

**IMPORTANT MEETING  
NOTICE**

The November 11th  
meeting of  
VAST will be held at  
PYLE REC CENTER  
We will not be able  
to present the  
Desk-Top publishing  
demo this month.  
We hope to present  
it soon!



On behalf of the  
officers of VAST  
and the editors of  
this newsletter...  
May you and your  
family enjoy a....

**HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING**

**IN THIS ISSUE**

This month, in addition to all of our regular features  
We are proud to present Part 3 of our TI Writer Tutorial  
By Stan Katzman. Also look for an overview of the new  
TI ARTIST PLUS by Mike Morfii. By the way...as a demo  
of the features of the TI ARTIST PLUS program, this  
newsletter is being produced entirely with it. ENJOY!



**ATTENTION ALL TI'RS**



**IT IS**

**VITALLY IMPORTANT**

That you attend this month's meeting.  
Our future depends on it!

Deadline for submission of material for this newsletter is the 1st Sat of the month. Articles may be submitted in any form, but the preferred method is by phone uploading to the Newsroom section of our BBS.  
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ADVERTISING RATES  
COMMERCIAL

Full Page.....\$12.00  
Half Page.....\$7.00  
Quarter Page.....\$4.00

PERSONAL

Four lines/30cpl.....\$1.00  
Each line over 4.....\$.20

ALL RATES ARE FOR ONE ISSUE

\*\*\*\*\*

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 cents per page will be made. If the group supplies the disk add \$1.00. We do have an exchange program for new software added to the library. Contact Stephanie for details.

DISCLAIMER: We can assume no responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this newsletter and don't assume responsibility for any 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 source.

The VAST U.G. is a support group for home computer users. We primarily support the TI-99 & compatibles, but all computer users are welcome. We will be meeting at the Pyle Adult Rec Center in Tempe on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Meetings start at 10AM with socializing starting at 9AM. The yearly group membership fee is \$15 which includes a newsletter mailed to your door\*

Our meetings are open to all. Only dues paying members may vote or use the club library.

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CURRENT OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Mike Grogan.....272-3415

VICE PRESIDENT

Bill Medmore.....998-1821

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Mike Marfisi.....491-1552

LIBRARIAN

Stephanie Bannon.....433-9624

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Ely.....921-3370

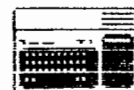
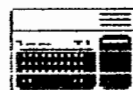
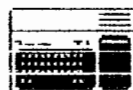
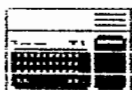
BBS SYSOP

Sue Miller.....375-8456

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The date that appears in the upper right corner of your mailing label is your newsletter and/or your club membership expiration date. Address renewals to VAST U.G. 1425 E. Del Rio Dr. Tempe, Az. 85282.

Our User Group BBS operates 24 hours a day. Call 242-9868. There are several message bases and a TI/Geneve Download section. Why not give it a try.



TI ARTIST PLUS

I have seen it. I have played with it. I am impressed! I just got my copy of TI ARTIST PLUS and am having a BALL playing with it! Let me tell you folks, this is truly a masterpiece. It is a major advance for the TI. TI ARTIST has become the standard for drawing programs on the TI, but this update of our favorite is a major step forward.

TI ARTIST PLUS does everything TI ARTIST did only better and faster. It's the PLUS part that turns a good program into pure dynamite!

TI ARTIST PLUS (hereafter known as TIAP) comes on 3 5.25 disks and can be installed on 1 5.25 floppy or any ram disk with enough space. It will load from just about any environment (Ext Basic, EA, TIW etc). Once you get past the fancy title demo you are shown the main menu which provides you with choices of the several modules including

- TI ARTIST
- Enhancements
- Fonts
- Vectors
- Movies
- Print & Conversions

Selecting TI ARTIST loads the main drawing part of the program. This is where you do the bulk of your creating. It is almost identical to the original icon screen of TIA. You will note some differences. The "Alpha Num" icon is gone as is the "Hard Copy" icon. In their place we now have "Arc" and "Color".

