

CPUg NEWSLETTER



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Volume 9 Number 7 99er July, 1990
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Mini-Minutes

June 4, 1990

Tony opened the meeting of 20 + members shortly after 7pm. With a warm welcome to all those who took the time to attend.

Barry read the Treasurers report and announced that we were still solvent.

Dave Ratcliffe mentioned that he had gotten a letter from Rave 99 concerning possible upgrades to their new PE box. Possibly a 16 bit bus? Dave indicated he would try to write an article for the July newsletter, explaining the updates.

Rich Lindway mentioned that he knows of a company that is selling 1200 Baud modems for \$20.00 plus SH. Anyone who is interested should contact Rich. (Secr. note: The name of the modem is Lockheed GETEX. It is a 1200 Baud modem with a 1 year warranty. They can be ordered by calling 1-800-252-IROC (4762) and ask for Robert Suppenbach) Several members did express an interest in ordering these modems. No further details are available at this time. [Editor's note: The 800 number is for orders only. If service is needed, you should call 1-816-523-7032.]

It was announced that our EXPO date will conflict with the annual Antique Car show in Hershey. This had the potential to detract from our show. (Traffic, lodging, etc). It was decided to move the EXPO to Palmdale, just outside of Hershey and move the date up to the 7th of October. A motion was made, voted and passed. The 1990 Computer / Electronics EXPO will be held at the National Guard Armory in Palmdale PA on Sunday, October 7th.

Because of possible time conflicts, Tony DeDonatis decided to step down as EXPO Chairman and appointed Terry Longenecker to that position. Approved by the members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 and the members gathered around the various consoles to observe and copy the library.

Till next Time,

Barry Long, Secretary
CPUg

NEXT MEETING DATE: MONDAY, AUG. 6, 1990

*
* THE EXECUTIVE LOUNGE CHAIR *
*

By Tony De Donatis Sr.
President, C.P.U.G.
Harrisburg, Pa.

I would like to say "thanks" to the membership for putting their trust in me to lead the club. I will try to carry out this position to the best of my ability. While I am saying "thanks", there are a few that I would like to say "thanks" to on behalf of the group for their UNSELFISH DEVOTION, and they are Dave Ratcliffe, immediate past president and Amos Meyers, immediate past co-vice president.

MANY THANKS DAVE and AMOS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

At last months meeting I made an announcement that since my election to president, I would have to devote my energies to that position. I resigned as show chairman and asked Terry Longenecker who was show Vice Chairman to assume the position of Chairman, he accepted. I wish you GOOD LUCK! Terry.

I would like to do a little WELCOMING to:
DAVE HULTBERG - VICE PRESIDENT
BARRY LONG - SECRETARY/TREASURER
DOT HENRY SWARTZ- EXECUTIVE BOARD
RICHARD LINDWAY - NEWS LETTER EDITOR
MARTY GUTEKUNST - EDUCATION
GARY HARMON - SOFTWARE LIBRARIAN
TERRY LONGENECKER - EVENTS

A BIG and HARDY WELCOME !!!!!

NOW FOR THE SIXTYFOUR MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION ??????????????????????????????????????

I have a problem and maybe some one can GIVE me an ANSWER. My problem is the LACK of intrest and attendance to the meetings and functions of the group. WHY?.

We have a membership roster of 46 and ONLY a hand full of the same members attend the meetings and functions, 18-20.

With what the group offers (EDUCATION, FELLOWSHIP and INEXPENSIVE PROGRAMS) we should have 99% attendance. I am putting a PERSONAL INVITATION to ALL to come to the meeting and let me introduce myself to you, and you to me so that we can get to know each other better.

SEE YOU ALL AT THE MEETINGS
Tony De Donatis Sr., President

.....
Letter from the Editor or
In the dumper, again...
by Richard Lindway.

Last month I announced there is a source for rather inexpensive 1200 bps modems available. Even though I didn't buy one, I did have the opportunity to try one. They aren't bad units for the price and seem to be ruggedly built to handle some abuse. But they are rather large (8W x 10L x 2H) and will take up some desk space. Even though they have software built in and are menu driven, you still need terminal emulation software, such as Telco or Fast-term, for then to communicate with a bbs. (Fast-term is preferred for these modems and I will explain why later.) Also they can store at least 10 phone numbers. Not bad for 20 buck plus shipping and handling.

