

# VAST NEWS

for the VAST Computer User Group

Volume 7 Number 12

December 14, 1991

Season's Greetings!

## TI World and Local News

Compiled by Jim Ely from various sources,  
mostly MICROpendium Magazine

### From the President...

Congratulations to the people that have stepped up to run our club this next year. It's never a bad thing to change leaders now and then. I look forward to what these leaders have in store for us. I think they liked how the club was being run and want to do their part and share some of their own ideas. Now they can change some things and I hope they do.

I think that we have made some headway with the club compared with the way it was in the past. Some things we have done include:

- 1) A club system at every meeting (which should have been from day one and wasn't).
- 2) The club library at each meeting (well almost!) and someone willing to catalog it all.

3) A steady meeting place.

4) Cards promoting our club (this was never done in the past). This is something that we should keep up along with newspaper ads to let the LOCAL people know we are here. I am still getting calls from people that have seen our posters. And this alone has given us more new members than any other thing this club has done in the last 6 years I have been a member.

5) And now we have taken on the task of hosting the 1992 FEST WEST here in Phoenix. What a deal for our club. It will be some hard work but we already have some hard working people working on the FEST. They cannot do it alone. We ALL need to help out if we are

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**NEWS, from page 1**

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going to make this a fun place to be in February, 1992... FEST WEST... THE BEST YOU CAN GET!

It's been great being your president for the last 3 years and I have learned alot and we all had fun. Thank you. Now I would like you to give the same support to our new president, JIM ELY, the new secretary, TOM PFEFFER, and let's not forget the club techie, (sometimes beyond the normal ...ha ha...), the new club vice president, RALPH REES. Well that's all I have. One more meeting to head and then I'm outta here. But I will still be around somewhere. Say, while I have you here... do you wanna buy a.....                      \$\$ Mike Grogan \$\$

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**Chicago Faire Report**

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The following is a condensation of a report on the Chicago TI Faire. The original article was written by Gary W. Cox and appears in the November issue of MICROpendium.

The Chicago Faire was labeled as a big success. Vendors reported sales as brisk. The hottest piece of software introduced was "Sound F/X" by Berry Boone. This is a program that allows the TI to play true digital sound through a TI-99/4A or Geneve without additional equipment. (Hopefully we will have a demo of this at the December meeting.)

Other goodies included 10 new games from Texaments that have been ported over from the Tomy Tutor Computer exclusively for use on the 9640.

Bud Mills featured the TIM converter which takes RGB analog signals and converts them to composite allowing the use of a composite monitor or TV set with the TIM 80 column device.

The Accelerator card for the TI was not available. It was listed as "still in the works." OPA showed a digital sound adaptor which connects to the parallel port allowing the user to play back 8 bit digital sound. Also new from OPA is a POP cart, a device containing a set of user-selected TI-99 modules/programs all in one cartridge that plugs into the module port. The user selects the carts he wants and all are "burned" into one cartridge that is then accessed through an on screen menu. The basic unit containing 256K can hold from 5 to 7 cartridges. Units with up to 2 meg are available.

Berry Miller representing 9640 News displayed a variety of products including GEME, a software package that allows multiple windows to be used on the 9640. Also available from Berry is GenTRI, a telecommunications, disk manager and wordprocessor all in one package.

Notung Software showed several new items including Bride of Disk of Dinosaurs, Fonts and Borders and Disk of Horrors including TI Artist art files, music and animation plus three original horror short stories by Ken Gilliland.

Harrison Software presented two new games: Scud Buster and Code Breaker.

There were several other dealers offering

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# SECRETARY'S SLATE

## MINUTES

VAST Computer User Group

November 9, 1991

The November monthly meeting of the VAST Computer User Group was held at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center on Saturday, November 9th. It was called to order at 10 a.m. by President Mike Grogan. All officers and 14 members were present.

The minutes of the October meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter. The Treasurers report was presented and accepted.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**NEWSLETTER:** No report.

**LIBRARY:** A new copy of Funnelweb version 4.41 has been added. Hopefully there will be no bugs in this one.

**PUBLICITY:** No special report.

**FEST WEST:** So far we have sold 4 tables and have 1 or 2 room reservations. Hopefully, now that the Chicago Fair is over things will start to pick up for us. We have sold 95 raffle tickets and started to mail consignment tickets to user groups for sale. SW 99ers are going to handle the registration table and we are giving Regina a table in exchange for the program she wrote for the FEST. Hazel said that the printer to be given away as the main prize has been purchased. It was suggested that a phone campaign be started to push vendors into making commitments.

