

VAST NEWS

Volume 6 Number 1

January 13, 1990

TI WORLD AND LOCAL NEWS

(Portions compiled and edited from MICROpendium Magazine)

by Jim Ely

TI FEST WEST 1990

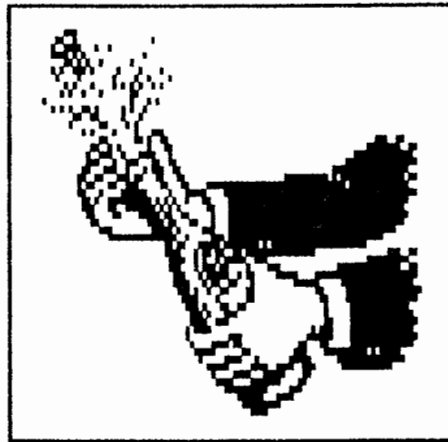
The Best Faire In The West is this year being hosted by The South-West Ninety-Niners in Tucson. The dates to remember are February 17, 1990 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and February 18, 1990 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is being held at the Days Inn, 88 E. Broadway, Tucson, AZ 85701. For more reservations call (602) 622-1000 and ask Olivia for Fest West hotel rates. Admission for the faire is \$4, under 15 years old free when accompanied by an adult. One of the main prizes to be given away is a Myarc HFD controller. Other prizes and door prizes will also be announced. For more information, you can call the Cactus Patch BBS at (602) 795-1953 in Tucson. You can contact the SouthWest Ninety-niners directly at P.O. Box 17831, Tucson, AZ 85730, (602) 747-5046.

MEETING
Saturday,
January 13, 1990

A discussion will take place as to the direction we will take with our BBS.

Computer Shopper Magazine Drops TI-99/4A Column

If you have been following the discussion of several months in this newsletter, you know that the TI column in Computer Shopper magazine has been moved, deleted, forgotten or otherwise shifted around in this magazine. Several months ago this magazine was bought by a big publishing company that has the "bottom line" at interest only. Since the TI base is becoming smaller and smaller, the attitude is that there



HAPPY NEW YEAR

isn't enough money to be made by continuing the column. It has been dropped forever. Almost all other orphan computers that had columns in the magazine also lost there support. As you may recall, a similar thing happened several years ago when COMPUTE magazine and more recently HOME COMPUTING maga-

zine announced their dropping of TI columns. This is too bad but I guess it had to happen.

Geneve Owners Still Awaiting Software

Even though it was announced at the November 4th Chicago TI Faire that copies of the final MDOS version and Advanced BASIC were being prepared for distribution, users are still waiting to receive copies. There doesn't seem to be any explanation as to what the problem is this time.

Meanwhile, the race seems to be on as to who will be the first company to release a new user interface for the Geneve. Myarc has

See "NEWS,"
Continued on page 3

INSIDE INFORMATION

ITEM	PAGE
VAST Information	2
Secretary's Slate	3
Our BBS and You	4
TI Writer Help	5
Disk of the Month	5

V A S T User Group Information

The *VAST Computer User Group* is a support group for the TI-99/4A Home Computer and compatibles, but all computer users are welcome. We meet at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center in Tempe on the second Saturday of every month. This month's meeting is on January 13. The business meeting starts at 10 a.m. with socializing starting at 9 a.m.

The yearly group membership fee is \$15 which includes this newsletter mailed to your door!

Our meetings are open to all. Only dues paying members may vote in elections, hold offices or chair committees, or use the club library.

CURRENT OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Mike Grogan 272-3415

VICE PRESIDENT

Bill Wedmore. 998-1821

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Mike Marfisi. 491-1552

LIBRARIAN

Stephanie Bannon. . . . 433-9624

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Ely 921-3375

BBS SYSOP

The date that appears in the upper right hand corner of your mailing label is your newsletter and/or membership expiration date. Address renewals to VAST User Group, c/o 1425 E. Del Rio Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282.

The VAST User Group BBS is currently not operating due to some changes taking place in the group. Please see articles in this issue of the newsletter for further explanation.

Deadline for submission of materials for this newsletter is the first Saturday of the month. Materials may be submitted in any form, but the preferred method is by modem directly to the newsletter editor at the phone number above.

ADVERTISING RATES

COMMERCIAL

FULL PAGE \$12.00

HALF PAGE \$ 7.00

QTR. PAGE \$ 4.00

PERSONAL

Four Lines . . . \$ 1.00

(30 characters per line)

Each line over 4 \$.20

ALL RATES ARE FOR ONE ISSUE ONLY!

