South Bay TI Users Group

Bits & Bytes NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 110037 Campbell, California 95011-0037

September 1990

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE
by Mike Ewell

The -NEXT TWO MEETINGS!- will be held on SATURDAYS due to the busy schedule of the library's community room!

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON. The time will be from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M.

The demo at the next meeting will be on the 80 column card using the full system of Don O'Neil. Hard drive, Rave keyboard and of course the 80 column card. Do not miss this chance to see the products for the 99/4A that you might be thinking of buying soon!

‡‡‡ PLEASE HELP WITH THE NEWSLETTER! ‡‡‡

I am presently setting up my hard drive! When I am done, I will bring in my 9640 for a demo. The most time is spent on a search for suitable subdirectory name!!! The names should be clear as to the file contents, without having to type in long pathnames. DSK.FIRSTBASE.MAILLIST.LOCAL!

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‡                                     ‡
‡  The September SBTIUG meeting will  ‡
‡       be held at  2:00 P.M.         ‡
‡                                     ‡
‡     SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1990     ‡
‡                                     ‡
‡ The  meeting  will be  held  in the ‡
‡ Saratoga Public Library. The Library‡
‡ is located at 13650 Saratoga Avenue.‡
‡ From 280(680), take the Saratoga Ave‡
‡ exit SOUTH.  The library will be on  ‡
‡ your left,  just past  the Fruitvale‡
‡ intersection.  This  is  about  four‡
‡ miles from the 280 exit.            ‡
‡                                     ‡
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To join TI NET on Delphi
With your computer and modem
Dial 1-800-365-4636
Press Return twice
At USENAME: type JOINDELPHI
And at PASSWORD: type MYTI
No monthly minimums and no surcharge for for high speed access!!! Costs as little as $9.95 to join! With a $7.20 useage credit equal to one free hour at the non prime time rate.

‡‡‡ PLEASE HELP WITH THE NEWSLETTER! ‡‡‡

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXX---NOTICE---XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X                                      X
X     OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER MEETINGS    X
X                                      X
X The October meeting will be held on  X
X 10-6-90 which is the first Saturday! X
X The November meeting will be held on X
X 11-1-90 which is the first Thursday! X
X The first Thursday will  continue to X
X be   the   first   choice   for  our X
X meetings,  but please READ the dates X
X carefully to avoid a  wasted trip or X
X missing a meeting.                   X
X                                      X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
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SBTIUG CLUB OFFICERS AND OTHERS

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SBTIUG BBS...24-HRS/DAY.....408/848-5947
 ‡SYSOP......DON O'NEIL.....408/847-4861
 ‡REM SYSOP..?????????......408/MAY-B-U?
PUBLIC REL...DON APTE.......408/629/0725
ARCHIVER.....HOY COLE.....SEE AT MEETING
JP SOFTWARE..J. P. HODDIE...415/328-0885

FROM THE EDITOR
By Don O'Neil

This month has been a busy one in the TI World. Several conferences on Delphi and GEnie with well known people in the TI world such as Chris Bobbit of Asgard and Gary Bowser of OPA have shown us that the market for the TI is not dead. Read the article that I wrote about all of the new products I have heard of in the last month.

Make sure you come to this months meeting! I will be bringing in ALL of my system. Yes thats ALL! You will be able to see the Mechatronics 80 column card and software, The Myarc HFDC with a hard drive and FOUR floppy drives, three running at 720k, The Rave 99 IBM keyboard interface kit that I assembled and of course the keyboard. I will also be bringing my Thomson 4120 RGB monitor that works with all TI 80 column devices and my NLQ-180 printer that has a uniqu feature of having SQUARE pins on its print head. You will definately want to see what I have, it will give you a good idea of how far you want to expand your system and with what.

Of course i'm still looking for people to write articles. This month I wrote a review of Spell it for the HFDC. Have you bought any new software latey? Did you get anything from the Library that you thought was interesting? If so write me a review and upload it to the new club BBS. What? a new BBS... More on this later.

