

VAST NEWS

Monthly Newsletter of the VAST Computer U. G.

Volume 5 Number 10

October 14, 1989



PICNIC This Saturday!

After some confusion, the Picnic is a GO! Unlike last year where we were able to reserve a particular spot in advance for the group, this year the city of Phoenix is taking NO RESERVATIONS and the places are on a "first come, first served" basis. Either Stephanie or Sue will go to Encanto Park EARLY on Saturday and try to get us the same spot as last year, which was very easy to find and had easy access to the parking lot. As I did last year, a map of the area is included in this issue on page 10. Hope you can all make it! Ikey won't be there this year to show off his knees, but don't let that stop you from coming. Come on and have fun! The group is picking up most of the tab!

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE TI WORLD

Condensed from various sources
by Mike Marfisi

TRITON CATALOG

If you haven't received one yet, be on the lookout for a new TRITON catalog. They are being mailed through October. Included for the first time is the 9640 Geneve at \$599.95.

The biggest price breaks are on TI-Writer at \$9.95 and Multiplan at \$12.95. Remember when these were priced at \$100.00? You can grab up all kinds of TI game modules and other software from around \$2.95 and up. They seem to have a good selection of the newer stuff too.

TI FORUM HIDDEN

This month's Computer Shopper Magazine DOES have the TI FORUM column, but you will have to look for it (It's on page 652). Last month, we were told that the author missed a new deadline. This month, however, it seems that it got missed being listed in the index.

If you want to see this feature continued, maybe a letter to Computer Shopper would help. Write. We can't afford to lose another source of TI info.

TI STILL CARES

I got a letter from the folks at TI last week asking us to update our info for their user group listing. They also reminded us that TI is still servicing equipment but they no longer have the toll free number. To contact them, call 806-747-1882.

NEW STUFF

All kinds of new goodies out there folks. Who says the TI is dead?!

From Comproline Software: Giant Artist Posters. Turn TI ARTIST screens into GIANT posters. We are talking hugh here. As big as 5 feet high!

From Texaments comes the long awaited upgrade of TI ARTIST. Called TI ARTIST PLUS, it

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VAST USER GROUP INFORMATION

The **VAST USERS GROUP** is a support group for Home Computer users. We primarily support the TI-99/4A Home Computer and compatibles, but all computer users are welcome. We will be meeting at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center in Tempe on the 2nd Saturday of the month (October 14). In the coming year, the meetings will ALL be on the **SECOND** Saturday of the month. A two month calendar showing the meeting dates for November and December is included on the Editor's page so you will know when the next meetings will be. The meetings will start at 10:00 a.m. and continue until 11:00 a.m. with socializing starting at 9:00 AM. Please see the address page for additional meeting information. The yearly membership fee is \$15.00 and now includes the newsletter mailed to your door!

All meetings are open and anyone may attend. Only dues paying members may vote in elections and obtain programs from the Users' Group Software Library.

CURRENT OFFICERS

President

Mike Grogan.....272-4315

Vice-President

Bill Wedmore.....998-1821

Secretary

Mike Marfisi.....491-1552

Treasurer

Mike Marfisi.....491-1552

User Group Librarian

Stephanie Bannon.433-9624

Newsletter Editor

Jim Ely.....921-3375

BBS SysOp

Sue Miller.....375-8456

The date that appears in the upper right hand corner of your mailing label is your newsletter subscription expiration date. Address renewals to the return address on page 10. Newsletter **ONLY** membership is available for \$12.00/year, First Class Mail.

The User Group's BBS is in operation 24 hours a day. Contact it at (602) 242-9868. There are 4 message bases, a TI specific download section, and a lot of interesting conversation and information available here so why not give it a try.

Deadline for submission of articles or advertising for the Newsletter is the first Saturday of every month. Articles may be submitted in any form, however, the preferred method is by phone transfer directly to the Editor or to the VAST User Group BBS NEWSLETTER Section.

Advertising rates are as follows:

COMMERCIAL:

Full Page

\$12.00

Half Page

\$7.00

Quarter Page

\$4.00

PERSONAL:

Four lines,

30 Characters/line

\$1.00

\$.20 per line over four.

