

VAST NEWS

Newsletter of the VAST Computer Users Group

Volume 6 Number 8

August 11, 1990

! NEWS EXTRA !

TI World and Local News

Compiled by Jim Ely

Here is an item that came to my attention after our newsletter was already in the mail.

THE TIGERCUB NUTS & BOLTS DISKS

What are they? The Nuts & Bolts Disks are collections of 100 or more subprograms in merge format, ready to merge into your own programs.

And what does that mean? Well, TI-99/4A Extended BASIC allows the use of user-written subprograms. And what are subprograms? You know them well. CALL COLOR, CALL SOUND, CALL HCHAR — those are all subprograms which are built into the BASIC language. You can write your own subprograms, to do anything that Extended BASIC is capable of, and tack them onto the end of your program to be CALLED whenever you need them.

The variables used in a subprogram are entirely separate from those used in the main pro-

gram, therefore libraries of utility subprograms can be developed in MERGE format, and MERGED into any program without conflict.

The Nuts & Bolts Disks are libraries of such subprograms. There are 3 disks containing a total of 348 subprograms which have been consecutively line-numbered with high line numbers



so that they will not overwrite your program line numbers, and so that any number of them may be MERGED into a program without overwriting each other.

Each disk is accompanied by several pages of printed documentation, explaining the use of each subprogram and listing a short demo routine which you can key in, run, and experiment with.

The programmer will find these disks truly invaluable. Even if you have the skill and ingenuity to develop these routines for your-

self, wouldn't you rather just pay five cents apiece for them?

The Nuts & Bolts Disks originally sold for \$19.95 each, later reduced to \$15 each. They are now available for just \$5 each, postpaid. If supplies of printed documentation are exhausted, it will be supplied on disk. Order from Tigercub Software, 156 Collingwood Ave., Columbus, OH 43213

COMING NEXT MONTH

In the September issue of *VAST News* we will begin a series entitled **NEW AGE 99** written by Jack Sughrue. **BE WATCHING FOR IT!** j.c.

For Sale

Complete TI-99/4A Computer System with Expansion Box, RS232 Card, Double Sided Drive, Color Monitor, Appx. 30 Carts. Software: 70+ Disks full of Programs, Several Joysticks, Cartridge Expander, Speech Synthesizer (w/TE), Dot Matrix Printer, 1200 Baud Pro Modem, All Cables, All Docs., All in Working Order. **Ready To Run.** All for only \$400.00!! Call Tom Long at 993-8918 or leave a note on the BBS.

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Newsletter of the VAST Computer Users Group

Volume 6 Number 8

August 11, 1990

TI World and Local News

(Compiled from various sources including MICROpendium Magazine, Asgard News/Reflections on TI, GENIE, and CompuServe by Jim Ely)

Important Ballot

This issue of VAST News is on the order of a week earlier than normal. Enclosed with this issue is your official ballot for voting for the proposed changes to the Group Constitution and the adoption of a set of bylaws. The entire text of the Constitution and bylaws is published in this issue starting on page 5. The ballot should be marked and returned to the group Secretary, either by mail to reach him BEFORE Saturday, August 11th, or brought with you to the meeting and presented before the bal-

VAST USER GROUP MEETING

AUGUST 11, 1990

**Pyle Adult Rec.
Center
655 E. Southern
Avenue
Tempe, AZ**



PLEASE VOTE!

lots are counted at the meeting. Duplicate ballots will not be available, so don't lose the one you get with this newsletter.

New Version of TIPS

Ron Wolcott has released version 1.6 of the ever popular TI Print Shop (TIPS). Improvements include the speed-up of almost all printing, the quicker loading of TIPSFONT files (which have been restructured), and new CARD, CALENDAR and BANNER features. Several new fonts are also included.

This version has recently been uploaded to the VAST BBS by Mike Marfisi and is currently available for downloading.

Public Domain Software On Cassette

As you may know, work has begun on a project to transfer many programs that are currently available on disk to cassette tape. You may not know that a lot of

EA5 programs will load and run from cassette if some kind of 32K memory has been added to the console (either the P-Box 32K, side-car 32K or a modified console with 32K). Also many BASIC and Extended BASIC programs will work when loaded from cassette.

