@P-

150 DISPLAY AT(3,4) ERASE ALL :"QUICK & DIRTY POSTERS" :: DISPLAY AT(5,7: "by Jim Pete rson'

160 DISPLAY AT 12.1): "Font f ile? DSK" :: ACCEPT AT(12,15) BEEP: F\$:: ON ERROR 170 :: GOTO 180

170 905UB 680 :: RETURN 160 180 OPEN #2: "DSK"&F\$.INPUT : : FOR J=1 TO 94 :: LINPUT #2 :CH\$(J):: NEXT J :: CLOSE #2 :: 60TO 190

190 DISPLAY AT(3.1) ERASE ALL : "Load download font? Y/N N" :: \CCEPT AT(3,25)SIZE(-1)V changes each 0 to the blank ALIDATE("YN") BEEP: Qs :: IF Q \$="N" THEN 230

200 ON ERROR 210 :: DISPUAY ware (by author's permission saves the result to a file AT(3.1) ERASE ALL: "Filename? DSK" :: ACCEPT AT(3,14):F\$: : OPEN #2: "DSK"&F\$.INPUT :: GOTO 220

210 COSUB 680 : RETURN .90 220 LINPUT #2:M\$:: PRINT #1 .Ms : IF EOF(2) < 1 THEN 220 ELSE CLOSE #2

230 IF FLAG-1 THEN 260 : FL AG=1

240 ON ERROR 250 :: DISPLAY UTS : GOSUB 670 :: GOTO 260 250 60SUB 680 : RETURN 240 260 DISPLAY AT 3.1) ERASE ALL :"(1 PICA":"(2) ELITE": (3) CONDENSED": STR\$ (Q):: ACCEPT AT(6,1)SIZE(-.)VALIDATE "12

270 IF Q=1 THEN S=80 :: A\$=C

HR\$(.8):: GOSUB 640 :: GOTO

HR\$(27)&"B"&CHR\$(2):: GOSUB640 :: COTO 300 290 S=136 :: A\$=CHR\$(15):: G OSUB 640 300 DISPLAY AT(3.1): "Char width 1, 6, 7 or 8? "&STR\$(W): : ACCEPT AT(3,26)SIZE(-1)VAL IDATE("1678") BEEP:W :: SS-IN T(S/W) 310 DISPLAY AT(3,1) ERASE ALL : double width? "ADB\$ 320 ACCEPT AT(3.15)SIZE(-1)V ALIDATE ("YN") BEEP: DB\$ 330 IF DB\$="Y" THEN SS=INT(S S/2):: S-S/2 :: A\$=CHR\$(27)& "W"&CHR\$(1):: 905UB 640 ELSE A\$=CHR\$(27)&"W"&CHR\$(0):: G OSUB €40 340 DISPLAY AT(3.1) ERASE ALL "Double-strike? "&D\$:: ACC EPT AT(3,16)SIZE(-1)VALIDATE "YN" BEEP: D\$ 350 IF Ds="Y" THEN As=CHRs(2 7)&"3" :: 905UB 640 ELSE AS= CHR\$ (27) & "H" :: GOSUB 640 360 IF Q< >1 THEN E\$="N" :: G OTO 380 FLSE DISPLAY AT(3,1) ERASE ALL: "Emphasize? "&Est: T K :: X\$(J)="" :: NEXT J :: : ACCEPT AT (9.12) SIZE (-1) VAL GOTO 600 IDATE ("YN") BEEP :ES 370 IF Es="Y" THEN As=CHRs(2 7)&"E" :: GOSUB 640 ELSE AS= CHR\$(27)&"F" :: 309UB 640 380 IF DB\$="Y" OR E\$="Y" THE N 410 390 DISPLAY AT(3.1) ERASE ALL :"Superscript? "%SU\$:: ACCE PT AT(3,14)SIZE(-1)VALIDATE("YN") EEEP: SUS 400 IF SUS="Y" THEN AS=CHRS(27)&"S"&CHR\$(0):: GOSUB 640 ELSE AS=CHR\$(27)&"T" :: GOSU B 640 410 IF W=1 THEN 430 :: DISPL AY AT(3,1) ERASE ALL: "Spacing ? "&STR\$(SP)&" /72" 420 ACCEPT AT(3,10)SIZE(-3)V ALIDATE(DIGIT):SP :: IF SP>1 27 THEN 420 ELSE AS=CHR\$(27) &"A"&OHR\$ (SP):: 30SUB 640 430 PRINT #3:PC\$;:: PC\$="" : IF W-1 THEN 450 440 DISPLAY AT(3,1) ERASE ALL 610 DISPLAY AT(3,1) ERASE ALL