All rates are for **ONE** issue only!

Programs are available from the **USERS' GROUP LIBRARY** at the following rates:

SS/SD Disk \$2.00

DS/SD Disk \$4.00

If copying of documentation is required, it will be at the rate of \$.10 per page. If the User Group supplies the disk, please add \$1.00 to the above charges. An exchange program for free programs is also in effect. Please contact the librarian for further information. A complete list of what is in the library is available on 2 disks free of charge if you supply the disks or for \$1.00 per disk if the User Group supplies the disks.

DISCLAIMER: Information in this newsletter is gathered from other user group newsletters from around the world and original articles by members of our user group. The information is believed to be correct and accurate as published. Where possible, original sources and authors are stated. Errors should be brought to the attention of the editor of this newsletter. This user group is not responsible for programs and construction projects tried by its members or others. YOU try them at your own risk. Permission is hereby granted to other user groups to republish articles appearing in the *VAST News*.

The Secretary's Slate

MINUTES

VAST User Group
September 9, 1989

The September meeting of the VAST USER GROUP was called to order by President Mike Grogan at 10:05AM. The meeting was held in it's usual place.

The minutes of the August meeting were accepted as published in the VAST Newsletter.

The Treasurer reported a bank balance of \$395.77 with an income of \$139.70 and expenses of \$272.20. The large expenses resulted from the moving of the BBS from Jim to Sue. Our BBS expenses are running about \$45 per month but the collections have been netting only a few dollars each month. It was suggested that some of the heavy users need to be a little more aware of the cost of operating the board when it comes to the BBS fund donation can.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LIBRARY: Bud Barnes reported in Stephanie's absents that the restructuring of the listing is coming along and should be completed soon. It was suggested that the listing be made available on disk if possible. Mike Grogan said that he would upload a catalog program that will allow a disk catalog to include descriptions of each file thus making it easier to identify a program on the disk.

BBS: No report. Sue absent. It was noted that things seem to be running smoothly. Jim reminded everyone of the upload section for the newsletter. He would really like to see more contributions. He thanked those who had written articles in the last few weeks and reminded everyone about the biography he wants from us all.

PROGRAM: Dan reported that the program for October would of course be our picnic/swap. For November we will meet at Ely Ink where Jim is planning to show us how the newsletter is put together. Then in December, Dan has a CAD demo in the planning stages. A suggestion was made that maybe at the December meeting we could hold a Christmas party. Everyone liked the idea. When asked for a volunteer to head a committee to organize one, the silence was deafening so the idea was dropped.

TI: Ian had mentioned that he had spoken with Rene Mitchel of *SOFTWARE* on Thomas Road in Phoenix. Mr. Mitchel had said he had a lot of TI software in warehouse that he would sure like to move. We thought that if we could work out some kind of deal, perhaps we could take some of it on consignment to the FESTWEST and sell it for him. We will check on this further. The next TI SIG will be on graphics programming. Time and place to be announced later. Dan announced that Texaments has released TI ARTIST PLUS. This is an upgrade to the TI ARTIST program that is now the standard graphic program for the TI.

OTHER: Bill Wedmore reported no activity from the "other computer" committee.

PICNIC/SWAP: Stephanie absent, no report. It was agreed to give her any amount of funding she felt necessary to pull off a spiffy picnic.

PUBLICITY: No report. Chairperson absent.

OLD BUSINESS

DISK ORDER: Mike will place an order for 500 disks at 23¢ each. Anyone else interested in ordering some should contact Mike and prepay the order.

NEW BUSINESS

We were invited to attend the SW 99er's picnic in Tucson to be held on Saturday 9/16. Anyone interested please contact Jim so he can let BJ know if any of us are planning to go.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 11:10AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Marfisi



This Month's Member Profile

This month we have Mike Marfisi who was born in Buffalo, NY 40 some odd years ago. He spent about 10 years of his youth heavily involved in the scouting program where he achieved the rank of Eagle.