Jack Sughrue, who writes an article reproduced in several newsletters called *IMPACT 99*, is spearheading a project to transfer the programs to cassette. Also the MANNERS User Group started a similar project several years ago which is now being revitalized. As these projects progress, I'll keep you informed. Barry Traver will also be keeping tabs on the projects and report-

See "NEWS,"

Continued on page 9

INSIDE INFORMATION

ITEM	PAGE
VAST Information	2
Secretary's Slate	3
Member Profile	4
Editor's Desk	4
Proposed Constitution	5
TI Writer Help	10
Disk Of The Month	10

**VAST BBS
(602) 433-2767**

VAST 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 August 11th. 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, hold offices or chair committees, or use the club library.

CURRENT OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Mike Grogan272-4315

VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Ely Unpublished

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Mike Marfisi.491-1552

LIBRARIANS

Hazel & Wallace Knight . . .938-5446

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Ely Unpublished

BBS SYSOP

Leo Baker 931-9010

Memberships now all expire on December 31. Persons joining in any given month will have their memberships pro-rated to the end of the year. Address renewals to VAST User Group, c/o 1425 E. Del Rio Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282.

The VAST Computer User Group BBS is in operation 24 hours a day. The phone number is (602) 433-2767. The board is setup per the guidelines established by the BBS committee. The software should be familiar to those of you who used the board before the last sysop changed it. It is PCBoard.

Don't be shy. Give it a try!

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 uploaded to the VAST Computer Users Group BBS. Please leave a message to the current newsletter editor so he knows the file is for him.

ADVERTISING RATES

COMMERCIAL

FULL PAGE \$12.00

HALF PAGE \$ 7.00

QTR. PAGE \$ 4.00

PERSONAL

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN POLICY

There is **NO CHARGE** to *MEMBERS* for advertising. Non-members will be charged \$1.50 per ad.

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 Computer 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.

SECRETARY'S SLATE

MINUTES

VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP

JULY 14, 1990

The monthly meeting of VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP was held on Saturday July 14, 1990 at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center in Tempe. The meeting was called to order by President Mike Grogan at 10 a.m. He then introduced two guests and prospective members; Ms. Raye Barth and Mr. Cliff Fiveland. Cliff has been a member of VAST in the past.

The minutes of the June meeting were approved as published in *VAST News*. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted. Mike Grogan asked that from this point on we not publish the club bank account balance in the minutes. These minutes are published in the newsletter and it was felt that this information should not be published outside the group. Therefore the minutes will no longer contain the treasurer's report figures.

Mike Marfisi mentioned that the cost of printing our newsletters has started to become a real burden on the treasury. Dan Shell said that if we could supply the paper and get the copy to him soon enough, he would be glad to try to copy them at his work. It was decided that if Mike Marfisi can't copy them at his work, we would try to get the copy to Dan for him to copy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BBS ...SysOp absent. No report.

Mike Grogan pointed out that our club now has an RS232 that fits into the P-Box. Jack Workman has a side car RS232. It was felt that the club would be better served if we had the side car mount one for those who wanted to try the BBS but did not have a P-Box. A motion was made and seconded to trade the club internal RS232 to Jack Workman in exchange for his side car version.

Mike Grogan mentioned that one of the half height drives the club owns is a quad density drive and is having some problems operating in the club system. The only member in the group that could use the quad density capability is Mike Marfisi with his HFDC. Mike Marfisi will investigate the possibility of exchanging one of his DSDD drives for the quad density club drive.

LIBRARY ...no special report

Mike Marfisi reported that he is sending for the video tapes of this years LIMA UG TI Fair to add to the library. These are tapes of the lectures and demos presented at the fair.

Mike Marfisi also mentioned that there may soon be a source of public domain software available on cassette tape. He will keep us informed as developments occur.

PUBLICITY ...Chairman absent. No report.

CONSTITUTION

Mike Marfisi presented the proposed constitution and bylaws to the group and made a motion that the present constitution be amended to reflect the changes as presented. The motion was seconded. A vote will be taken at the August meeting after the constitutionally required notice is given and ballots distributed.

PROGRAM

The program for the August meeting will be a demo on optical scanners presented by Dan Shell and Jim Ely

OLD BUSINESS

POSTER CONTEST

Bud reported that we have 3 entries so far. The

See "SECRETARY'S SLATE,"
Continued on page 9

Member Profile

This month's member profile is of Ian McGregor who comes all the way from Casa Grande, AZ to attend our meetings.



Ian McGregor

In one sentence, he is an unemployed Canadian engineer who moved to Arizona at the beginning of 1989 and he "can swim in a University library like a fish in the ocean."

In more detail, he was born in Edmonton, Alberta, grew up in Ontario, Canada (Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton) and spent the last ten years (his married life) in Buffalo, New York.