SBTIUG MEETING MINUTES
by Kevin Daberkow

The August meeting was called to order at 2:27 pm on Saturday Aug 4th.

Treasurer's Report: Norman was absent from the meeting, so no report was given. He should be back for the September meeting.

Librarian's Report: Helmut reported that he has sent for Jim Peterson's Tiger cub software catalog. He also report having the following new SW in the library: Four disks with Micropendium programs, 10 new game disks donated by Ernest Chevier (sp?).

Newsletter Editor's Report: Don echoed te cry of many a newsletter editor, he needs articles from the membership. He has changed the format of the newsletter slightly to help give it a fresh feel.

Public Relations: Don Apte reported on several upcoming area computer swap meets. He warns that you may want to contact organizers as many meets are noe being cancelled due to lack of interest. Flea markets are still a good place to get TI equipment at fairly good prices. Don also reported about a picture in a picture cable tuning box being sold at Alltronics (Zanker Road) for $99. Sounds like a fun toy to play with.

President's Report: Mike reminded the membership that the next meeting will again be on the 1st Saturday of the month (Sept 1). He then opened the floor for membership questions

Membership Questions: Ray Keller reported that he is having problems with setting up a database using PRBASE. It seems he cannot get the the screen setup section to print out his screen layout. Kevin Daberkow offered t take a copy of his DB how to try and identify the problem.

Don Apte was interested in finding a program that he could use to list sale items on his TI for an upcoming swap meet. Several suggestions were given.

The business portion of the meeting was adjourned and Don Oneil proceeded to demonstrate the following program:

TI ARTIST PLUS: This latest version boasts many new features which I will not try and list here.

TREASURER'S REPORT
By Norm Knudsen

PLEASE look at your mailing label. As your membership renewal date approaches, the date (last line of the label) will be highlighted in color. If highlighted in YELLOW, renew at the next meeting: if highlighted in RED, this is the last issue of the NEWSLETTER you will receive until you renew!

>> THE DUES ARE NOW $20 PER YEAR <<

If any of the information on your label is incorrect, please let me know so I can correct it. You may call me at (408) 267-6193 or write to me at:

SBTIUG -Treasurer
P. O. Box 110037
Campbell, CA 95011-0037.

According to the bank statement, the current balance is 394.76 after paying 26.92 to Chris Schram for past BBS phone bills (Norm was not able to give a report this month. Ed.)

NEWS FROM THE TI WORLD!
By Don O'Neil

Last month I printed a file from Gary Bowser from OPA, since then i've been able to talk to him on-line on Delphi twice about his products. Also I spoke to Chris Bobbitt about his products. Here is a list of som of the products they will be introducing in the near future:

From OPA:
TIM- A 9958 80 column card for the TI 99/4a. Available in a few months.

RAMBO- A mod for the Horizon Ram Disk to allow it to use it's memory for programs. Several software packages available for it. Available now.

A speech program for the TI Speech synthisizer to make full use of the chip in it. Available soon.
From ASGARD:
YAPP- Yet Another Paint Program. A new paint program for 80 col card uers that loads GIF, TI-ARTIST, and MYART programs and allows editing of them. Has most of the features from TI-Artist and MY-ART. Has resolution modes up to 512x424. Available in a few months.

MIDI- MIDI Cable and software. A new cable for the RS232 card that allows electronic keyboards to be hooked up the the TI via MIDI (Musical Instrument Digtal Interface). Comes with softare for sequencing and recording of songs. Available at the end of September.

4 PORT RS232- A new RS232 card with four ports, one for a modem, one for a mouse, one for MIDI, and one for a printer. No release data as of yet.

These are just a few of the known products coming out, i'm sure there are some really neat ones not being talked about. If I hear anything about any new products, i'll keep you informed.