Ray Frantz agreed to contact some T-shirt companies to investigate the chances of coming to the fair and selling FEST shirts and other Arizona type shirts and hats etc. Ray will supply buttons, key chains etc.

Mike Marfisi is going to check with David to confirm security arrangements. He had agreed to be our security guard for the weekend. He is a licensed guard in Arizona and would spend the night in the room to make sure all our property is protected.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Election of officers for 1992:** The ballots for the election were turned into the election committee and counted. The secretary announced the official results as follows:

*President:* Jim Ely

*Vice President:* Ralph Rees

*Secretary/Treasurer:* Tom Pfeffer

### NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10:55 a.m.

We were then treated to a very interesting discussion on disk drives by Ward Heinemann of ASDF Depot Repair Service.

Respectfully  
Mike Marfisi  
Secretary

# 4/A Foray

by Ralph Rees

## \* SHOP TIL YOU DROP DEPARTMENT

Well, as you all know, Christmas is just around the corner and the store owners are requiring large amounts of folding green for their respective wares. My son Kevin, who already owns a Nintendo "regular" system AND a Sega "regular" system, wants a Nintendo Super system for Christmas. I tried to talk him into a nice pair of Argyle party socks, but he wouldn't have it. I'd just like to know where he got his strong desire for electronic toys! I'd blame it on his mother but she'd just deny it and say it was me. WOMEN! Anyhow, here's hoping you all have a Safe and Happy Christmas and a MARVELOUS New Year!

## \* ALL'S FAIRE DEPARTMENT

I believe we are starting to pick up some good momentum for the *FEST* in '92. Hazel tells me that we are getting some people calling in their reservations at DAYS INN and also reserving booths AND speaking times. The speaking/demo times seem to be the hottest action, as I am told there are



only 2-3 spots left! I would say now to all vendors "Reserve booths now while time is early, tomorrow may be too late!" Our raffle tickets are doing pretty good also, but could always be better, so remember to buy plenty of 'em. They are available at our meetings AND by calling or writing Hazel.

## \* THANKS GUYS DEPARTMENT

A word needs to be said here about our retiring officers, President Mike Grogan, Vice-President Jim Ely, and Secretary/Treasurer Mikey Marfisi. I for one can say you guys did a great job and I'm sure I can speak for the whole group. Jimmy was elected to the post of President by a meager margin of votes over his opponent. It was close, but our Jimmy came out victorious. HAIL TO THE CHIEF!!

## \* UNKNOWN TI'ER DEPARTMENT

For those of you who frequent our AWESOME yet under-used bulletin board service... Did anybody ever find out who the Unknown TI'er is? I left a few messages and I know a few others did also, but he sort of got ignored and drifted off. Too bad that IT'S over. He seemed nice, know what I MEAN?

## \* I HATE WHEN THAT HAPPENS DEPARTMENT

Ah yes, I will again bludgeon you all to write an article, poem, manuscript, review, question, answer, fact, fallacy, feat, treaty, letter, note, etc., etc., for this doggone newsletter. It does not hurt! Really! All you gotta do is sit down and type like I'm doing right now!

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**4/A FORAY, from page 4**

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Now DO it!, or I'll plug the fan opening in your P-box and make your system overheat!!

**\* MONEY BEING ACCEPTED  
DEPARTMENT**

Just a closing note that I do accept currency in any numerical amount LARGER than a \$1.00 bill. Please remit today before you're too late. This offer to end soon. Get one before your friends. Be the first on your block. There is no substitute for quality. Quality is job 1. When better articles are written, Ralph will write them. The buck stops here. I like Ike. Nixon, he's the one. I'm waiting...

**FCTN +**

—Ralph...

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# Views & Reviews

## THE ORGANIZER For TI Base

Reviewed by Mike Marfisi

The Organizer by Bill Gaskill is billed as "an information management system designed for those who don't have the time or inclination to learn database management software." It stores information electronically just as you would store it manually in a filing cabinet. Each "cabinet" consists of four drawers, labeled A, B, C and D. Within each drawer are "folders" that are used to

store information that you wish to file. Each folder contains a Subject (the folder name) that is used to identify the folder, and six text lines to store any information you desire. The number of folders that can be stored in each drawer is limited only by your disk space, or up to the 16,129 record capacity of TI Base.