For those of you who are familiar with modems, these modems will NOT recognize 'AT' commands, which Telco uses for dialing, hang-up and other functions. These functions are handled within the modem software, so, even though there is no problem with using Telco, some of its features will be unusable and wasted. Don't get me wrong, these modems will probably run with almost any terminal emulation software written for our TI, it's just better suited for certain TE programs as opposed to others. To anyone who buys one (or more) of these modems, if you are having any trouble using it, just give me call and I will try to help.

OK, on to something else. I recently purchased and assembled a RAVE key board interface kit. Fairly nice project, but I would suggest to anyone to buy the assembled version, even if you are a very experienced kit builder. The major reason is price. The kit including shipping and handling cost nearly \$100.00 and comes with no warranty. The cost of the extra parts, including a little to cover gas for the car, is about \$40.00. Now, the fully assembled version cost under \$160.00 including shipping and handling and comes with a 3 month parts and labor warranty. Along with that, some of the parts are a little more difficult, but not impossible, to get. So, even though I'm a real cheap-skate, I would have paid the extra about \$20.00 for the warranty and convenience. Later...Rich.

User Notes

Put XBASIC into your 4A console

Chuck Reinhart, of Bellaire, New York, has contributed a number of utility programs in the past and now has a project to locate Extended BASIC in the 4A console.

This project is to be undertaken only at the user's risk. It is not simple and should not be attempted by those who are unfamiliar with electronics and soldering.

Reinhart recommends that solder be used sparingly. "There are lead patterns that run between the pins. Also, use a small soldering iron."

After this modification, you will not be able to have a cartridge installed while running Extended BASIC. Read the following instructions thoroughly before starting the project.

PARTS LIST

- 1 56K resistor 1/4 watt
- 1 DPDT mini switch (Radio Shack 275-626)
- 2 8 in piece of ribbon cable with 17 conductors in each (Radio Shack 278-772)
- 5 in pieces of wire

INSTRUCTIONS

Remove the main board from the console.

Remove the cartridge port and metal shield from the main board.

Remove the Extended BASIC circuit board from its case.

Take the two pieces of ribbon cable and separate the wires in the four ends back one inch. Then strip all of the wire 1/4-inch and tin the bare ends. Mark one cable TOP and the other BOTTOM.

Place the main board component side down with the side port connector on the right. Locate the two rows of pins that go to the cartridge port (see main board diagram).

Take the cable marked BOTTOM and mark a-1 on the edge at both ends. Then solder the wires from one ends of the cable to the bottom row of pins skipping pin No. 4. Keep the wires in order with pin No. 1 on the right (see main board diagram). Solder one of the 8 in wires to pin No. 4

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and one 8 in wire to pin No. 9 (pin No. 9 will have 2 wires). Place a piece of black electrical tape on the circuit board under the cable to prevent shorts.

Take the cable marked TOP and mark a-1 on the edge at both ends. Then solder the wires from one end of the cable to the top row of pins, skipping pin No. 2. Keep the wires in order, with pin No. 1 on the right (see main board diagram). Solder one of the 8 in wires to pin No. 2.

Place the XBASIC circuit board with component side up and connector facing the cable marked TOP. Solder the wires to the connector, skipping contact No. 2 (see circuit board diagram). Solder an 8 in wire to contact No. 2.

Turn the circuit board over and solder the wires from the cable marked BOTTOM, skipping contact No. 4, to the contacts on the foil side of the XBASIC cartridge (pin No. 1 TOP should line up with pin No. 1 BOTTOM). Solder an 8 in wire to contact No. 4.

Solder the 5 wires and 56K resistor to the switch (see switch diagram).

Bend the edge of the metal shield to allow room for the cable to pass. Mount the XBASIC cartridge on a piece of cardboard and tape it to the top of the metal shield to the left of the cartridge port.

Mount the switch in the back of the console cover near the center.