BBS REPORT
By Don O'Neil

Thats right a BBS report! What BBS? The new BBS down here in ol' Gilroy. As of the last officers meeting I am your new Sysop. I brought the system home, bought a new monitor and cable for it, called the phone company, and ten days later the BBS was on line!
I am running all new software on our NEW BBS. The software is from Mike Kimble and Travis Watford and is FAREWARE, it's not totally free. Mike askes that we use the BBS for 6 months or so (yes SIX months) before we send him the $30 asked donation. A great deal for a great program.
The program is a mixture of assembly language and XB code. All I/O is in assembly, the prompts and output stuff, but the "GLUE" is in XB. One of the neat features of this program is that ALL of the menu's are on disk in a TI-Writer format, that means easily changeable. I have allready modified some of the menu's to reflect what we as a UG would use. It also has on line HELP! files, when you logon for the first time I recomend that you read these files they will tell you some of the "tricks" that the system has to decrease your time on-line.
I have stocked one and a half of the three available disks with downloads. I am going to try to keep both Geneve oriented AND TI orented files, more swayed tword the TI side. Some of this months files are:
TI Print Shop Version 1.6
XHI Version 3.6
TI-Keys
Art Green's RAG Linker
and much more...
When you logon on I suggest you download the $DN files on each drive before you download anything else. They contain descriptions of all the files on that disk and how big they are. The $CT files on the disk show the file names on the disk and is only used for the system tracking.
Oh, by the way, the new number of the SBTIUG BBS is: (408)-848-5947 and it runs at 8 bits, no parity, 1 stop bit and will be available starting Sept.

Last month I ended with a little program that printed my three initials "JFW" as a single graphic character. This month I'll expand on that program.

To the left you will see four graphics which actually consist of nine 8x8 graphic characters, three in the top row and three rows high. And since there are 8 eight-bit characters in each graphic character, there are 72 characters sent to the printer to print a single complete image printed (8x3x3).

The top graphic is in the Standard-density mode. The second one down is in Double-density graphics, the third down is in Double-speed double/densitygraphic mode, and the bottom is in Quadruple-density graphic mode.

You can create even much larger graphics either as I did using a CHR$(xxx) or by creating a series of DATA statements and reading

ABOVE ARE FOUR OF THE MANY GRAPHIC MODES AVAILABLE.

them into a DIMension and then printing out that file to a print-er.