He attended college in Saranac Lake, NY and Boston, MA where he graduated with a degree in radio broadcasting. He spent several years spinning records as a DJ in Lake Placid, NY, Boston and Buffalo. The memory of those years came when he was working a news shift on a Friday afternoon in November of 1963 and the UPI teletype rang out the "news flash" bell. I had to announce to the entire town that President Kennedy had been shot and killed.

He married his high school sweetheart, Cherry, and somehow acquired one son.

After discovering that radio announcers didn't make too much money in New York (something they managed to avoid telling you in school!), he served as an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician (paramedic)) for the largest ambulance company in Western NY for the next 5 years. He moved all the way to beautiful Arizona in 1979 only to discover that EMT's don't make much money out here

(something they managed to avoid telling you in the Chamber of Commerce literature!). He finally ended up happily employed at Chandler Regional Hospital where he is still not making much money, but that's another story!

He purchased a TI-99/4A during the great "computer price war". It is the ONLY Computer he has or uses. He figured it was cheaper than an Atari game and he might learn to do more than shoot aliens. He fell in love! He uses his TI for home record keeping, word processing and keeping track of all of his collections.

He joined VAST when it was just being formed and has served as Librarian, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

His hobbies include collecting 50's and 60's hit music. He has over 60 tapes full of the top hits from that period. He also collects original radio shows from the "Golden Age Of Radio" back in the days when radio was "the theater of the mind". He has over 1600 programs in my collection.

That is this month's Member Profile. Say HI to Mike at the Picnic this month.

The Opinions Expressed...

In the July newsletter we were treated to an impassioned plea from our secretary concerning the path this group was taking. It was noted that the original group had changed since many of the members had moved on to computers other than the TI, and it was implied that these members had forced the format change on the TIers left in the group. Some of the TI only people complained that the TI was being shoved aside and ignored... all of this was

blamed on the change to a "generic" user group and ignored, in my opinion, any of the real problems that existed (and still do) within this group.

This group, as it stands now, supports the TI to the best of its ability. If a few more of the TI people would contribute rather than complain, even more support would be available. However, the bottom line here is the lack of participation by the TI contingent, not some "plot" by the non-TIers to take over the group. Indeed, the non-TIers remain with us as a source for TI problem solving even though many of them no longer own TIs.

In addition the group maintains a TI program library, there is no group library for any other brand of computer. The group BBS maintains a file area for TI programs, the only such area in Phoenix.

That there was lack of TI demonstrations at meetings can, in my opinion, be linked directly to the fact that few of the TI only members could be bothered to take the time to provide such programming, and those that did provide programming were tired (rightly) of being the only ones doing anything. Indeed, until our present officers were elected, the officers consisted mainly (if not entirely) of non-TI members, not because they wanted to take over but because the TI people couldn't be bothered to serve.

The open letter from our secretary in the July newsletter asked several questions and then proceeded to answer them. I'd like to take the same questions and answer them from a different perspective.

See "OPINIONS"
Continued on page 6. . .

T.I. Writer

From the Pittsburgh User Group *Pug Peripheral Newsletter*.
Entered by Gary Taylor. Retyped again by Wallace Knight for
VAST News.

part 2

by Stan Katzman

Errors.

This part is about error corrections. I don't know about you, but I am one of the world's worst typists. On a normal typewriter, I make so many typing errors it is pathetic. The ability to correct errors before the text is put to paper is one of the greatest assets of word processing. So let's talk about some of the ways to correct errors.

If you are typing along in T.I. Writer and you see that you entered the wrong letter, just use Fctn S (<-) and retype the correct letter. That's easy enough. Sometimes you will notice an entire word misspelled. Just take the cursor back to the word and type over it correctly.

Sometimes you will leave out a letter or letters in a word or even a word or words in a sentence. This correction is a little more complicated but easy enough. Place the cursor one space after the place you want to start and then press Fctn 2 (Ins Char). You will see the line split and then type your insert correction. Now you want everything closed up again and normal. You do this by pressing Ctrl 2 (Reformat). This will put everything in order. Reformatting is very handy for adding words, phrases and even sentences. Try it out, you will find it very convenient.