Software programs are available from the User Group library at the following rates:

SS/SD disk . . . \$ 2.00

DS/SD disk . . . \$ 4.00

If a copy of documentation is required, a charge of \$.10 per copy page will be made. If the group supplies the disk, add \$1.00 to the above charges. We do have an exchange program for new software added to the library. Contact the librarian for further details.

DISCLAIMER: The VAST User Group can assume NO responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this newsletter or for programs or construction projects tried by its members or others. YOU try them at your OWN RISK! Any material herein may be republished by other user groups so long as credit is given to the ORIGINAL sources.

MINUTES VAST User Group December 13, 1989

The December meeting of the VAST User Group was held at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center in Tempe on Saturday December 9, 1989. The meeting was called to order by President Mike Grogan at 10 a.m. VP Bill Wedmore was not present.

The minutes of the November meeting were accepted as published in the December newsletter.

The Treasurer's report was also accepted and showed a balance of \$136.24.

Standing committee reports included Jim Ely for the Newsletter. He explained what he had done with Ely Ink. He said he could continue as editor as long as he could.

Mike Marfisi reported for the TI committee on plans for our position in FEST WEST 90. The reservation for our booth has been made. Walt Brown and Wallace Knight were continuing to work out details with Rene at Software about the items to sell.

The Library, BBS and Program committee had no report due to the absence of their respective chairpersons.

It was mentioned from the floor that some of these chairpersons had failed to attend several meetings. Maybe we should find out if

they are really interested in continuing in the posts.

Mike handed out our club publicity cards and asked that folks post them anywhere that a TI'er might see them.

OLD BUSINESS

At the November meeting, a motion was made and seconded that the constitution of the VAST User Group be amended so as to return the group to the status of a TI only user group. As required by the constitution, notice was given to all members in the form of a letter with a ballot to be returned to the club by the December meeting.

At this time those ballots were opened by the secretary and counted by Bud Barnes. More than 2/3rds of the votes were in favor of the proposed amendments. Therefore the constitution is amended. A new copy of the constitution will be given to each member within the next month.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Jerry McDonald graced us all with a further demo of the Geneve 9640.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Marfisi, Secretary

"NEWS,"

Continued from page 1

not announced a date for its GEME software, but Oasis Pensive Abacutors is predicting an early 1990 release for its interface software. If this happens in the next several months, OPA could overtake Myarc as a principal supplier of software for the Geneve.

New Products Department

J. P. Software, formerly Genial Computerware, has released a new version of the FirstBase data base manager. Version 1.1 is a significant upgrade that includes hard disk support and other improvements. FirstBase is available for \$39.95 + \$2.00 shipping and handling. To current owners of TI Base, a special deal is being offered. You can "step up to the power of FirstBase" for only \$25 until February 28, 1989. Contact J. P. Software at 2390 El Camino Real, #107, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Texaments, in its continuing support of the TI Base data base manager, has released two new supplementary data base application packages. Publications Index allows the user to develop a personal index of publication references in a single centralized database. Indexes can be created for periodicals, books, newspapers and newsletters. The Organizer! is a complete in-

See "NEWS,"

Continued on page 4

"NEWS,"

Continued from page 3

formation management system that stores and organizes information electronically and works like a standard filing cabinet does. Each electronic cabinet consists of 4 drawers that can store up to 16,129 folders each. The programs require version 2.0 or higher of TI Base. Each is \$14.95 + \$2.50 shipping and handling and is available from Texaments, 53 Center St., Patchogue, NY 11772.

Quality 99 Software is having a sale and is offering a free catalog of its disk programs. To receive the catalog, send a #10 self-addressed, stamped business envelope to Quality 99 Software, 134 Columbia Rd., #1021, Washington, DC 20009.

OUR BBS AND YOU **A report on the** **progress, or lack** **thereof, of the VAST** **BBS**

by Mike Marfisi

After the December 9th special vote was taken by the membership to return our VAST User Group to the exclusive support of the TI 99/4A, the Geneve 9640 and related equipment, we all knew that some fallout would come down within a matter of days. We knew that some members would be very unhappy with the change and would choose to dis-associate themselves with the group. The first, and so far most visible departure is Sue Miller.

She has been Sysop of the BBS for several months. She made it plain that when the vote was taken she no longer wished to be a member of this group. She asked that the BBS equipment be removed as soon as we could make other arrangements for its operation.

When the announcement was made on the BBS that it would be going off line soon, I asked for any constructive comments or suggestions regarding it's future. I got some offers from folks who were willing to take over as Sysop. Unfortunately, none of these offers came from members of VAST. But what disturbed me more was one message that suggested that the BBS and its equipment had been purchased or donated by the "users" and should continue to be operated by Sue with no interference from the club. This person, who is a former member of VAST seems to feel that because he had contributed to the club and the BBS while he was a member he retained the right to have input on how the club resources should now be used even though he no longer chose to be a member. He also expressed the feeling that the people that "used" the BBS regularly, even though they were not members of VAST and in some cases had made it very plain that they had no desire to ever be members or in other ways support the BBS, had the right to say how and by whom the board would operate. This line of reasoning had come up several times before, and frankly worried me.