280 IF 0=2 THEN S=96 :: AS=C

300

:"Multiplied height? "&STR\$(H):: ACCEPT AT(3,20)SIZE(-1) VALIDATE (DIGIT) :H 450 DISPLAY AT(12.1) ERASE AL. RS" :: LINPUT T\$:: L=LEN(T\$):: IF LXSS THEN 450 460 IF W>1 THEN 470 :: T\$=RP T\$(" ", (SS-L)/2)&T\$:: PRINT #1:T\$:: GOTO 510 470 FCR J=1 TO LEN(Ts):: A=A SC(SEG\$(T\$,J,1))-31 :: FOR K =1 TO 57 STEP 8 :: X=X+1 :: X\$(X)=X\$(X)&SEG\$(CH\$(A),K,W):: NEXT K :: X=0 :: NEXT J 480 T=(S-L*W)/2 490 FCR J=1 TO 8 :: X\$(J)=RP T\$(" ".T)&X\$(J):: NEXT J 500 FCR J=1 TO 8 :: FOR K=1 TO H :: PRINT #1:X\$(J):: NEX TK::NEXTJ 516 DISPLAY AT(3,1) ERASE ALL : "OK? Y/N Y" :: ACCEPT AT(3. 9)SIZE(-1)VALIDATE("YN")BESP :0\$:: IF O&="N" THEN 540 520 IF W=1 THEN PRINT #3:Tb :: SP=8 :: GOTO 500 530 FOR J=1 TO 8 :: FOR K=1 TO H :: PRINT #3:X\$(J):: NEX 540 FOR J=1 TO 8 :: X\$(J)=''':: NEXT J 550 DISPLAY AT(3.1) ERASE ALL :"(R)edo last line?";"(S)tar t over?": "Choice? R/S R" :: ACCEPT AT(5,13)SIZE(-1)VALID ATE("RS") BEEP: OS 560 IF Q\$="S" THEN 590 :: 60 SUB 650 570 CLOSE #3 :: OPPEN #3: "DSK "&OUT\$, INPUT 580 LIMPUT #3:M\$:: PRINT #1 :Ms :: IF EOF(3)(>1 THEN 580 ELSE CLOSE #3 :: GOSUB 670 :: GOTO 620 590 CLOSE #3:DELETE :: GOSUB 670 :: GOTO 620 600 DISPLAY AT (3.1) ERASE ALL : "Skip how many lines? " :: ACCEPT AT (3, 22) VALIDATE (DIG IT)BEEP:SK :: FOR J=1 TO SK* 8/SP :: PRINT #1 :: PRINT #3 :" " :: NEXT J

: "More? Y" :: ACCEPT AT(3,7) SIZE(-1) VALIDATE("YN") BEFP: 0 \$:: IF Q\$="N" THEN CLOSE #3 :: **S**TOP L: "MAXIMUM LENGTH": SS: "LETTE 620 DISPLAY AT (3.1) ERASE ALL : "Load new font? N" :: ACCEP T AT(3.16)SIZE(-1)VALIDATE(" YN") BEEFP: Q\$:: IF Q\$="Y" THE N PRINT #1:CHR\$(27)&"@" :: G OTO 150 630 DISPLAY AT (3,1) ERASE ALL :"Change codes? N" :: ACCEPT AT(3.15)SIZE(-1)VALIDATE("Y N")BEEP:Qs :: IF Qs="N" THEN 450 ESE 260 640 PRINT #1:A\$::: PC\$=PC\$&A \$:: RETURN 650 DISPLAY AT(3.1) ERASE ALL BEEP: "Set printer to top of page": "and press Enter" 660 CALL KEY(0,K,ST):: IF ST =0 THEN 660 ELSE RETURN 670 OPEN #3: "DSK"&OUT\$. VARIA BLE 135.APPEND :: RETURN 680 CALL SOUND(1)00.110.0.-4 .0):: DISPLAY AT(23.1): "CANN OT OPEN THAT FILE!" :: FOR D D=1 TO 100 :: NEXT DD :: RET LIDN

> This program asks you for one of your font files. Next it allows you the option of downloading special characters to your printer, if you have such a file on disk Then you are asked for an output filename: this is necessary because the program rapidly uses up avai .able string storage memory.