Harry McGregor

He and his wife Ellen have an 8 year old son, Harry (pictured also), with limitless ambitions for

the TI system. He wants a Geneve, a laser printer (with color), an analog monitor and every TI cartridge ever produced! Harry subscribes to *MICROpendium* Magazine (although Ian is the one who reads it) and officially Harry owns their entire system. Harry is fond of the user group meetings as long as he can bring his entire system with him. He can set up the system by himself. He wishes there were more children at the meetings and that they would bring more of their equipment and software with them (Socrates, Nintendo, Sega, Atari, Etch-A-Sketch Animator, etc.).

He uses TI-Writer to type in stories of his own as part of his school's Real Life reading program. (In school, he uses Magic Slate on an Apple IIe and a printer.) He also uses a set of math drill programs (with and without speech) as his math homework.

Ian subscribes to *Computer Language*, *Dr. Dobb's Journal* and *Scientific American*. He buys *Byte*, *Computer Shopper* and *Analog* regularly.

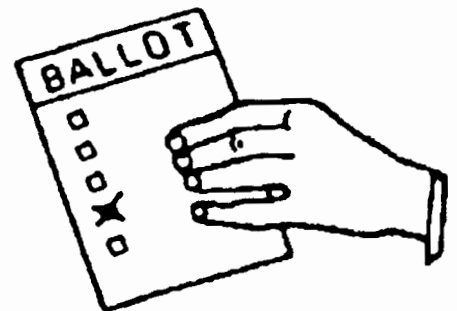
Unfortunately, he lost several *Compute* books for the TI when he moved. He does have all of the *99'er Magazines* and *Home Computer Magazines*. He doesn't spend enough time programming to do it as well as some of the other members but he is very good at finding information.

From the Editor's Desk

Not much to say this month as I had to get the newsletter ready several weeks earlier than normal.

SPECIAL BALLOT

Since the group constitution stipulates that members be informed of an election or vote for a change 2 weeks in advance of a meeting and since we are going to vote on a constitutional change, your official ballot and copy of the proposal are included with this newsletter. **PLEASE**, carefully read the group constitution and bylaws starting on page 5 and vote on the enclosed ballot. Your ballot **MUST** reach the secretary no later than the start of the meeting on August 11, 1990. You may mail your ballot back or bring it to the meeting with you. Ballots received later will not be counted and will be discarded.



IN THIS ISSUE

Because of the special ballot, the only thing included this month is the member profile of Ian McGregor and his son, Harry, on

See "EDITOR'S DESK,"
Continued on page 9

**PROPOSED
CONSTITUTION OF THE VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP V1.2**

**ARTICLE I
NAME OF GROUP**

THE "VALLEY OF THE SUN TI COMPUTER USERS GROUP," HEREAFTER KNOWN AS "VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP," SHALL BE THE NAME OF THE ENTITY UNDER THIS CONSTITUTION.

**ARTICLE II
TYPE OF ENTITY**

THE VAST COMPUTER USERS GROUP SHALL OPERATE IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA AS A "NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATION".

**ARTICLE III
GOALS AND PURPOSES**

TO ENCOURAGE ALL EFFORTS AND ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE OF THE TI-99/4A, THE GENEVE 9640, AND RELATED EQUIPMENT. THE GROUP MAY AT ITS OPTION OUTLINE ADDITIONAL GOALS AND PURPOSES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL BYLAWS.

**ARTICLE IV
OPERATION AUTHORITY**

THE VAST COMPUTER USERS GROUP SHALL OPERATE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THIS CONSTITUTION AND A SET OF BYLAWS. THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL BE THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES UNDER WHICH THIS GROUP IS GOVERNED. THE BYLAWS SHALL CONSIST OF THE DAY TO DAY OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS AND POLICIES UNDER WHICH THE GROUP'S BUSINESS AND MEETINGS SHALL BE CONDUCTED.

**ARTICLE V
MEMBERSHIP**

MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE OPEN TO ANYONE INTERESTED IN THE PURPOSES AND GOALS OF THIS ORGANIZATION AS SET FORTH IN THIS CONSTITUTION AND IN THE BYLAWS.

**ARTICLE VI
OFFICERS**

THE ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE VAST COMPUTER USERS GROUP SHALL BE:

- PRESIDENT
- VICE PRESIDENT
- SECRETARY
- TREASURER

**ARTICLE VII
DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

ANY OFFICER GUILTY OF THEFT, MALFEASANCE, OR OTHER GROSS MISCONDUCT MAY BE IMPREACHED BY A 2/3 (TWO THIRDS) VOTE OF THE VOTING MEMBERSHIP.