The program below was designed to be simple to understand rather than short and fast. From what you learned in Printers #4, line # 120 is setting the line spacing so that the 8 dot high character will not have a window-blind-effect between them (white lines horizontally). The line 130 simply is used by my demonstration program to select Standard-density graphics mode first and line 140 is a definition of commands so that I can use a brief command to reimplement the graphic mode, GMODE$ as seen in lines 150,180, and line 210. The actual printing is done in lines 150 through 230. Lines 240 to 300 are there to change the modes described above. Lines 110 through 230 will do a standard graphic printout.

```
100 ! DEMO OF MULTI-CHARACTER GRAPHICS.
110 OPEN #1:"PIO"
120 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);"A";CHR$(8)
130 G$="K"
140 ESC$=CHR$(27):: L$=CHR$(24):: M$=CHR$(0):: GM$=ESC$&G$&L$&M$ :: GMODE$=GM$
150 PRINT #1:GMODE$;CHR$(254);CHR$(240);CHR$(224);CHR$(224);CHR$(224);CHR$(224);
CHR$(255);CHR$(255);
160 PRINT #1:CHR$(255);CHR$(255);CHR$(224);CHR$(224);CHR$(224);CHR$(224);CHR$(24
0);CHR$(254);
170 PRINT #1:CHR$(000);CHR$(128);CHR$(255);CHR$(255);CHR$(255);CHR$(255);CHR$(25
5);CHR$(128)
180 PRINT #1:GMODE$;CHR$(000);CHR$(000);CHR$(000);CHR$(000);CHR$(000);CHR$(000);
CHR$(255);CHR$(255);
190 PRINT #1:CHR$(255);CHR$(255);CHR$(000);CHR$(000);CHR$(000);CHR$(000);CHR$(00
0);CHR$(000);
200 PRINT #1:CHR$(000);CHR$(000);CHR$(255);CHR$(255);CHR$(255);CHR$(255);CHR$(25
5);CHR$(000)
210 PRINT #1:GMODE$;CHR$(000);CHR$(000);CHR$(000);CHR$(001);CHR$(003);CHR$(007);
CHR$(255);CHR$(255);
220 PRINT #1:CHR$(255);CHR$(255);CHR$(007);CHR$(003);CHR$(001);CHR$(000);CHR$(00
0);CHR$(000);
230 PRINT #1:CHR$(000);CHR$(001);CHR$(255);CHR$(255);CHR$(255);CHR$(255);CHR$(25
5);CHR$(001): :
240 IF G$="K" THEN 280
250 IF G$="L" THEN 290
260 IF G$="Y" THEN 300
270 IF G$="Z" THEN STOP
280 G$="L" :: GOTO 140
290 G$="Y" :: GOTO 140
300 G$="Z" :: GOTO 140
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SOFTWARE REVIEW:

By Don O'Neil

Name:	Spell it!
Manufacturer:	Asgard Software
Version:	1.05 HFDC
Price:	$34.95 + SH
System Requirements: (Minimum)	TI 99/4a 32k E/A or XB 1 Hard Drive 1 Floppy Drive
Optional:	80 Col card/ Geneve Ram Disk

Score:	B+
Fall backs:	Simple words not in dict.

There have been a lot of reviews of this program floating around so i'm not going to go into great detail about this program. Most of the reviews it have been for the non hard drive version, so I going to tell you about the hard drive version.

First of all the program comes on 7 floppy disks (90k size), one of which is the DSDD version of the program, another the HFDC program, and the other 5 the HFDC dictionaries archived with Archiver (Supplied with the program). To use the program on a hard drive you must first create sub-directories to put the files into. I created mine as SIH and SID like the example in the book. The SIH directory is for the HFDC version and its 300,000 word dictionary, and the SID is for the DSDD vesion for doing quick checks. Once you have created the directories and un archived the dictionaries to it (that takes about 6 hours) then you run a configuration program to set up the main program.

This installs into the program where the dictionaries are and your screen colors and if it is in 80 or 40 columns.

Now comes the good part. You load up the program and check a document. An average document like last months RGB column has about 200-250 "Unique" words, words that appear once ore more in the document, 6 instances of "I" are counted as one unique word. The program first scans your file for the unique words, and then starts chcking them in the dictionary one at a time. The inital scan is pretty fast, about 20 seconds, but the dictionary check is pretty slow on the hard drive. Not bcause of speed but because of size, the dictionary is HUGE! Over all the program is fast, when it has checked all your words the corrections are a brease. It allows you to view the word in context, correct the word manually, add it to the dictionary, or look up similar words. I am pleased with most of the program, my only gripe is the dictionaries. They don't contain simple words like "a" or "and" or "the" or "don't". It drives me crazy when I have to add the words to the dictionary that should allready be there!

If you do heavy report typing, or are allways mis-spelling or mis-typing stuff then you need this program. It also comes in SSSD and DSSD formats, so even if you don't have a hard drive you can use this program.

THE EMPTY ARTICLE
By SBTIUG Members

This is an article about nothing. It is just a space filler and to ask you to write me some articles. The ones I wrote in this issue took me less than two hours to write. So what is YOUR excuse? Write me some articles and upload them to the BBS or send them to me.

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 *                                    *
 *      IN NEXT MONTHS ISSUE:         *
 *                                    *
 *   PRINTERS #6  By John F. Wilforth *
 *                                    *
 *   A review of the MIDI Interface   *
 *                                    *
 *   More news from the T.I. World.   *
 *                                    *
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