Then you are taken through the various printer options. You also have a character width choice of 1, 6, 7, 8, The normal screen font uses only 5 of the 8 pixels of width, so you can select a width of 6 or 7 to get more letters on a line. If your font file used a wider char set, be sure to allow for spacing. If you select ., you will print a line in the normal printer font.

You are also asked for the 130 DISPLAY AT(12.1) ERASE AL line spacing, in 1/72" in- L: "Filename? D5K" :: ACCEPT crements. Characters are AT(12,14) BEEP:F\$:: OPEN #3: normally 8 lines high, but you have the option to print 140 LINPUT #3:45 :: PRINT #1 each line multiple times for :M\$:: IF EOF(3)<>1 THEN 140 tall characters or, with closer line spacing, for 150 DISPLAY AT(12,1) ERASE AL superscript multiplied by PT AT(12.18)VALIDATE(DIGIT): 3. or 5/72" with a solid N :: FOR J=1 TO N block graphic character with 160 DISPLAY AT(12.1) ERASE AL trible printing.

Finally, you are shown the s Enter" maximum number of characters 170 CALL KEY(0.K.S):: IF S-0 according to your options. from 5 double-width 8-vide to 22 compressed 6-wide; you input a line and see it printed. It will be automatically centered.

If you are satisfied with it, the line is saved to the options (including a new font) for the next line. The can skip through quickly.

If the line is not satisfactory, you have the option 260 DISPLAY AT 3.1) ERASE ALL of advancing the paper to the next page and reprinting the poster up to that point continuing.

Now, here's the neat part. When you have finished your HR\$(18):: GOSUB 640 :: GOTO poster, you can print as 300 many copies as you want. Just key in this program -

36 : PRINT #1 CHR\$ (27) & "@" 110 DISPLAY AT 12,1) ERASE AL L: "F:lename? DSK" :: ACCEPT AT(12,14) BEEP: Ps :: OPEN #2: "DSK'&F\$, INPUT 120 DISPLAY AT 12,1) ERASE AL L: "Load a download font? Y/N N" : ACCEPT LT(12,27)SIZE(-1) VALIDATE("YN"):Qs :: IF Q \$="N" THEN 150

"DSK"&F\$.INPUT ELSE CLOSE #3

L BEEP: "position paper, pres

THEN 170 ELSE CALL CLEAR 180 LINPUT #2:Ms :: PRINT #1 :M\$:: IF EOF(2)<>1 THEN 180

You'll have to reposition the paper after each one.

The poster maker program disk, you specify the number was written for my Gemini of lines (8/72" spacing to 10X and I have not tried to skip, and you are taken thru offer options for other is turned on if it is selecprinters, since I don't have ted, turned off if it is them available for testing, not. previous selections become However. I think that these the default options, so you are the essential changes for the Epson standard.

:"(1 PICA":"(2) ELITE":"(3) COMPRESSED PICA": "(4) COMPR ESSED ELITE":STR\$(Q):: ACCEP from the disk file and then T AT(7,1)SIZE(-1)VALIDATE("1 234" :Q 270 IF Q=1 THEN S=80 :: AS=C

> 280 IF Q=2 THEN S=96 :: AS=C HR\$ (27) &CHR\$ (77) :: GOSUB 640 :: 00TO 300

100 OPEN #1:"PIO", VARIABLE 1 290 IF Q-3 THEN S-132 :: As= * Until, indeed if at all. * CHR\$ 15):: GOSUB 640 ELSE S= * more "TIPS" are provided * 160 :: A\$=CHR\$(15):: GOSUB 6 * us, we'll publish some 40

> 670 OPEN #3: "DSK"&OUT\$, VARIA * which did not originally * BLE 160, APPEND :: RETURN

> And these changes should able on the Gemini SG10 in Star mode.

