

# Micro-Minutes

NEWSLETTER OF THE HEWLETT-PACKARD MICRO-COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP

May 1979

## FUTURE MEETINGS

Z-80 Microprocessor - Controlled Thermometer  
Tuesday, May 8, 12:00, 5M Conference Room

Glenn Steiner and Bob Widmayer of the Scientific Instrument Division of HP will present a project they built based on the same processor as our computer systems, the Z-80. This will be a good chance to see another example of what can be done with microprocessors in dedicated control applications.

X - Bubble Memories  
Tuesday, May 22, 12:00, 5M Conference Room

856-2902

Steve Naberhuis of HP Labs will give an introductory talk on bubble memories: what they are, how they are made, how and why they are used. His talk will burst your bubble of ignorance concerning these dynamic do-dads.

The Language of Forth  
Tuesday, June 5, 12:00, 5M Conference Room

Steve Sanders of Stanford Park Division will present an explanation and demonstration of Forth. This language has some big advantages over other high-level languages, and is appropriate for disk-based microcomputer systems. We might even be able to implement it on our systems. Steve's talk will also include an impressive demonstration of a Forth-controlled electronic organ.

## PAST MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 10

Jim Eaton of HP Labs gave a great presentation concerning dynamic RAM's. Information store/recall and refresh processes were explained, along with the external signals required to accomplish them.

Tuesday, April 24

Arie Kurtzig of HP Labs presented an overview of magnetic recording techniques. He explained the basics of magnetic recording tape, hard and floppy disks, and recording head technology.

## HOME BREW COMPUTER CLUB MEETINGS

Future meetings of the HCC are on May 17 and June 20 in the Sherman Fairchild Medical Center Auditorium on the Stanford campus, starting at 7:00 p.m.

## PROJECT PROGRESS

See last issue's "hardware update" matrix, plus two additions: 1) The cabinet prototyping is nearly complete, and 2) the I/O board design is complete.

## HELP WANTED

We've gotten some help in lining up meeting speakers, but presently what is listed above covers all leads known at this time. If you know anyone that might like to speak at one of our lunchtime meetings, call Dick Nungester, Bldg. 5U, ext. 4260.

## SOFTWARE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE

In order to plan what software will be required for the HP Microcomputer Interest Group system it is necessary to know what primary and other uses are being planned for the system. Three major categories suggest themselves:

### Development system

Examples are the INTEL INTELEC and Zilog development systems. . . These systems are used primarily to develop other micro-based systems or components.

### General purpose computer system

Examples are the Apple, Crememco, TRS-80 and countless others. Applications currently center around games, but sufficient power to do useful work is present in some of the more expensive systems. Some of the applications possible are: games, program development, control and financial.

### Intelligent terminal

Intelligent terminals come with and without graphic capability. Examples of graphic terminals include Tektronics, Smalltalk and HP (2648A). Examples of non-graphic terminals include the DEC PDT 11, ONTEL, ZENTEC and HP.

If you are assembling our system (roughly 70 people), complete the attached form and mail it to Bruce Daniels, Bldg. 48. Include any inputs you feel are not covered adequately by the questionnaire.

### HP Microcomputer Interest Group:

Moderator	Rick Pinger, 5U, ext. 2228
Hardware Committee Chairman	Steve Hessel, 1L ext. 2869
Treasurer	Mike Beaver, 25U ext. 173-258
Newsletter Editor	Dick Nungester, 5U ext. 4260

HP MCIG SOFTWARE COMMITTEE  
QUESTIONNAIRE  
5/79

0 Your Name

First: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

1 Are you building an HP micro-computer interest group system ?

Yes: \_\_\_

Do you plan to primarily use group supplied software ?

Yes: \_\_\_

No : \_\_\_

No : \_\_\_

2 Rank the following categories of application by their importance to you.

1	_____	A	Development system
2	_____	B	General purpose computer system
3	_____	C	Intelligent terminal
			Other
4	_____	D	_____
5	_____	E	_____
6	_____	G	_____

3 Do you plan to buy a disc ?

Yes: \_\_\_

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Floppy: \_\_\_\_\_

5": \_\_\_\_\_

8": \_\_\_\_\_

Hard: \_\_\_\_\_

No : \_\_\_

4 Rank the following high level languages in importance to you.

1	_____	A	Pascal
2	_____	B	LISP
3	_____	C	FORTRAN
4	_____	D	COBOL
5	_____	E	BASIC
			Other
6	_____	F	_____
7	_____	G	_____
8	_____	H	_____

5 Today 16K bit parts cost around \$6 in quantity, by the time we have a system they will cost \$2. How much are you willing to spend on memory ?

		@ \$6/part	@ \$2/part	
16Kb	- 64Kb	_____	\$48 - \$192	\$16 - \$64 in parts
64Kb	- 256Kb	_____	\$192 - \$768	\$64 - \$256 in parts
256Kb	- 1Mb	_____	\$768 - \$3072	\$256 - \$1024 in parts
1Mb	- ?????	_____	\$3072 - ?????	\$1024 - ?????