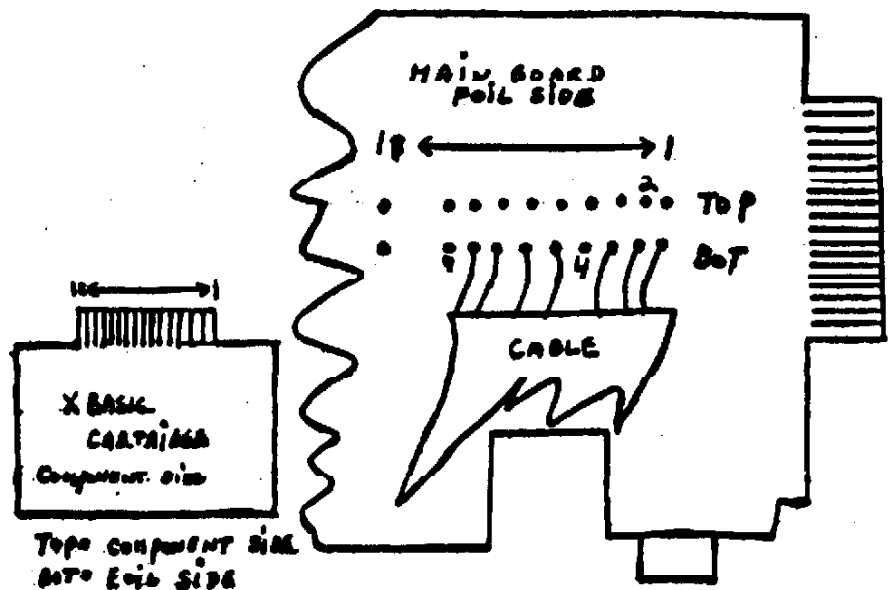
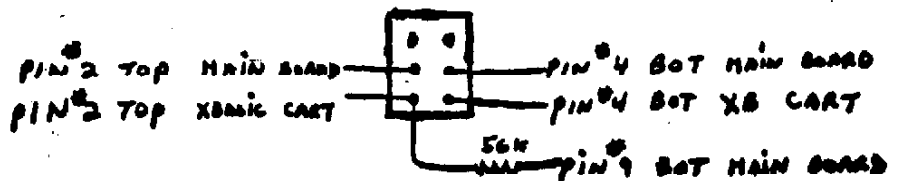
Check the wiring with an OHM meter from the cartridge port to the XBASIC circuit board connector.

Clean the side port and cartridge port.

Reassemble the console and test the switch in both positions.

Once again, don't attempt this unless you are sure of your skills and understand the instructions.

SWITCH



User Notes

A different approach

Richard Lindway, a member of the Central Pennsylvania 99/4A User Group, writes:

In the December 1987 MICROpendium there was an article describing how to install Extended BASIC into a 4A console. The thing I didn't like was you couldn't have a cartridge in the port at the same time. With a little research and some questions to the group's hardware expert, I was able to come up with a small change to the project. One note before I continue: this change won't work with Super Extended BASIC. Also, you can't have a Super Cart in the port while using Extended BASIC. Don't forget that Extended BASIC and other chips on the main board can be damaged by static electricity, so take the necessary precautions.

This addition requires two extra wires, one extra resistor and the cutting of two foil paths which are not on the main board.

The first step is to solder the ribbon cable and other wires as described in the December article, except for the switch. There is where some of the changes occur. You may also skip attaching the wire to pin No. 9 bottom on the main board. This will be attached elsewhere later.

With or without the metal shield on the top of the main board, install the cartridge PC board in the main board socket. Make sure the main board is supported to prevent breakage and the cartridge board is properly seated in the main board socket. Using a felt tipped pen, draw a line on the cartridge PC board at the top of the main board socket. Do not use pencil, the carbon in the lead may cause problems no

matter how well you erase it. Also, some black inks contain carbon, so avoid them, too.