ANY MEMBER GUILTY OF THEFT, MALFEASANCE OR OTHER GROSS MISCONDUCT MAY BE CENSORED OR BARRED FROM FURTHER PARTICIPATION IN THE GROUP BY A 2/3 (TWO THIRDS) VOTE OF THE VOTING MEMBERSHIP.

A MEMBER FOUND GUILTY AND/OR IMPEACHED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE MAY BE BARRED FROM MEMBERSHIP IN THE GROUP AND IF SO BARRED SHALL NOT RECEIVE ANY REBATE OF DUES AND MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE DISSOLUTION OF THE GROUP.

**ARTICLE VIII
CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES**

THIS CONSTITUTION MAY BE AMENDED BY A 2/3 (TWO THIRDS) VOTE OF THE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING WHO ARE PRESENT OR REPRESENTED BY PROXY AT ANY REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING PROVIDED WRITTEN NOTICE IS GIVEN AT LEAST ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE TO THE ACTIVE MEMBERS.

**ARTICLE IX
DISSOLUTION**

IT SHALL TAKE A 3/4 (THREE QUARTER) VOTE OF THE VOTING MEMBERSHIP TO EFFECT A DISSOLUTION OF THE VAST COMPUTER USERS GROUP.

**PROPOSED
BYLAWS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE VAST COMPUTER USERS GROUP
V1.2**

**SECTION I
GOALS AND PURPOSES**

AS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE III OF THE CONSTITUTION, THE GENERAL PURPOSE OF THIS ORGANIZATION SHALL BE TO PROMOTE THE TI-99/4A, THE GENEVE 9640 AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT.

IT SHALL FURTHER BE THE GOAL OF THIS ORGANIZATION TO PROVIDE THE MEMBERS WITH:

A BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE VERSATILITY AND USEFULNESS OF THE TI IN PARTICULAR AND ALL COMPUTERS IN GENERAL.

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN OR POLISH SKILLS, INCLUDING LISTENING AND MAKING PRESENTATIONS, AND TO LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS.

See "CONSTITUTION,"
Continued on page 6

"CONSTITUTION,"

Continued from page 5

TO PRESENT OUR NEEDS TO VENDORS AND SUPPLIERS AND TO ENCOURAGE THEIR SUPPORT.

**SECTION II
TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP**

THERE SHALL BE TWO TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE: FULL MEMBERSHIP AND HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.

FULL MEMBERSHIP

SHALL BE GRANTED TO ANYONE SUBSCRIBING TO THE PRINCIPLES AS SET FORTH UNDER SECTION I OF THESE BYLAWS AND HAVING PAID THE PRESCRIBED DUES. FULL MEMBERSHIP SHALL INCLUDE:

1. VOTING RIGHTS.
2. FULL BBS PRIVILEGES.
3. MONTHLY NEWSLETTER WHEN PUBLISHED.
4. FULL USE OF THE CLUB LIBRARIES.
5. ANY OTHER RIGHTS OR PRIVILEGES AS SHALL BE GRANTED IN THE FUTURE.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

SHALL BE GRANTED TO ANY INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP THAT SUBSCRIBES TO THE PRINCIPLES AS SET FORTH IN SECTION I OF THESE BYLAWS AND WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE GROUP MATERIALLY BY WAY OF PROMOTION, DESIGNS, INSTRUMENTION MATERIALS, SOFTWARE OR HARDWARE DONATIONS OR OTHER SPECIAL SUPPORT. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP MAY BE GRANTED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AT ANY REGULAR MEETING OF THE GROUP.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SHALL INCLUDE ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF FULL MEMBERSHIP EXCEPT FOR VOTING RIGHTS.

**SECTION III
DUES**

\$15.00 PER YEAR PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST MEETING OF JANUARY. MEMBERS JOINING AFTER JANUARY SHALL HAVE DUES PRORATED AT 1/12TH OF THE ESTABLISHED DUES FOR EACH MONTH REMAINING IN THE FISCAL YEAR. HONORARY MEMBERS SHALL NOT BE ASSESSED DUES.

**SECTION IV
DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT

THE PRESIDENT SHALL PRESIDE AT ALL GENERAL MEETINGS; SHALL BE THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER; HAS SIGNATURE AUTHORITY ON THE GROUPS BANK ACCOUNT; AND SHALL PERFORM ALL DUTIES AS ARE INCIDENTAL TO AND ARE PROPERLY REQUIRED OF THE OFFICE.