The "Arc" icon allows you to draw a curved line from point A to point B and then vary the degree of the arc to suit your needs. It operates like the "line" feature in that you define the length of the line and then "rubber band" it to the desired shape.

The "color menu" icon will cause the color menu to be superimposed on the drawing picture. This allows you to select color changes without having to return to the icon menu.

Some changes have been made in the key presses. You can draw using only the keyboard if you like. E-S-D-X move the cursor up down and right or left. The W-A-C-Z keys move the cursor on the diagonal. The comma key toggles through the available screen colors. The period toggles from plot to erase and the enter button acts as the fire button on joysticks. A nice improvement is in the way you can control the cursor speed. Just press a number key from 1 (fastest) to 0 (one pixel per key stroke).

The second main menu selection takes us to the enhancements section which offers the choice of moving and copying parts of pictures or using slides and instances. Not much change here except in the instance loading procedure. The instance area has been moved away from the slide menu into an area all its own and the loading process has been improved.

The third selection is Fonts. Here is a MAJOR improvement. If you are familiar with the old process you know that you loaded a font, then typed in what would fit on one

line, moved to the screen and placed the line where you wanted it. Under the new system you select the font you wish to use from a menu listing. Move the arrow down the listing to the desired font, hit the "L" (load) key and presto the font is loaded. You are then given options of outlining or shadowing the font. You can also tell the program where on the screen you want the text placed. You can place it along the left or right side of the page or have it auto centered. After making these choices you move on to the actual entry screen. Here you enter up to 14 lines of text on a "word processing" type grid. Once you have entered all your text, you may if needed go back and edit your text before dropping it on your picture. After any needed editing you can move the entire block of text to the picture screen and place it anywhere you like.

The next section is also all new. It is called Vectors and it allows for several amazing features. Your first choice is scaling. Simply put you can enlarge or shrink your picture or part of your picture. It allows you to change height and width independently. Another option is Vectoring. This is a new term and may need some explanation. A picture is made up of 49+ thousand pixels. When you save a picture you save all pixels whether turned on or not. When you create a vector only the horizontal pixels are saved. This allows calculations to be done only on the visible parts of the picture. This is much faster and more accurate. Vectors are used to create 3D images that

can be rotated, spun or tipped vertically or horizontally. You really have to see this to understand the ins and outs of the vector feature.

The special effects area of the Vector menu is used to enhance selected areas of a picture. They allow vertical or horizontal areas to be scaled along a range. Again you have to see it to understand it. Try this on for size. If you have a font text on screen you can make it appear as though it is coming at you from way off in the distance or going away from you. This gives the affect of depth of field.

Moving onward and upward we now come to the new feature called movies. Remember when you saw a deck of cards with pictures on each card. Each picture was just a little different so when you flipped through the cards you saw a moving picture? That's what you get here. You can have a moving picture on screen. Use this feature for demos and tutorials or whatever you want. I can see the day when we can download "movies" from BBS's like we do with pictures now.

The last section is the Print module. This one is really an improvement. With the old TIA you told the program the density and magnification you wanted and crossed your fingers because you never really knew what you would get. No more! When selected the print screen appears and features a representation of a printed page along the top of the screen. Below the "printed page" are several icons. These icons allow you to select features such as printing

your picture upright or sideways, spreading them apart or scrunching them up, printing in high or low density, printing the picture on half page or full page or printing them as a banner. That's right, you can print banners directly from the program! From 1 to 3 pictures can be printed at the same time. You can shade them, reverse them or outline them. TIAP offers many more printer files than did the old TIA.

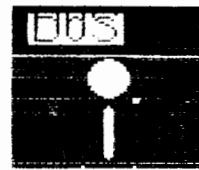
You can save your printer spec file so that it will default every time.

The program has accomodation for adding input devices of your own such as a mouse, touch tablet or your own custom designed device. You may also convert art from several other artist programs to files that are able to be handled by TIAP.

There you have it. I have somewhat scratched the surface of this marvelous program. You really have to see it to appreciate it.