The Organizer offers a completely menu driven environment that permits any function to be accessed with a single letter or number entry followed by the <Enter> key. The system contains three menus: a System Menu which displays the cabinet and drawer names, an Options Menu which is used to perform utility type functions on the folder data, and a Drawer Menu, which lists the data manipulation options that are available for each drawer.

The program is designed to work as part of TI BASE. So one begins by loading TI BASE and then placing The Organizer into the DATDISK drive. At the dot prompt type "DO MENU" and <Enter>. The program will load, a title screen will appear, the drawers will be unlocked (the files will be opened) and the System menu will be displayed. You are now ready to go.

The names used for the filing cabinet and the drawers can be changed to suit your needs. The defaults are Drawer A, B, C & D. Change them to whatever you want.

You are now ready to enter data. You may choose to type data by using either a custom designed entry screen or the traditional TI BASE Append screen. Either works the

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## VIEWS & REVIEWS, from page 5

same, they just look a little different. After making your screen selection the data entry screen appears. This screen consists of line 1 which is the folder subject followed by 6 lines of text. First give the folder a title then enter whatever info you wish on the 6 text lines. The program will automatically sort the folders on the first or Subject line. If you make an entry error or want to change info in the current record you may do so.

At a later date, if you wish to change data, you may do so by selecting the Change option from the Drawer Menu. Type the first 10 letters of the folder name (the subject data entered for a folder) to locate the record to be changed. Then simply type over any data to be changed.

Anytime you wish to find data that has been entered you choose the Find option from the Drawer Menu. To use this option you must know the exact name you gave to the folder. You can get a complete list of folders anytime by using the List option.

Select F from the Drawer Menu. Type the first 10 letters of the name of the folder you want to find and the data will appear on the screen.

You may print the data from a file by selecting the P option from the Drawer Menu. The data will be printed to your printer rather than the screen.

The Options Menu allow you to activate a file or "open a drawer," delete a folder, list data (show all data in a drawer in alpha order), print a report (same as list accept

data goes to printer), remove deletions and sort a drawer.

That is really all there is to it. As I said at the top, this utility is designed for those who need very basic data storage capabilities and don't want to learn all of the ins and outs of TI BASE. It does the job nicely. For the owner of TI BASE this utility is a good way to get started using the program while learning more about TI BASE itself. By studying the make-up and command files of the Organizer the user gets a great insight into how TI BASE works. You can do a lot more with the utility after you learn more about TI BASE.

I would recommend this utility to those who 1) already own TI BASE and haven't been able to "crack" it yet but want to use its basic functions or 2) those who wish to purchase TI BASE and learn to use it but need to get started creating usable data bases right now. I would not recommend it to the person who just needs a basic data base to keep track of names and addresses. There are many other good simple DB programs for this type of person.

The Organizer sells for \$14.95 and is available from Texaments. Remember, to use it you must also own TI BASE ver 2.0 or higher. m.m.



# INDEX

## Articles Appearing in VAST News in 1991

### ISSUE DESCRIPTION

#### 4/A FORAY

(By Ralph Rees unless otherwise noted)

- 1 General chit chat. Smoke makes it work. Some TI history.
- 2 General info. Jim Ely wins President's Award. Mike Marfisi. Walt Brown. Switched 14.3 megahertz crystal. ZENO. BBS. Newsletter.
- 3 Listing of TI Command Modules. Replacing Mouse Balls.
- 4 FEST WEST, should we? BBS, try it.
- 5 Are folks aware of items available from the UG Library? FEST WEST rolling along. Everybody should write something for the Newsletter.
- 6 TI; a survivor. Need help with questions from newcomers.
- 7 The Parable of the TI by Dick Warburton
- 8 GRAMKRACKER. Let's get involved.
- 9 Sad note re the picnic. Disk art. Raffle tickets.
- 10 General babble re BBS, FEST, etc.
- 12 A word about Christmas. The FEST is picking up steam. Who is the infamous "Unknown TI'er?" Thanks to the outgoing group officers. Write something for the newsletter!