VICE-PRESIDENT

THE VICE-PRESIDENT SHALL IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESIDENT EXERCISE ALL FUNCTIONS AND SHALL BE VESTED WITH ALL THE POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT. HE SHALL HAVE SIGNATURE AUTHORITY ON THE GROUPS BANK ACCOUNT.

SECRETARY

THE SECRETARY SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECORDING AND MAINTAINING THE MINUTES OF EACH MEETING AND SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP CORRESPONDENCE. HE SHALL MAINTAIN AN ACCURATE AND CURRENT MEMBERSHIP LIST. HE SHALL HAVE SIGNATURE AUTHORITY ON THE GROUP BANK ACCOUNT. THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY MAY BE COMBINED WITH THAT OF TREASURER.

TREASURER

THE TREASURER SHALL HAVE CHARGE OF THE FUNDS OF THE VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP, CONDUCT ITS BANKING BUSINESS, AUDIT ALL ACCOUNTS, PREPARE AND PRESENT A COMPLETE REPORT AT EACH MEETING AND AN ANNUAL REPORT AT THE END OF THE YEAR. THE OFFICE OF TREASURER MAY BE COMBINED WITH THAT OF SECRETARY.

PARLIAMENTARIAN

THE PARLIAMENTARIAN SHALL BE AN EXOFFICIO OFFICER APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT WHO SHALL HAVE FULL VOTING RIGHTS BUT NO OTHER DUTIES EXCEPT THOSE OF ADVISING THE PRESIDENT ON THE PROPER USE OF THE ROBERT'S RULE OF ORDER.

SERGEANT AT ARMS

THE SERGEANT AT ARMS SHALL BE AN EXOFFICIO OFFICER APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT WHO SHALL HAVE FULL VOTING RIGHTS. HE SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE UNDER DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE PROPER CONDUCT OF THE MEMBERSHIP.

**SECTION V
DISPERSAL OF CLUB FUNDS**

FUNDS OWNED BY THE GROUP SHALL BE KEPT IN A CHECKING ACCOUNT IN CUSTODY OF A BANK DESIGNATED BY THE OFFICERS. NO OFFICER WITH SIGNATURE AUTHORITY MAY SPEND MORE THAN FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50) IN ANY CALANDER MONTH WITHOUT THE EXPRESS APPROVAL OF THE MEMBERSHIP. SUCH APPROVAL MAY BE GRANTED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AT ANY BUSINESS MEETING.

See "CONSTITUTION,"
Continued on page 7

"CONSTITUTION,"
Continued from page 6

**SECTION VI
COMMITTEES**

THE PRESIDENT MAY CREATE COMMITTEES AS HE SEES THE NEED. HE SHALL APPOINT THE CHAIRPERSON OF SAID COMMITTEES WHO WILL SERVE AT HIS PLEASURE.

TYPES OF COMMITTEES

THERE SHALL BE TWO TYPES OF COMMITTEES: STANDING AND SPECIAL

STANDING COMMITTEE IS A COMMITTEE THAT IS CREATED TO PERFORM SOME ONGOING TASK AND REMAINS ACTIVE FOR THE ENTIRE TERM THE OF PRESIDENT WHO APPOINTS IT.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE IS A COMMITTEE THAT IS CREATED TO PERFORM A SINGLE SPECIFIC TASK AND REMAINS ACTIVE UNTIL THAT TASK IS COMPLETE.

STANDING COMMITTEES

THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS STANDING COMMITTEES:

BULLETIN BOARD

IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS COMMITTEE TO FORMULATE AN OPERATING POLICY AND LIST OF GUIDELINES FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CLUB BBS, AND TO WORK WITH THE SYSOP TO IMPLEMENT SUCH POLICIES AND GUIDELINES.

LIBRARY

THIS COMMITTEE WILL HAVE CUSTODY OF THE GROUP'S SOFTWARE. IT SHALL CATALOG AND MAINTAIN THE LIBRARY AND IMPLEMENT A CHECK IN/OUT PROCEDURE AND POLICIES AND PROCESS NEW ACQUISITIONS AND GENERALLY MAINTAIN THE GROUP'S LIBRARY FILES. THEY SHALL SEE THAT A COMPLETE CATALOG IS AVAILABLE TO THE MEMBERS AT EACH MEETING AND THAT A COPY OF SAID CATALOG IS AVAILABLE TO THE BBS SYSOP FOR INCLUSION ON THE BBS.