260 DISPLAY AT(3,1) ERASE ALL :"(1) PICA":"(2) ELITE": '(3) COMPRESSED PICA": "(4) COMPR ESSED ELITE":STR\$(Q):: ACCEP T AT(7,1)SIZE(-1)VALIDATE("1 234"1:0 270 IF Q=1 THEN S=80 :: λ\$=C densar print. Try 3/72" with L: "How many copies?" :: ACCE HR\$(18):: GOSUB 640 :: GOTO 280 IF Q=2 THEN S=96 :: λ\$=C HR\$(27)&"B"&CHR\$(2):: GOSUB 640 :: GOTO 300 290 IF Q=3 THEN S=136 :: A\$= CHR\$ 15): GOSUB 640 ELSE S= 160 :: A\$=CHR\$ 27)&"B"&CHR\$ (4):: GOSUB 640 670 OPEN #3: "DSK "&OUTS, VARIA BLE 160, APPEND :: RETURN

> Other modifications should be fairly easy. The variable S contains the maximum number of characters per line. In lines 310-400, the option

> > Almost out of memory.

Jim Peterson

Editor's Note

* TIPS FROM TICERCUB#61 is * * the last numbered column * * from Jim Peterson that's * available to us.

* of Jim's older columns, * *appear in NATINEWS in * some future issues.

W-AGE/99 * NEW-AGE/ 99 * <u>NEW-AGE/99</u> * N EW-AGE/99 * NEW-AGE /99 * **NEW-AGE/99** *

* by JACK SWCHRUE, Box 459, East Douglas, MA 01516 * #1-1-3

THE VCR CONNECTION

I think one of the most exciting things to happen in our 90 world is the advent of tutorial and conference videos.

Almost everyone has a VCR, the ownership of which can now open new wor ds to 99 and Geneve users. Now that VCEs are coming down in price, more and more groups and individuals are using this tool to enhance their computer activities and share their computer knowledge.

The unquestioned master of this new genre is Dr. Charles Good of the Lima. Ohio, group. Videos have been around for some time and made their first TI existence about five or six years ago at the Chicago Fair. Some of the big-wiggies were interviewed and some screens were shown of different pieces of software. This amateur tape circulated for a year or so around lots of user groups. We (then still in the millions, it seemed) watched transfixed as new and exciting things were explained and shown to us.

Then drought.

Well. even though there were some other videos around here and there, the drought really enced when Charlie took up the cause with a vengeance. Not only does the Lima group make a monthly tage of the demos of their meetings, but they have amassed a vast TI tage library. I have on my desk (all from Lima) the following: NEVER RELEASED OFFICIAL TI NODULES, TI MULTI-USER GROUP CONFERENCE 1988. CONFERENCE 1989 (2 tages), CONFERENCE 1980 (3 tages), MBX REQUIRED GAMES, FUNNELMED V4.2 DEMO. and DON ALEXANDER'S GENEVE SOFTWARE LEMO. These 10 tages run about 50 hours! They are filled with all sorts of people demonstrating (or discussing or teaching) all sorts of TI things. I'll list a few.

Karl Romstect - friendly general loader and label printing software in XB with assembly routines; Harold Hoyt - useful applications of Steve Karesek's SUPER BASIC; Irwin Hott - using ALSAVE to imbed assembly code with an XB program; Bill Hudson - an assembly language prescan for XB; Multiplan Tutorial - presented by Great Lakes Computer Group: PLUS! demonstrated by Jack Sughrue; Geneve - demonstrated by Edu Comp; Horizon Ramcisk - discussed by Eucl Mills; Home Control 99 - demonstrated by Paul Wheeler; The Future of User Groups - discussion led by Charles Good and Dave Szippl of the Lima Group; A Blind Person Using the TI demonstrated by Irwin Hott; NUTS & BOLTS - demonstrated by Jim Paterson; GENE III - demonstrated by Dick Berry; Output to a VCR - shown by John Perkins: 1000 WORDS - author Norman Rokke demonstrates this Artist/text conversion file; Barry Traver - contents of Senial Traveler and linking XB to assembly via CALL LINK; Chris Bobbitt - recent and future releases from Asgard; Andy Frueh - music programming on the 4a; Ron Markus - the DIJIT AVPC 80-column card; Jim Horn - services on COMPUSERVE; Martin Smoley - TI BASE tutorial; Paul Scheidemantle - converting from one Artist format to another and tips and tricks: Steve Karasek - SUPERBASIC 2.0; Karl Romstedt - Parorama, a new artist program; Milo Tsukroff -MX-DS v3.0 an icon/joystick based program loader with disk management features; Beery Miller - future software for the Geneve: Jim Peterson using Don Shorock's Kana Filer that speaks and writes (with TEII)