### ISSUE DESCRIPTION

#### MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES

- 1 A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT, Mike Grogan. Future of the TI. Fairware payment. UG membership.
- 1 DISK OF THE MONTH, by Jim Ely. Description of January DOM: FUNNEL WEB ver. 4.31.
- 3 OUR BBS AND YOU  
Top 25 reasons for using the VAST BBS, by Tom Pfeffer.
- 3 FEST WEST 91  
A report by Mike Grogan on FEST WEST '91
- 4 YET ANOTHER VIEW  
Jim Wayne gives his reasons for holding FEST WEST 92 in Phoenix
- 4 ON THE LIGHTER SIDE  
A letter from Computer Widow. Author unknown. Comedy.
- 7 WHAT IS A USER GROUP  
An editorial by Jan Knapp of the St. Louis 99ers.
- 7 JUST THE FAX, MA'AM  
An expose on the FAX machine and what modem communications could have, and may yet, become. By Carney Mimms, CW99ers.
- 8 THE PRESIDENT RESPONDS  
Mike Grogan responds to a letter in the August newsletter
- 9 CONTEST  
Jim Ely announces a contest based on the first edition of the VAST

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ISSUE DESCRIPTION

Newsletter

- 9 GRINS AND GROANS  
Mike Marfisi expresses his reactions to customer service by RAVE 99 Inc. Criticism of MYARC for total lack of customer service.

MEMBER PROFILES

- 3 Profile of Jim Ely.
- 4 Profile of The Knights — Hazel & Wallace.
- 9 Profile of Jim Wayne.
- 10 Profile of Ray Frantz.
- 11 Profile of Ed Morse.

NEW-AGE 99

(by Jack Sughrue unless otherwise noted)

- 1 No. 5. Jim Peterson & Tigercub Software.
- 2 No. 6. Part 1. Discussion of PAGE PRO and TIPS.
- 2 No. 7. Part 2. Discussion of PAGE PRO and TIPS
- 2 SPECIAL EDITION featuring Funnel Web. A review of the features and benefits. Word processing. FWB. TI-Writer.
- 3 No. 8. How to keep a user group alive; publish a newsletter; hold regular meetings; don't complain about workload; novice night.
- 3 No. 9. Comprodine, a look at the company & its products.

ISSUE DESCRIPTION

- 4 No. 10. Comprodine, part 2.
- 5 No. 11. The Lady From Lower Burrell (Mickey Schmitt). A look at MS Express Software.
- 6 No. 12. Mickey Revisited. A look at some of the new offerings from MS EXPRESS.
- 7 No. 13. The VCR Connection - Stuff available on video tape for the TI.
- 8 No. 14. Gentleman Genius - John Willforth. This was the final installment of the series.

Q & A — QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- 1 Questions to Mike Grogan about Computer lock up; cassette cable problems; erased tapes or disks; computer desks.
- 8 A letter to the officers concerning the way our meetings are run and other concerns.

SPEAK OUT!

- 1 Comments by Mike Marfisi on slow delivery of products; advertising products that are not available; communication between mail order companies and customer.
- 2 Response from Chris Bobbit of Asgard Software to SPEAK OUT! published in Jan. 1991 issue.
- 2 Response from Mike Marfisi to Chris Bobbitt's SPEAK OUT! response in the Feb. 1991 issue.

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**ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

- 8 An open letter from Tom Pfeffer to all TI'er regarding undelivered merchandise from OPA.

**IEWS AND REVIEWS**

- 4 Review of TI SORT. Reviewed by Bill Gaskill.
- 5 Review of Asgard's SCREEN PREVIEW program. Reviewed by Mike Marfisi.
- 6 Review of PAGE PRO BANNER MAKER. Reviewed by Mike Marfisi.
- 12 Review of the ORGANIZER, an add-in program to TI-BASE. Reviewed by Mike Marfisi.

As in the past, this INDEX was compiled by Mike Marfisi for inclusion in the newsletter. Thanks, Mike!



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**NEWS, from page 2**

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tons of hardware and software items for sale and all did a booming business.

For complete details of the Chicago Faire, beg, borrow, or s...l (buy) and read the November issue of Micropendium.

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**Barry Traver Receives Birdwell Award**

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At the close of the Chicago Faire, at the Saturday night banquet, the John Birdwell Memorial Fund award was presented to Barry Traver by John Birdwell's wife, Kathy, and daughter, Kelly. The award is presented for outstanding excellence in the TI and Geneve 9640 community.

This is the first of what is to become an annual award. Congradulations, Barry!

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**Mike Dodd Programs to be Sold by Beery Miller through 9640 News**

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Several programs that were formerly distributed solely by JP Software are now being sold by 9640 News.

They are PC Transfer, \$25 including utilities files (utilities alone, \$7.50); HyperCopy, \$15; and IdentiFile, \$10.