NEWSLETTER

THIS COMMITTEE WILL PUBLISH A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER THAT CONTAINS ARTICLES, PROGRAMS AND INFORMATION OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE MEMBERS. THE COMMITTEE IS EMPOWERED TO SELL ADVERTISING IN THE NEWSLETTER TO HELP DEFRAY PUBLISHING COSTS. THIS COMMITTEE IS EMPOWERED TO SPEND THOSE APPROVED FUNDS NEEDED TO PRINT AND DISTRIBUTE SAID NEWSLETTER.

PROGRAM

THIS COMMITTEE SHALL BE IN CHARGE OF DEVELOPING PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP SESSIONS RELATING TO THE TI-99/4A COMPUTER AND COMPATIBLES OR ANY OTHER SUBJECT THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO THE GROUP.

**SECTION VII
MEETINGS**

GENERAL VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP MEETINGS ARE TO BE CONDUCTED ONCE PER MONTH BY THE PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, OR DESIGNEE IN THAT ORDER.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. READING OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING
3. TREASURERS REPORT
4. COMMITTEE REPORTS
5. OLD BUSINESS
6. NEW BUSINESS
7. ADJOURNMENT
8. PRESENTATIONS AND/OR SPECIAL PROGRAMS AS MAY BE SCHEDULED.

**SECTION VIII
ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

THE REGULAR TERM OF OFFICE FOR ALL OFFICERS SHALL BE FOR 1 (ONE) YEAR COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1. THE TERM SHALL END ON DECEMBER 31ST OF THE SAME YEAR. IN THE EVENT A MEMBER ASSUMES OFFICE OTHER THAN ON JANUARY 1, THAT TERM SHALL NEVER THE LESS STILL END ON DECEMBER 31ST.

THE PRESIDENT SHALL APPOINT AN ELECTION COMMITTEE MADE UP OF TWO MEMBERS. IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF THIS COMMITTEE TO ACCEPT NOMINATIONS FROM THE MEMBERS AT THE OCTOBER MEETING AND TO CERTIFY THAT THE NOMINEES ARE ELIGIBLE AND WILLING TO SERVE IN THE OFFICE TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN NOMINATED. THEY WILL PRESENT TO THE SECRETARY A COMPLETE LIST OF SAID NOMINEES SO THAT HE MAY CAUSE THE OFFICIAL BALLOT TO BE PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED. ON THE DAY OF THE ELECTION THE COMMITTEE SHALL COLLECT AND COUNT ALL BALLOTS CAST AND ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION TO THE MEMBERS.

FORMAL NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE SHALL BE MADE FROM THE FLOOR AT THE REGULAR OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING.

THE SECRETARY SHALL SEND TO ALL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING, AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING, A PAPER BALLOT CONTAINING THE NAMES OF THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN NOMINATED AND HAVE ACCEPTED SAID NOMINATION.

See "CONSTITUTION,"
Continued on page 8

"CONSTITUTION,"
Continued from page 7

MEMBERS MAY RETURN THE BALLOTS BY MAIL OR BRING THEM TO THE NOVEMBER MEETING. MAILED BALLOTS RECEIVED AFTER THE MEETING AT WHICH THE ELECTION IS HELD WILL NOT BE COUNTED.

VOTING WILL BE LIMITED TO MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING AND WILL BE BY SECRET BALLOT.

THE NOMINEE RECEIVING THE MAJORITY OF VOTES CAST FOR AN OFFICE SHALL BE DECLARED THE WINNER. IN THE EVENT THAT NO NOMINEE RECEIVES A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST FOR THE OFFICE IN QUESTION A "RUN OFF" ELECTION SHALL BE HELD IMMEDIATELY. VOTES SHALL BE CAST FOR THE TWO NOMINEES RECEIVING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF VOTES CAST. ONLY ELIGIBLE MEMBERS WHO ARE PRESENT AT THE MEETING MAY CAST BALLOTS IN A "RUN OFF" ELECTION.

SPECIAL ELECTIONS

IN THE EVENT THAT ANY DULY ELECTED OFFICER BECOMES INCAPACITATED, RESIGNS, OR IS UNABLE TO COMPLETE THE NORMAL TERM OF OFFICE FOR ANY REASON, THAT OFFICER MAY BE REPLACED THROUGH A SPECIAL ELECTION HELD DURING ANY MONTHLY MEETING. SUCH SPECIAL ELECTION SHALL BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE OFFICE IS DECLARED VACANT BY THE PRESIDENT OR BY THE NEXT OFFICER IN SUCCESSION IF IT IS THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT THAT HAS BEEN VACATED. WRITTEN NOTICE SHALL BE GIVEN TO ALL MEMBERS PRIOR TO THE MEETING DURING WHICH THE ELECTION WILL BE HELD. ANY MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING MAY BE NOMINATED TO FILL THE VACANT OFFICE. A MEMBER WHO HAS BEEN NOMINATED AND HAS ACCEPTED SAID NOMINATION SHALL BE CONSIDERED ELECTED AFTER HAVING RECEIVED A MAJORITY OF ALL VOTES CAST.