You can remove letters or words by putting the cursor over the character to be removed and pressing Fctn 1 (Del Char).

Sometimes you will not like a line of text. To correct this, just press Fctn 3 (Del Line) and the entire line will be erased.

Another more complicated method of correcting errors or making changes is with the SearchH directive in Command Mode. To do this, go to the Command Mode (Fctn 9) and press SH and then <enter>. You will now see "FindString or ReplaceString". Now press RS and <enter>. You will then see "Replace enter /old string/new string/:". Let's say you misspelled Brown as Brawn. To correct this, enter "/Brawn/Brown/" and press <enter>. The cursor will then stop at the first instance of "Brawn" and you will see "REPLACE STRING (Yes, No, All, Stop)?". If you want this word replaced with "Brown" press "Y" and the cursor will go to the next instance and repeat as above. If you want all instances of "Brawn" replaced with "Brown", press "A". No and Stop are self explanatory.

T.I. Writer has what is known as a Screen Editor. This means that any mistake can be corrected anywhere on the screen. Just get the cursor on the error anywhere on the screen and make the appropriate corrections. There are word processors that are only line editors, which means that you can only correct one line at a time on the screen. I feel that a screen editor is more convenient.

Try these processes to correct errors and more next time. S.K.

"News"

Continued from page 1

features whole bunches of new features. Available for \$24.95 from Texaments or our own Dan Shell. If you are an owner of the original TI ARTIST, you can get the upgrade for \$14.95 if you return the original disk and front cover of your instructions. Check with Dan to see if he is matching that offer.

From Asgard: These guys are at it again! It seems that every month they introduce new software.

This month's entry is called PIX PRO. This program lets you

take files stored in Picasso, Graphx, TI Artist picture, TI Artist instance, Page Pro, MacPaint, RLE or PIX formats and save them as Graphx, TI Artist picture, TI Artist instance, Picasso, Page Pro or PIX pictures. A Lot of possibilities here.

Latest word on PRESS is this month, maybe. I hope, I hope!

DISKS FOR SALE

We have purchased and have in our possession some very good quality DSDD disks. If you are interested we will sell them for

25¢ cents each. Contact Mike at 491-1552 to order.

That's it for now. Hope to see you at the picnic. M.M.



"OPINIONS"

Continued from page 4

Question #1: Has there been an influx of new members who own and use computers other than the TI?

No, not an influx.. but then we didn't get an influx of TI computer owners either, even though our secretary stated the "overwhelming majority of people who have joined VAST since the change have been TI users." Now, as far as I can tell, we acquired less than 10 new members... and to my knowledge they were pretty evenly split in computer brands.

However, our secretary's answer omitted a very important detail. There is virtually nothing done to advertise this group. Recently we acquired a new caller to our BBS, one with a four TI systems.. a person who was completely unaware, until recently, that there was a TI support group in the city.

Obviously, if one doesn't let people know the group exists, new members, TI or otherwise, aren't going to materialize. There is a lot of talk done about advertising the group, but actual action is sadly lacking.

Case in point. At the August meeting, I mentioned a science fiction convention to be held in Scottsdale the following month. As part of this convention there is a computer room running demonstrations virtually 24 hours a day. There was potential there for attracting new members to the group. It was mentioned that "hand-out" cards would be a good idea to distribute there, as well as other places. Hand-out cards were promised prior to the convention... a full month was available for these cards to be made. (In point of fact it didn't even need to be anything fancy. Simply

using TI writer and a printer, flyers could have been made in approximately an hour.) However, come the convention, nothing to publicize the group was available.

We also maintain a club BBS. Supposedly, this has always been a tool for attracting new members, among other purposes. Personally, it was because of the friendly chatter on the BBS that I attended my first VAST meeting and joined the group. We have, in the past month or so, attracted several new people to the BBS.. people who have expressed an interest to me in attending a meeting in the future. And yet, these same people who complain about the group not growing now are complaining that non-members are on the BBS and talking about subjects that don't suit them. (One might mention that these complainers rarely call the BBS themselves and on the occasions that they do call, do little to contribute to the conversation other than to complain that it doesn't interest them.)