Berry Miller notes that he is not in a position to handle unfulfilled orders with JP Software. For information or to order, write 9640 News, P.O. Box 752465, Memphis, TN 38175-2465.

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NEWS, from page 9

### TI Source Resumes Operations

After being down for more than three months due to equipment failure, the TI Source bulletin board system has resumed operation. TI Source is sponsored by Texaments.

TI Source has logged over 50,000 calls since it went on line in 1983. It is a free service featuring user-to-user messaging, program downloads, TI news, technical information and information about Texaments products. It is accessible 24 hours a day at (516) 475-6463.

### Upcoming Meetings...

The meeting this month will be held in the CARD ROOM. Here is a calendar for the next two months with our meeting dates indicated...

JANUARY 1992							FEBRUARY 1992						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29

### In This Issue...

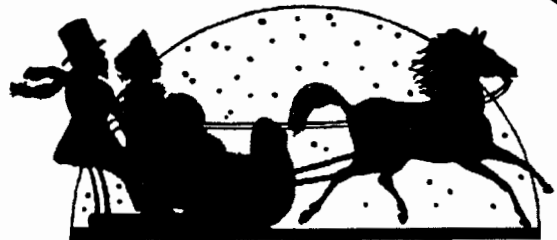
On page 4 is Ralph Rees' continuing saga in 4/A Foray, talking a little bit about everything. Views & Reviews, this month about an add-in program to TI-Base called the Organizer, is by Mike Marfisi and is on page 5. Our annual Index to all articles published in the pages of VAST News this past year starts on page 7. That's all there is this month.

### A Reminder...

Dues for 1992 are now due. Please renew your membership in the VAST Computer User Group by the end of December.

I hope you all have a Very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year! See you at the meeting on Saturday, December 14th.

*Jeri*



### Just a reminder...

The **VAST BBS** can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (602) 233-0790. This is a local call for most area residents. Give it a call for the latest information about the VAST Computer User Group!

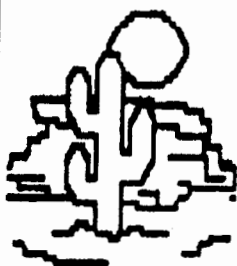


A COMPUTER USERS CONVENTION

# FOR THE TI 99-4A

and the

# MYARC GENEVE 9640



**LOCATION:** Days Inn-Phoenix/Camelback  
502 W. Camelback, Phoenix, AZ 85013  
(602)264-9290 or 1-800-688-2021

**DATE/TIME:** Sat Feb 15, 1992-9am to 5pm  
Sun Feb 16, 1992-9am to 3pm

**PRIZES  
COLOR PRINTER**

**Other prizes to be Announced  
there will be some door prizes, Too!**

**Fest tickets are on sale now (\$5.00  
for both days). Any one under 15, is free  
if with an Adult.**

**Why not plan your THREE DAY weekend now!  
FESTWEST RATES \$54.00 (1 TO 4 PEOPLE per  
Room per Day).**

**TI FEST WEST '92  
THE BEST YOU CAN GET**

**Presented by: THE VALLEY OF THE SUN TI  
USER GROUP (VAST)**

**For more information: Call BBS 233-0790 or  
H. KNIGHT (602)-938-5446 or  
R. REES (602)-869-8145**

**VENDOR'S MEETING WILL BE HELD.  
TIME WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.**

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**SOFTWARE  
HARDWARE  
&  
ACCESSORIES**

# VAST User Group Information

The VAST Computer User Group is a support group for the TI-99/4A Home Computer and compatibles.

The VAST Computer User Group operates a BBS 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The phone number is (602) 952-1111.

## CURRENT OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Mike Grogan . . . . .

### VICE

Jim Ely . . . . .

### SECRETARY

Mike Marfisi . . . . .

### LISTENING

Hazel & Wallace Knight . . . 938-5446

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Ely . . . . . 275-8018

### BBS SYSOP

Mike Grogan . . . . . 272-4315

Send any correspondence to the address below.

## PRICING RATES

ADVERTISING RATES TO MEMBERS for advertising. Non-members will be charged \$1.50 per ad.

Please contact the Secretary/Treasurer for **COMMERCIAL** advertising rates.

**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.

**TIME TO RENEW ANOTHER YEAR OF FUN AND EXCITEMENT... ALL FOR JUST \$15.00**



## VAST NEWS

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TEMPE, AZ 85282



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