**SECTION IX
LIABILITIES**

NO OFFICER OR MEMBER SHALL BE PERSONALLY, COLLECTIVELY OR SEVERELY LIABLE FOR ANY BILLS, OBLIGATIONS OR ACTIONS OF THE VAST COMPUTER USERS GROUPS MEMBERSHIP, PAST OR PRESENT, EXCEPT FOR THE PAYMENT OF PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP DUES.

NO MEMBER SHALL DISBURSE ANY FUNDS OR EQUIPMENT IN HIS KEEPING BELONGING TO THE GROUP WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE OFFICERS.

NO PERSON SHALL USE THE NAME OR MAILING LIST OF THE VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN THOSE PURPOSES WHICH ARE STRICTLY AUTHORIZED BY THE MEMBERSHIP. THIS AUTHORIZATION IS TO BE CONFIRMED IN WRITING BY THE SECRETARY.

**SECTION X
DISSOLUTION OF GROUP**

IN THE EVENT OF THE DISSOLUTION OF THE VAST COMPUTER USERS GROUP, THE GROUPS ASSETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

THE BANK ACCOUNT WILL BE CLOSED AFTER ALL OUTSTANDING DEBTS HAVE BEEN PAID.

PROPERTY WILL BE INVENTORIED BY THE CURRENT OFFICERS AND AN INVENTORY LIST WILL BE PUBLISHED TO ALL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. SEALED BIDS FOR EACH PIECE OF PROPERTY WILL BE SOLICITED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP IN GOOD STANDING. AT THE FIRST MEETING FOLLOWING 30 DAYS FROM DATE OF INVENTORY PUBLICATION, THE BIDS WILL BE OPENED AND THE PROPERTY DISTRIBUTED TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR EACH ITEM. PAYMENT FOR EACH PROPERTY MUST BE IN CASH AT TIME OF BID AWARD. THE RESULTING CASH FROM THE AUCTION PLUS THE CASH REMAINING FROM CLOSURE OF THE BANK ACCOUNT, MINUS ANY OUTSTANDING BILLS OR DEBTS WILL BE EQUALLY DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP. ANY PROPERTY NOT CLAIMED WILL BE DISPOSED OF AT THE DISCRETION OF THE OFFICERS.

ONLY CURRENT MEMBERS MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE DISSOLUTION.

**SECTION XI
AMMENDING BYLAWS**

THESE BYLAWS MAY BE AMENDED BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERSHIP AT ANY GENERAL MEETING.



"MINUTES,"*Continued from page 3*

deadline for entries will be July 31st with winners announced at the August meeting.

NEWBUSINESS

Jim Ely mentioned that he has one more member biographical sketch for the newsletter. He needs more. How about it folks!

The subject of a "family membership" was brought up. It was pointed out that there was no provision in the present or proposed constitution for such membership. It was also pointed out that such a membership is really not needed because we always welcome guests, and if a parent was a member, that parent could use the library and vote so the kids could get any programs they wanted through the member. The topic was put off until after next month for further discussion.

The topic of our annual picnic was presented. The group agreed that we would like to have one. Hazel Knight agreed to chair a committee as long as the picnic was not held during September. Dan Shell suggested that his wife, Leslie, would make an ideal candidate. The decision will be made next month.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 11:05AM. A demo of some of the new developments and software for the Geneve 9640 was presented by Jan Klabunde and Dan Shell.

Respectfully,
Mike Marfisi,
Secretary,
**VAST COMPUTER USER
GROUP**

"EDITOR'S DESK,"*Continued from page 4*

page 4, part 10 of the TI-Writer help articles on page 10, and the Disk of the Month description also on page 10. Should any other important NEWS happen between now and the meeting, a supplemental **VAST NEWS BRIEF** will be available at the meeting. This news brief will **NOT** be mailed and will be available only at the meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Here is the calendar for the next two months with our meeting dates indicated.

SEPTEMBER 1990

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

OCTOBER 1990

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

See you at the meeting, August 11th.