Japanese and drills vocabulary; Bruce Harrison — secrets of assembly language programming to make TI music; Gary Bowser — Rambo review module library box; Gary Taylor — demonstration of TI's Compact Computer 40. TI's Hex Dux peripherals, and Mechatronics Hex Bus Drive; and lots more.

This should give you a good idea of the kinds of things available each May just from the annual Lima Fair (called "T.I. Multi user Group Conference," for some inknown reason). Each of these six-hour tapes use cameras on the tutor while cutting into the screen electronically when something is being shown. These tapes get better and better each year, and the editing techniques are superb. Although I haven't been able to attend the last two years. I felt I got a big part of the fair sent to me. I know a lot of other homebound TI acquaintances feel the same. It's no real substitute for being at the fair, of course, but it's a great second best. The TI experts are at your beck and call in your home any time you want them.

In addition to all these fair tapes, there are numerous "single theme" jobs also available. Don Alexanler of Macon, Georgia, for example, does a fine job with the Geneve. I think this one is better for someone who has used the Geneve for awhile, though. I hope someone eventually does a bruly step-by-step basic tutorial of the Geneve, maybe even a full six hours. It is sorely needed.

Charlie has also done theme tapes, such as MEX (where he steps through all the MEX modules) and UNRELEASED (where he plays and discusses all the delightful unreleased TI modules). I found both these tapes fascinating, particularly the UNRELEASED, as I could load them onto my SUPERCART or my GENEVE. Charlie's FUNNELWEB 4.2 DEMO is a classic. The viewer is taken through every step of the TWB configuration process that (for some strange reason) frightened so many people. Though the tape is similar to Charlie's tutorials in the BITS, BYTES & PIXELS newsletter he edits for Lina, it is far more extensive and much clearer, as you can see and hear everything being done live. I can't imagine anyone not being able to perform TWB magic after viewing this tape.

To get more information about these tapes (and/or join the Lima Group by mail which I would HIGHLY recommend), contact Charles Good, PO Box 647, Venedocia, OH 45894.

ANOTHER GOLDEN GOODIE

There is another great video now available to TI owners: the full-length LOGO video done by Eunice Spooner (RTD 1, Box 3720, Webb Road, Waterville, ME 04901). It is wonderful! It also comes with a disk full of lots of the items she demos and a hardcopy listing of the items and footage for easy tape locations.

Dunice is a certified elementary teacher and it is obvious on this tape. She's teriffic: kind, patient, step-by-step logical, no panic; and she makes everything seem easy and fun. Which it is, if you do the things she suggests.

l always liked LOGO. Then I put it away for a long time. After viewing this tape and trying her programs, I discovered I * LOGO.

If you own LOSO. get this package instantly. At \$10 it is a total steal. And it is used as a fundraiser to support the only ALL KIDS TI USER GROUP IN THE WORLD! If you don't own LOSO, buy it instantly. (It's on sale everywhere CHEAP! I paid \$119 for my first and recently bought an unboxed one for \$15.) But, new or used, pick one up for this video/disk set alone. You'll rediscover the joys of computing and the real fun (and learning, which is why it is fun) of your remarkable 4a. Don't delay.

East Coast Computer Show - 6th Year

FAMILY COMP EXPO & HAM RADIO FEST Roselle Park H.S. Exit No 132 NJ Barden State Parkway Saturday Mar. 9th

9 AM TO 4 PM

Proceeds go to Student Scholarships Admission to Expo/Ham Fest: FREE SOFTWARE WITH COPY OF CoSponsored by Students at RPHS and The Old Bridge Ham Radio Club Huge Indoor Vendor Area/Flea Market Workshops Seminars Hardware -Peripherals -Door Prizes- Great Deals TI-99/4A - MS/DOS Compatibles N.J.A.S.C. Top Ten Projects Winner Info:908-241-4550 BBS:908-241-8902

SPECIAL NOTE

A: a key item, we will
have a Packet Radio Setup
tirough the Armed Service
Radio Net so that messages
can be sent to servicemen
involved in Project Desert
Slorm in Saudi Arabia.
This is free of charme!