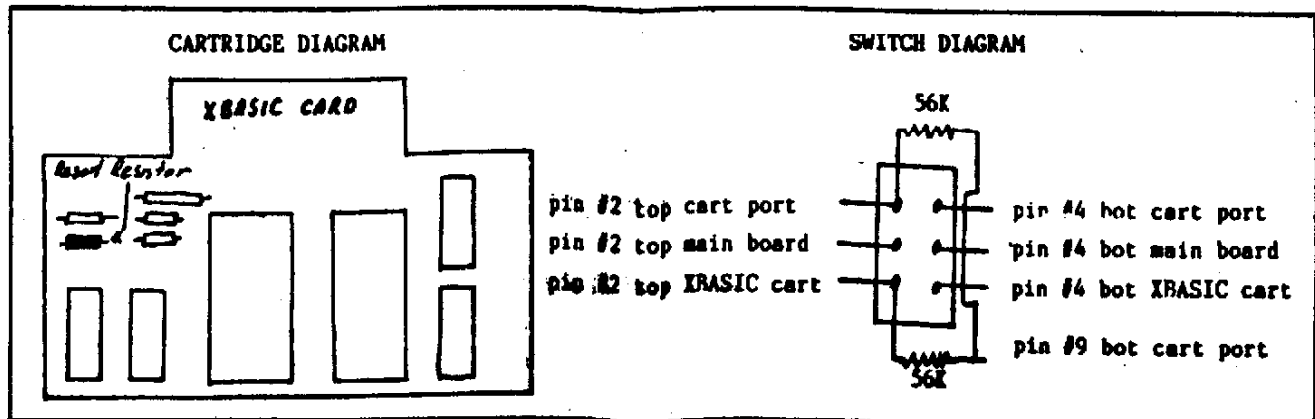
This is where the two foil paths will be cut. The top of the cartridge is on the back of the PC board and the bottom is on the front. Remove the cartridge PC board, locate the foil paths for pin No. 2 top and pin No. 4 bottom and cut the foil about 1/8-inch above the line on two foil paths. Solder 2 8-inch wires to the pins on the back of the cartridge PC board to pin No. 2 top and pin No. 4 bottom. Solder 6 (not 5) wires and the extra 56K ohm resistor to the switch (see switch diagram). The two free ends of the resistors will be soldered together and a single wire used for pin No. 9 bottom.

If you wish, the wire for pin No. 9 bottom may also go to the cartridge socket. This way there will be only one wire to pin No. 9 bottom on the main board. The wires coming from the cartridge socket should be kept close to the PC board and the metal shield to prevent interference when installing the main board in the console. A little tape is a big help here.

This completes the changes, except for one extra step. The reset resistor should be removed from the Extended BASIC cartridge (see cartridge diagram). Alternately, pin No. 1 bottom need not be used. If the resistor isn't disabled, the computer may not reset whenever a cartridge is installed in the port no matter which position the switch is in.

One last note: cartridges shouldn't be installed or removed from the port while using Extended BASIC. It could crash the computer.

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THE
CPUG

Huckster

CLASSIFIED ADS

Frank FISCHER

Vienna, 20.4.1990

Boschstraße 17/56/8
A-1190 Vienna
A U S T R I A

Dear computerfriend !
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My name is Frank Fischer and i'm a 43 years old austrian. For several years i'm working with the home computer Ti99/4a extended by the p-box, two slim-line-drives and the cor-comp-controller. One year ago i ordered the geneve 9640 directly from the myarc corporation and im very satisfied with it.

In Europe there are only a few Ti99/4a- and Geneve-users, so it is hard to get enough software, although i have found some contacts and friendship , and that's the reason why im writing to you.

I've got your name and adress from a friend and i hope you can help me by trading or selling some software.

Together with my friends i extended the E/A 6.5 and produced a useful mouse-menu. Enclosed i send you a list of programmes, so that you can see on which programmes i'm mostly interested.

I think that we little group of Ti99/4a- and Geneve-users must keep together and that there no frontiers or oceans should be between us.

At last i hope that we can start a new international friendship and hope your answer will reach me as soon as possible.

With kindly regards

Frank Fischer

PS: My prename Frank is originated from my father who is living in chikago.