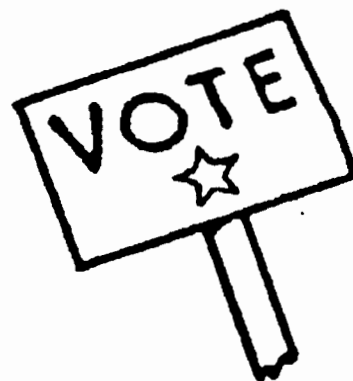
Jim Ely,
Editor

**"NEWS,"***Continued from page 1*

ing the progress in **COMPUTER MONTHLY** Magazine. This is great news for cassette only users of the TI as most other sources for cassette based software are no longer available.

BBS Program Being Made Available

Colossus is the BBS program being run by the Miami User Group. It is designed to take full advantage of a completely expanded TI system which includes a hard/floppy disk controller. The system is written in Extended BASIC with CALL LINKs to Assembly Language subroutines and since it runs on a hard drive, it is FAST! It is almost completely self maintaining, which makes the system very desirable. Maintenance will automatically be done by the system once a month or can be done at any time on demand. It also supports all the standard things you would expect to find in a BBS. To see how the system works, call the MUG BBS at (305) 386-8295. It operates 24 hours a day at 3/12/2400 baud. There are currently 3 boards operating using this system.



T.I.-WRITER

Part 10
by Stan Katzman

From the WEST PENN 99'ers Newsletter

Let's continue our discussion of dot commands in the Formatter. The next commands I want to discuss control the number of lines on a page (.PL _), if you want to have the document double or triple spaced (.LS _) and if you want to skip some lines in your document (.SP _).

Let's start with (.PL _), the page length command. The default setting for the number of lines on a page in T.I. Writer is 66. You cannot have more but you can have less. To do this, at the start of your document type .PL 60 <enter>. Now type your document. When your document is put through the formatter there will be only 60 lines per page. If you want 55 just enter 55 in place of the 60 (or whatever you want to have).

The default setting for spacing in the formatter is single spacing. If you want your document to be double spaced or triple spaced just type .LS2 <enter> at the head of your document or .LS3 <enter> for triple spacing.

If you want, say, five blank lines, for some reason, in your

document, on a separate line unto itself type .SP5 <enter> and the formatter will skip five lines and then continue printing the rest of your document.

What I am going to discuss now is a handy feature but not dot commands. In the beginning of the formatter there is a time when it says "What Pages (A)," meaning what pages do you want printed from a multipart document. If you just press <enter> it will print all pages from 1 to the end. If you want selected pages printed out, just enter them as described next. Say we want to print page 6, pages 12 through 15 and 22 to the end, type the following in response to the "What Pages" question, 6,12-15,22-e and only those designated pages will be printed out.

As kind of a close out I would like to show you what the formatting (dot) commands would look like for a document to have margins of L 17, R 77, double spaced, right adjusted and a page length of 58.

```
.LM 17<ENTER>
.RM 77<ENTER>
.FI<ENTER>
.LS 2<ENTER>
.AD<ENTER>
.PL 58<ENTER>
```

Try these formatting commands and happy "processing."
s.k.

August Disk Of The Month

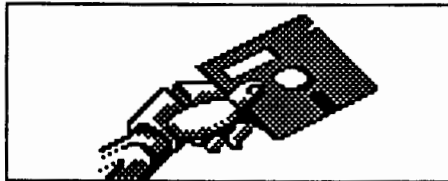
by Mike Marfisi

Our mid-summer sizzler *Disk Of The Month* specials for August will consist of something practical and something fun. On the practical side here are some goodies to help around the house.

Disk 1 contains 14 useful programs including a data base to help keep track of things like books and magazine articles. It searches for entries by key words.

Another program will help you make an intelligent choice when it comes to a do it yourself floor covering project. By asking questions about footage, total costs etc, it will give you an idea of the project cost comparing several materials choices.

Did you ever have a recipe that tells you how to make a meal that serves 6 but need to serve 9 or 14 or 2? We have a program that will convert ingredient amounts to fit any number of servings.



Planning on paint a room or the whole house? How much paint will you need? Have no fear the TI will tell you true with a program that takes your room measurements and figures out how much paint you will need to do the job right.

There are several programs to help track phone expenses and toll calls plus a monthly expense and check-book program. There is even a program that will lead you through the drafting of a simple legal will. Just remember that if you use this one, the name is spelled M..A..R..F..I..S..I. Thank you very much!

Disk number 2 is the third in our brain game series. Put on your thinking caps for a great variety of opportunities to show your computer who has the smarts in your family. Several neat and challenging items here.

Each disk is SSSD and is guaranteed to be a workable copy. We do not guarantee the programs. ENJOY.