The once friendly atmosphere of the BBS that would induce people to come to our meetings has disintegrated into a "close it up and make it the way it was" attitude. This puzzles me since the basics of the BBS have remained the same...there is an area for general chit chat, an area for tech talk and an area for TI talk, as there always has been. Indeed, in recent weeks the TI area has been full of TI chatter by member and non-member alike. The only real change seems to be the new people and, if we are to grow, we must welcome newcomers to our midst, not close them out as not "belonging". The other areas of the BBS are being used as well. I find it hard to understand why the use of the BBS by members and non-members is

such a bone of contention since, in the past, many of these same complainers complained because the BBS wasn't being used enough.

(((An aside for those not familiar with BBS structure - A message based BBS system can be compared to a newspaper... one section for news, one for sports etc. One person may want to read only the news and another may want to read only the sports. If one isn't interested in sports one needn't read the sports section. A BBS works in virtually the same way. Our BBS has a general chatter area, a TI talk area, a general computer area, a for sale area, a serious topic area, a bird area as well as a TI file section. If one only wants to read TI talk then one doesn't even have to look at the other sections, much less read them. Topics are pretty well confined to the appropriate area.))

The bottom line is, if we do not make these newcomers welcome on our BBS then what incentive do they have to come to a meeting or join the group? And if people do not feel they will be welcomed at our meetings how are we to attract new members?

Question #2: Has the change stopped the loss of old TI'ers who have moved on to other computers?

Our secretary notes it hasn't stopped the loss and blames it on the bickering. I agree it hasn't stopped the old members from leaving but, from my view, it was because, having moved on to other computers, they grew weary of also having to be the only ones running a joint group to support TI and others with little or no help (but lots of complaints) from many of the TI contingent.

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Continued on page 7. . .

"OPINIONS"*Continued from page 6*

Question #3: Has the inclusion of other computers resulted in any increase in the participation of the "other" users?

Our secretary answers this no and cites our newsletter with only one "other" contribution as proof. I find this ludicrous since, until the present officers were "elected", virtually ever post was held by one of the "other" members. That we have Tiers in some of those positions now is strictly because the "other" users refused to continue in posts held for several years.

Question #4: Has the change produced any results?

On this point the secretary and I agree. The past year was full of bickering, brought on, from my point of view, by Tiers who wanted things done for them within the framework of the group without having to expend any effort to contribute.

The July meeting showed that things could work in a generic form, committees that should have existed were formed and there have been presentations or demonstrations at the last three meetings, generic and TI.

But we now are falling into the same bickering, unpleasant atmosphere on the BBS. An atmosphere where the Tiers give the appearance of saying their interests are the only ones welcome on the BBS or within the group. an attitude that is driving away old faithful members as well as any potential new ones. These people seem to be determined to kill the group since it isn't run 100% to their specifications. completely disregarding that there are other members of the group with other, different, computer related interests.

In closing his remarks, our secretary declared "We want to move forward, not stand still" and yet, the attitude displayed lately is one geared to driving people, members and newcomers alike, away. They seem to be saying "our way or no way". They seem to be unwilling to allow that there are members within this group with computer related interests that don't exactly match theirs. To my eyes, it is they who are unwilling to expend any effort towards expansion or even cooperation. If new people are not made to feel welcome, if old members are driven away, the only thing accomplished will be the death of this group.

Also in his closing, our secretary very dramatically declared "WE WANT OUR USER GROUP BACK!".

In my closing, I remind him and others, that this is a group that belongs to ALL of the members, not just a select few.. and it is time that that select few realized they are not the only people in this group.

Stephanie L. Bannon

P.S. For those who do not know me well and may assume I am one of those "other" computer owners accused of trying to ramrod the group, I own a TI and only a TI.



**Don't let the
Great Pumpkin
get YOU.
Happy Halloween!**

**VIEWS AND REVIEWS
COMMENT CAT**

by Mike Marfisi

During the September meeting while we were talking about the library, someone said that it would be nice if we had a program that would list the contents of a disk and then allow us to add comments to each program title, thus describing the program. It would make the work of the librarians so much easier. Producing a library catalog would be a much less arduous. Well along came good old Mike Grogan with an upload that answered our prayer. The program is called COMMENT CAT. Mike says that he has no idea who wrote it but he made a few improvements.