Frank FISCHER
Boschstraße 17/56/8
1190 VIENNA
A U S T R I A

List of pgms and manuals

MICROpendium	book	page
Assembly Language Music	January 89	39
AV-Index	October 89	37
Baseball	April 88	09
Bingo	October 89	36
Boot/Menu Programs (new versions)	March 89	40
Captions	August 89	42
Checkbook Manager II	April 89	36
Crypto	May 89	35
cShell99	May 89	38
Desk Top Publisher V1.0	June 00	39
Fortran (MDOS)	9640 News Vol #1/3	
Genprog	August 89	11
Graphic Lister V1.1	May 88	39
Graphix Dinosaurs !	January 89	25
HardMaster	August 89	44
Karate Challenge	November 89	13
Legends II	August 89	44
	October 89	31
MDOS Conversion Notes	August 89	44
Mission Destruct !	November 89	13
Music Pro	May 89	37
Page Pro Fonts	October 89	40
Personal Auditor Home Accounting Systems	August 89	39
Picasso Borders	October 89	05
Picasso Enlarger	October 89	05
Picasso Utilities	October 89	05
Picasso - Using Picasso	October 89	05
Picture_it	January 89	34
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Frank FISCHER
Boschstraße 17/56/8
1190 VIENNA
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List of pgms and manuals
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Pix Pro		September	89 31
Spellchecker from TI		April	89 29
Superbasic		February	89 37
Tapemaster		November	89 36
Telsup V1.5		March	89 40
Texlink BBS		June	88 40
The Printer's Apprentice(TPA) for MDOS		August	89 33
The Geometer's Apprentice		March	88 07
The Geometer's Apprentice (MDOS)		May	89 07
TI-Sort		July	89 43
TI-Writer V4.01		April	89 39
Iriad		February	89 36
Tris		November	89 05
TWG (TI-Writer Graphics)		October	89 39
Typewriter 99		February	89 09
TI-Artist:			
Artist Borders	Vol. #2 + 3	April	89 40
Artist's Companion	Vol. #4 - 7	May	89 13
Artist's Companion	Vol. #8 + 9	November	89 09
Artist's Companion	Vol. #10 - 13	July	89 43
Artist's Companion	News	November	88 09
Artist Instances	#1 - 9 (Animals)	September	88 09
Artist Print Shop		October	89 36
Artist Utility		July	89 42
More Artist's Companions		November	88 09
Desinger Labels		May	88 13
Desinger Labels Companions #1 + 2		November	88 09
Sport Pics		November	89 17
Starfleet Technical Drawings		November	88 09
Starfleet Technical Drawings II		November	89 37

WE'LL LOOK FOR
YOU
AT THESE MEETINGS

Circle your Calendar with these meeting dates

JANUARY		JULY	9
FEBRUARY	5	AUGUST	6
MARCH	5	SEPTEMBER	10 (Second Monday)
APRIL	2	OCTOBER	1
MAY	7	NOVEMBER	5
JUNE	4	DECEMBER	3

All meetings begin at 7PM but the Group equipment will be up and ready for use at approximately 6PM.
All meetings are held at the CAMP HILL SHOPPING MALL COMMUNITY ROOM.

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CENTRAL PA 99/4A USERS GROUP
P.O. BOX 14126
HARRISBURG, PA 17104-0126



Dallas TI Home Computer Grp
P.O. Box 29863
Dallas TX 75229

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 6TH 1990 at 7pm

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Tony DeDonatis
President
206 West Granada Ave.
Hershey, Pa. 17033
(717) 534-2056

David Hultberg
Vice President
1407 Concord Road
Mech., Pa 17055
(717) 766-0051

Barry Long
Secretary/Treasurer
2550 Brookwood Street
Harrisburg, Pa. 17104
(717) 564-2975

Dot and Henry Swartz
Executive Board
5309 Devonshire Rd.
Harrisburg, Pa. 17112
(717) 545-7873

Richard Lindway
Newsletter Editor
904 N. 21st Street
Harrisburg, Pa. 17104
(717) 232-5697

Gary Harman
Software Librarian
P. O. Box 612
New Bloomfield, Pa.
(717) 567-9027

Data Factory 717-657-4992 or 717-657-4997 24hrs 7 Days-- SYSOP Dave Ratcliffe