To make a long story short, I felt that, for the protection of the

club, it was in our best interest to remove the equipment immediately.

NOW WHAT? We now have several hundreds of dollars worth of equipment sitting around doing nothing. We need to sit back and evaluate just what the future of the BBS will be. Do we want to put it back on line? If so, who will run it? What will be the operating policy? All of these questions need to be addressed soon. We have decided to leave the system off line until these questions can be answered. Your input is important. You are the folks who should benefit from the BBS. Think about what you want done with it and who will operate it. Any volunteers?

It will cost about \$150 to re-establish the phone line needed. It should be in a central location that can be dialed from most of the valley without toll charges. That usually means central or south Phoenix. Without a central location we have two other choices. We can pay an extra line charge to have a central number in another part of the valley. Or we could make those in the outer areas of the valley absorb the tolls for using the BBS. Cost of the line if located within the city is about \$20 per month. Cost if outside central station but with central station number are approximately \$45 per month depending on how far from the station we need to go. Some quick math will show that the operation of the BBS for the next year could run anywhere from \$400 to \$700. Give it some thought folks...please!

m.m.

TI-WRITER (Part 4)

From the *THE PUG PERIPHERAL*,
Newsletter of the Pittsburgh User Group

by Stan Katzman

Well so far we have created a document, edited it, and saved it to disk. Let us now get a document from disk into memory. This is called LoadF.

Go to the Command Mode and then press F for Files, then press LF for LoadF(ile). You will now be prompted for the file name with the header "LOAD FILE, enter filename:", at this point enter "DSK1.filename" (if you have a one disk system, before you do this you have to remove the program disk and put the file disk in the drive.) The file will then be put in memory (Text buffer!) and the cursor will be at the beginning of the file. You can now look at and edit or print out this file.

Let us assume that you forgot what was on your disk. In order to find out what is on your disk you have to ShowDirectory. Let us discuss this process. Again go to the Command Mode and press F and this time press SD. Another line shows up now saying "SHOW DIRECTORY, enter disk number:" at this point just enter the drive number that your files disk is in (in a one disk system press 1 <enter> and your disk directory is displayed. At the end of this routine on the bottom of the screen it will say "Press ENTER to continue" and you will be returned to the edit mode. While the directory of the disk is being displayed on the screen there is no effect on the material written in the Text Buffer or on the disk.

If for some reason we want to get rid of a file on the disk we can "DeleteF" it. Let us go through this process. Enter Command Mode, press F (for Files) and then press DF <enter>. You will now see "DELETE FILE, enter filename:" at this point (if we only have one disk drive) type DSK1.filename <enter>. The file is now deleted, removed, gone, in never-never land. Once deleted it cannot be recovered, so be sure you want this removed before you use it.

We can also load only a part of a file, this is done the following way:

At the LF command stage type the line number of the first line of the file part to be loaded, a space, line number of the last part to be loaded, a space, DSK1.filename. Example 22 55 DSK1.TEST. this will load lines 22 to 55 inclusive from the file "TEST" in drive #1.

We can also merge files into memory. Here is how:

Load a file (or create one) then go to command mode, press LF <enter> and now type the following, the line number of the line in the text buffer AFTER which the file is to be loaded, a space, and then DSK1.TEST. Example 72 DSK1.TEST. What will happen here is the file TEST will be put in memory starting at line 72 in the buffer. This could be dicey because if the sum of the two files is greater than 23K you could "overfill" the buffer.

We have done enough this time. More next time.

S.K.

JANUARY DISK OF THE MONTH

This month we have two disks to appeal to the "long hairs" among you and to those with "little ones" who need some basic math help.

The "long hairs" will enjoy a rendition of Chopin's Polonaise Opus #53 with some nice kaleidoscopic graphics.

The Elementary Addition & Subtraction disk offers several programs that help teach kids very basic math skills. It includes several straight addition & subtraction drills plus several fancier game/quizzes that reinforce correct answers. Several have neat sound and graphic and a few are enhanced for speech.

SPECIAL NOTE TO
PURCHASERS OF TIW 4.0

If you bought last month's DOM TI Writer 4.0, you may have noticed that the DOCs files were missing. There were too many file to fit on a SSSD disc so I had left the DOCs off. I had planned on distributing printed copies at the meeting but forgot to bring them. I will have them at this meeting. If you are not going to be there, contact me and I will mail you a set.

m.m.