This program opens with a title screen that prompts you for the disk drive you wish to catalog. The next screen is the main work screen. After the program scans the disk, you are presented with a listing of the first 10 programs on the disk. The screen also shows disk name, number of used and free sectors and how many pages the listing will contain. In the bottom area you will find a menu. From here you choose the function you wish to perform. Choices are delete (eliminate file from disk), rescan (relist the disk contents), forward (page forward to next group of programs), ld & run (run the selected program), print (print catalog), Exit, back (page backwards), and comment (add comments).

Select the function you wish to perform by pressing the first letter of the command. A word of caution here. If you're planning to delete any files, do so before adding comments. If you don't, you

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"VIEWS"

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will find that your printout is not accurate.

The main purpose of this program is, of course, to add comments to the program listing. Selecting "C" from the menu prompts you for the number of the program for which you wish to add a comment. The programs are listed on the top of the screen, each page listing 10 programs. Once a program number is selected, two lines appear at the bottom of the screen. You can now type in up to 48 characters describing the program or make any other notes you wish.

After you have completed all the notes you wish included, specifying "program" at the "next comment" prompt will return you to the main menu from which you would select "P" for print. Answer the "printer type" prompt and sit back and watch a "disk manager" type printout but with all of your special comments printed to the right of each program listing.

After printing, you can continue with another listing by selecting "R" for rescan or you can quit by selecting "E" for exit.

This is not a spectacular program with lots of bells etc. but it sure does the job for which it is intended. Thanks Mike G. The program is on the BBS as COMM/CAT or will be available from the library. M.M.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A NOTE OF THANKS...

I would like to start off by thanking all of the folks who followed through with their biographical sketches for me. It showed me that you really do care if there is a newsletter or not, and you do wish to be a part of it. I asked for 3 by the end of September and received 5 replies. Two were uploaded to the BBS, one was sent to me and two were delivered directly to my Print Shop. Three of the five were received with pictures and, hopefully, I will get pictures for the other two. Thanks again and keep them coming in.

NEXT MEETINGS...

Here is the calendar for the next 2 months...

NOVEMBER 1989						
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		

DECEMBER 1989						
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						

Next month, November, the meeting is scheduled to be held at Ely Ink Printing, 2700 W. Baseline Rd., Suite 131, Tempe, AZ. I will be doing a demo of Desk Top Publishing on an IBM Clone. I plan to show you how this newsletter is put together and show you how it gets printed. More details in the November newsletter.

IN THIS ISSUE...

On page 4, our member profile this month is of the Secretary/Treasurer of our Group, Mike Marfisi. Also on page 4 is a rebuttal to an editorial that was in the July issue of the newsletter. This one is by Stephanie Bannon. Our TI-Writer series continues on page 5 with a summary of the various ways to correct errors using this fine word processor. If you were at last month's meeting, a desire to have a cataloging program that allowed comments was made. Mike Grogan said he had one and he uploaded it to the BBS. Mike Marfisi was so impressed with it that he did a review of it and that is on page 7. Our BBS AND YOU is on page 9 with a short overview of what PC-Pursuit is and how it works. I understand that some changes have taken place on this long distance service, so for the latest information, I suggest you contact PCP directly for charges or usage. Since our Picnic is this weekend, a map of Encanto Park is on page 10 with some of the main streets of access marked so you can find your way to the park easily.

That's all I have for you this month.

UPCOMING TI EVENTS...

October 15 - 3rd Annual Central Pennsylvania User Group Computer Expo in Carlisle, PA. Contact the group at P.O. Box 14126, Harrisburg, PA 17104-0126

November 4 - The Annual Chicago TI-Faire in Rolling Meadows, IL. Contact the Chicago Area TI-99/4A User Group at P.O. Box 578341, Chicago, IL 60657

November 5 - The Milwaukee TI-Faire in Milwaukee, WI. Contact Gene Hitz at 4122 N. Glenway, Milwaukee, WI 53222

That's it for this month. See you at the Picnic.