The docs really don't do the program justice. Again it gives you the basics, but hands-on "playing" will teach you much more.

The new TI ARTIST PLUS is available from Texaments for \$24.95. Don Shell is selling it for \$19.95. If you already have the old version of TI ARTIST, you can trade it in to Texament for \$14.95. Try it. Believe me, you'll like it.



## DISK OF THE MONTH

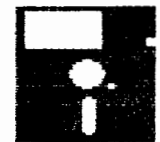
We have two goodies for you this month. The first one is for all you closet gamblers or for those of you who like to keep in form for your next trip to Vegas.

Our casino contains 10 super games of chance and skill. A couple of them might even help you win the PICK! Choose from 2 horse race games, 2 slot machines, a wheel of fortune. There are programs that generate random numbers to help make LOTO & PICK selections.

The second disk is for owners of EPSON compatible printers. We have about 20 different programs that print labels of every type and discription. Print address labels, gift tags with graphics, and a lot more.

Check them out for \$1.50 each at the meeting.

**BLANK  
DISKS**  
FOR SALE



We have some 500 DSDD blank disks available for you to purchase. We are selling them at \$.25 each. That includes jacket and write-protect tabs. See Mike.



**HAPPY  
TURKEY  
DAY!**

## A CONTINUING DIALOG ON OUR FUTURE

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In our July edition of the VAST NEWSLETTER, I wrote an editorial expressing my personal opinion about the direction of this UG and some of the changes that have taken place over the past year or two. Now some four months later we have received a reply to that editorial from a member who has an opposing viewpoint. I feel that I must reply to the reply because it contains some real mis-information that must be cleared up.

At the outset she states that the editorial pointed out that many of the original TI group had moved on to computers other than TI's. Very true. In her next sentence she states, "...it was implied that these members had forced the format change on the TIER left in the group." Nowhere, that I can see does the editorial say or even imply that. What was said was that there was a fear among our members that the group would not be able to continue in it's present form, and that those people who believed that were "...able to convince a majority of our members that the change would be in the best interest of the club." Nowhere in that editorial did I blame anyone for anything. What I simply said was that we had taken a look at a very real problem that existed within the TI community as a whole and our group in particular and tried to come up with a workable solution. Acting in a purely democratic manner, we voted on the issue and passed it. We

changed our constitution to comply with the new direction and went on from there.

The next two paragraphs the reply tell us that the group has continued to support the TI and that the non TI'ers have remained with us to help us poor lost souls keep our heads above water. I am looking at a VAST membership roster trying to find all these people she is talking about. I find 2, count 'em folks, 2 people who have moved to other computers and given up on the TI who are lending support to us TI'ers. One is Bill Wedmore our VP. The other is Don Shell, who although he works with other computers, still owns and uses a 9840 and maintains a business that supports the TI'ers.

She goes on to say that the "lack of participation by the TI contingent, and not some plot by the non TI'ers" is bringing us down. Again lets look at the facts and the membership roster. First of all we have as of Oct 1, 41 members in our group. As with any group there are always a lot more members on paper than attend meetings. That is a fact of life. Of our 41 members 21 have attended more than 2 meetings in the last year. Of those 21 attendees, 14 are exclusive TI users and 3 are users of TI plus other systems. Lets look at individual participation.

Mike Grogan-President  
TI Only  
Bill Wedmore-Vice  
President Non TI  
Mike Marfisi-Sec/Treas,  
Newsletter Exchange  
Editor. Contributing

newsletter editor,  
Disk of the Month  
Editor, TI committee  
Chairman, TI only

Stephanie Bonnon-  
Librarian, Picnic  
Committee Chairperson  
TI only.

Eud Barnes-helping  
organize club  
library. TI only.

Walt Brown-TI Committee  
member. Working on  
Fest West Booth  
project. Provides  
refreshments for each  
club meeting at no  
cost to the group.  
TI Only.

Jim Ely Ely-spends  
hundreds of hours  
producing the club  
newsletter. Provides  
printing to us and  
other user groups.  
Sysop of BBS for  
over a year. TI and  
other.