-30-THE PENNSYLVANIA APPLES

Microcomputer Users' Group

President Jeff Young 238-6507 Vice-President Herb McKinstry 237-4341 Secretary Peter Gold 238-7492 LPG@PSUVM Treasurer Mary Deutsch 237-4275 Newsletter Editor Peter Gold Bulletin Board Adrian Sullivan, SYSOP 863-7245

Meetings: Second Tuesday of each month

Meeting Location: Apple MUG meetings are held at 7:30 P.M. on the second Tuescay of each month in Room 189 of the Materials Research Lab on the Penn State campus. Executive committee meetings (to which all members are welcome) are held at the same time and place on the fourth Tuesday of each month. We do not expect the location to change in the foresceable future so please ignore any different location listing in the meeting information table elsewhere in this newsletter.

February Meeting: About 25 people attended the February meeting. Susan Shields of the Penn State Microcomputer and Personal Workstation Group presented an excellent talk on networking small groups of Macs. Networking capabilities, in the form of AppleTalk, are built into all current Macs. A group of Macs may be networked for the purpose of sharing hardware resources, such as a printer, plotter, or modem, and to share files. Macs may be networked in a daisy chain or star configuration. In the former, each computer is part of a loop with cables going to each of the two adjacent computers in the loop. This is convenient and cheap for a few machines but becomes unwieldy for a larger group of machines, particularly if they are widely dispersed. In a star configuration a single wire goes from each computer to a central star controller. This is simpler to wire and expand but the controller is not cheap.

The necessary hardware for a daisy chain network to interconnect AppleTalk devices consists of a box for each device and the wires to go between them. The official Apple LocalTalk box is under \$60; it will support up to 1500 feet of wire between boxes. Farralon's PhoneNet Plus box is about \$30, will support up to 3000 feet between boxes, and uses relatively inexpensive telephone-type wiring and connectors. One of these systems is enough to establish the network. Some additional software can expand its capabilities. TOPS (street price ca. \$200) permits limited file sharing and even tolerates, up to a point, the presence of non-Mac equipment in the network. Public Folder (Claris) does what its name suggests: It permits a folder in one machine to be accessible to all machines in the retwork.

For more extensive sharing of files the network can include a computer which, with the appropriate software, acts as a file server. It looks to the rest of the system like an extra hard drive which may be accessed by any machine on the net. Extensive use of the server will result in slow network response, however, due to the limited capacity of a simple network. Use of a file server also raises legal and ethical questions when several

users run a single copy of a copyrighted program at the same time. A file server can, with the appropriate software (e.g. Microsoft Mail) be used to provide electronic mail service within the network.

In principle, small networks can be linked to larger networks to provide, say, more extensive E-mail service. At present this is not always easy due to lack of standards but progress in this direction is expected fairly soor. At Penn Sate it is possible to go from an AppleTalk-based network into the University system with an AppleTalk-to-EtherTalk box costing around \$1600.

- March Meeting: Ms. Shield's talk on networking was so well done that the group decided to ask her back for next month to continue her discussion of networks.
- Executive Committee: As noted above, executive committee meetings are open to any club member. We use them to plan future club meeting programs and other activities. Please come and bring your ideas.
- Bulletin Board: As this is being written the bulletin poard is down for some major editing of the HGS fles because we are running out of disk space. By the time you read this it should be up again. We will also look into operating problems reported by several members who have had difficulty accessing the board. We still need volunteers to help with the Mac part of the club library on the board. Come to an exec meeting if you're interested.
- Rumor Mill: Your editor recently saw Tom Boger (former Apple student rep. now with Apple in marketing) who promised lots of new and exciting Apple products this spring. He wouldn't claborate, of course, but the rumors in the press talk about some new printers (possibly including an ink-jet like the HP DeskWriter) and anew portable that's not only portable but affordable (by Apple sandards, anyway).