Jim Ely, Editor

OUR BBS AND YOU WHAT IS PC PURSUIT

By Dave Ratcliffe

Taken from *THE PHILADELPHIA
AREA TI-99/4A USERS' GROUP
NEWSLETTER*

Those of us who use the computer to communicate with bulletin boards in other cities know the feeling of panic that sets in when the monthly phone bill arrives. Calling BBS's long distance can be a costly proposition. It is even more so for a BBS SysOp. Text files and software don't grow on trees after all, and supplying a BBS with both, means LOTS OF CALLS. Until now, my monthly phone bill for computer-related calls has hovered in the \$75 - \$100 range. My wife, meanwhile, has hovered over me with intent to do bodily harm, if the bills kept coming in that high! Luckily, some one at Telenet had a great idea. They call it PC PURSUIT.

What PC PURSUIT amounts to is a way to make unlimited long distance calls to computer BBS's in certain areas for a flat fee of \$25 a month!!!!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: First you call your local TELENET access number (usually 1 number for 300/1200 baud and another for 2400 if it's available). When your computer connects, you choose the area code you are calling and the speed you will use, then enter your ID# and Password. Upon connection to the terminal in the area code you want, you simply treat the system as if you were dialing from your modem. If you get a CONNECT on your screen, you are on-line and can stay that way as long as you wish. (\$25 flat rate, remember?). If the system you are calling is busy, the word BUSY will appear on your screen. You can then enter a "?", the normal Hayes command for re-dial, and keep trying till you get a connect. When you are finished with your session, you can disconnect from the area code you were calling and connect with another to make more calls.

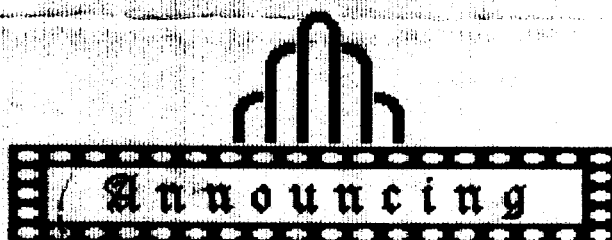
NOW, HERE ARE THE DRAWBACKS. While you can access PCP from any city with a TELENET number, you can ONLY call areas that have been set up with the necessary equipment. To date, only 25 cities are so equipped; Los Angeles, Tampa, Chicago, and others teeming with BBS's. NEXT, PCP charges you one of two ways. Either by regular

monthly postings to the credit card of your choice, or by automatic withdrawals from you checking account. They believe that avoiding a monthly mailed bill helps keep the costs down. LASTLY, some of the most heavily used area codes or "nodes" do not have enough lines for easy access. A call to the 202 area can take several hours to get through, because of the limited number of access lines.

The Bonuses are obvious!! Unlimited length and number of calls to PCP cities! No matter how many calls you make, you pay (\$25) per month MAX!!!!

ONE IMPORTANT NOTE: PCP has NOTHING to do with CompuServe, The Source, Delphi or GENie. They all have there own access numbers.

Since I received my PCP access in mid Oct., 1988, I have logged onto BBS's in Phoenix, Arizona; Seattle, Washington; Miami, Florida; Philadelphia, PA.; Atlanta, Georgia, and Dallas, Texas. I can now converse regularly with Stu Olson, Walt Howe, Paul Charlton and many others whose names are very familiar to the TI world. Is PCP PURSUIT worth it? After reading the above, you be the JUDGE?