Jan Klabunde-provided  
demos of the 9640  
plus a wealth of  
tech know-how. TI  
only.

Hazel and Wallace  
Knight  
Provide typing service  
for our newsletter.

Provide free coffee  
at meetings. Have  
attended TI Fairs  
in order to bring  
TI info to our group  
TI only.

Sue Miller-Sysop of  
BBS. TI and other.

Dan Shell-Program  
Chairman. Has  
provided demos for  
meetings, provides  
hardware & software

support thru Cactus  
Cliff Computers.  
TI and Other

I am sure that I have  
left out some people or  
accomplishments, but the  
point is, a lack of  
participation is NOT our  
problem. Of the 21 regular  
attendees at least half of  
them are ACTIVE supporters  
of the group and of those  
11, 9 are TI'ers.

The focus of the original  
editorial was to ask the  
big question Did the change  
to generic help the group?  
I still maintain the answer  
is NO.

Now the writer goes on to  
respond to each of the  
questions that I posed.  
Lets check out the accuracy  
of her responses.

1. Has there been an  
influx of new members who  
own and use computers other  
than the TI? She is correct  
when she says we have  
acquired less than 10 new  
members. The actual number  
is 5 and ALL are TI'er's.  
Nothing was omitted from  
the answer as she states.  
The answer was clear.

2. Has the change stopped  
the loss of old TI'ers who  
have moved on to other  
computers? The answer given  
was no. The respondent  
chose to add something to  
the answer that was never  
stated or implied. She  
states that I blamed the  
loss on "bickering". My  
answer stated"...a great  
many of the dedicated and  
gifted TI'ers have totally  
given up and left the group  
because there is no longer  
anything here to keep their  
interest." This statement  
is not meant as an  
inditement of anything.  
People change, interests  
change. Why would I want



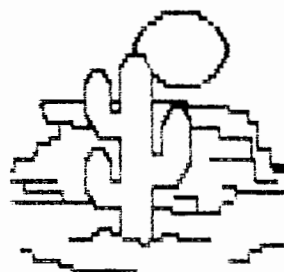
to belong to a Ford car club  
If I just bought a new VW?

3. Has the inclusion of other computers resulted in any increase in the participation of the "other users". Again she chooses to read her own thoughts into the answer without regard to the facts. There is not one "other user", "who refused to continue in posts held for several years". The first president of this organization chose not to run for office after serving 3 very productive terms because he was tired. But he was still a TI'er at the time he chose not to seek re-election. The next president moved on to other computers and lost interest and chose not to serve. He did not "refuse" as was colorfully stated.

4. Has the change produced any results? On this point we still agree. The main result has been bickering.

The whole point of the original editorial was that we had tried what we thought would be a solution to our problem but our solution became the problem. I never implied any duress was exerted to bring about this change. It was done within the democratic process as set forth by the club. But that same democratic process allows for us to correct errors in judgement anytime the majority of the group feels a change is needed. Mistakes are made and mistakes can be corrected. Only time will tell if the correction is also a mistake as it was the last time.

In closing I will repeat what I said in the original editorial...the VAST MAJORITY of this group want our user group back!



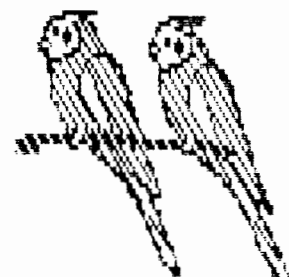
WHY NOT  
VISIT OUR

**BBS**

242 9868  
24 HOURS

300/1200 BAUD

**INTO  
BIRDS?**



CHECK OUT AREA

**5**

VISIT THE AVIARY



**BUY  
—  
SELL**

GOT EXTRA STUFF AROUND THE  
HOUSE? NEED A NEW GIZMO  
FOR YOUR COMPUTER? VISIT  
AREA 6-THE CLASSIFIED.

**242**

**9868**

**PARTICIPATE**



VAST USER GROUP  
1425 E. DEL RIO DR.  
TEMPE, AZ. 85282