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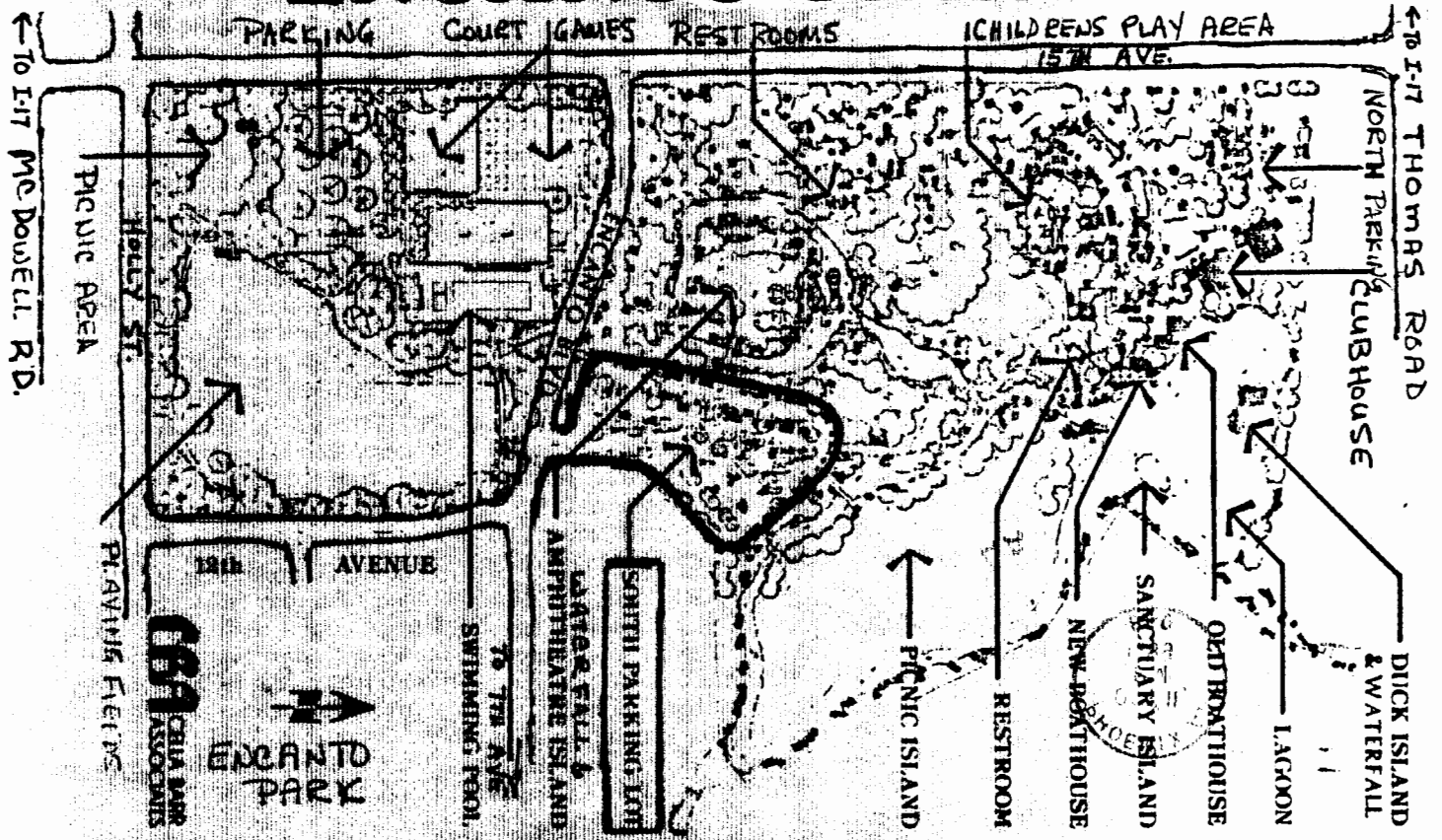
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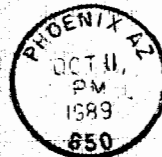
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VAST News

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

❁ ❁ **PICNIC** ❁ ❁

October 14, 1989
Encanto Park
15th Avenue and Encanto Blvd.
Phoenix, Arizona

There will be no regular meeting this month so we can have our 2nd Annual Photo Swap Meet. Bring your lawn chairs, folding tables and anything else you feel appropriate for a picnic. The Group is supplying most of the FOOD! Come and have a good time with us. The map above should help you find the place without too much trouble.

TO:

12/89

RALPH REES
18815 N. 13TH AVE.
PHOENIX, AZ 85027

FIRST CLASS MAIL

October, 1989