

# VAST NEWS

for the VAST Computer User Group

Volume 7 Number 9

September 14, 1991

## TI LOCAL NEWS

(Compiled by Jim Ely and Mike Grogan)

You may have noticed that the word "WORLD" is missing from the above heading. That is because there is no news to report except for the local happenings. Maybe now that school is back in session and Fall is upon us, things will begin to happen again. Anyway, the BEST news is that FEST WEST is getting closer! je

### Changes

With the "letter" received last month from a member about how the meetings are run comes this change. The officers of the group will meet early and take care of any business that does not require a vote of the membership. Then I will report to you at the regular meeting and open the floor for any discussion that you want. I believe this will shorten the time it takes for business. This will help us have more time for demos and such. And speaking of demos, just what do you want to see? I want each of you to bring in a program that you need help with or that you are good at and would like to show others. If you show up with no program, then I would like you to fine yourself and put an extra amount in one of the kitties.

mg

## DAN...? OH, DAN...?

Has anyone seen DAN SHELL lately? Seems he has missed a few meetings. But the other day I found out that he has been working a lot of hours. DAN lives in NEW RIVER and drives to work in CHANDLER. Whew, what a drive. Also I was told that he will not be at the SEPTEMBER meeting. Why, you ask? Well it seems that DAN knows his job so well that the company has sent him to another plant to show them how it's done. If you think that it was a long drive before, wait until you hear where he is now.

Are you ready for this...? He went "down under." No not down, as in the earth, but "down under," as in "AUSTRALIA." Man, the lengths he is willing to go to get the job done right. ATTA BOY DAN !!!

DAN was able to take his wife and they plan

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**NEWS, from page 1**

to be gone for about 30 days. That's one place I have always wanted to go, and he gets to go and get paid for it.

As you know, a lot of our best software comes to us from Australia. I hope Dan will be able to talk to some of our brother TT'ers while there. CONGRATS DAN!! mg

**Hunter Valley User Group Disbands**

On a sad note, the Hunter Valley 99ers User Group, New South Wales, Australia, disbanded June 25, 1991. Reasons given for disbanding included lack of members willing to participate on committees, absence of contributions to the group's newsletter and lack of programs available locally for the TT.

Sound familiar? Is this what is happening to our User Group? I would sure hate to see that happen to us... je

**HELP WANTED**

We need people to help with things for the FEST. Please talk to RALPH REES or HAZEL KNIGHT and ask what you can do. Remember... this is a CLUB EVENT and it's going to take more than a few of us to pull it off, so join in!!! mg

**FEST WEST '92 Raffle Tickets Available**

The Raffle tickets have been printed and will be available at the group meeting this month and until the FEST. See the 4/A Foray column on page 4 for more information. je

**In This Issue...**

I got several contributions for the newsletter this month including 2 member profiles. I will run one of them this month and the other next month. This month's *Member Profile* is of Jim Wayne and is on page 7. I have started a *Contest*, the details of which are on page 5. 4/A Foray is on page 4 with several items of interest to all. And on page 8 is *Grins & Groans* by Mike Marfisi, an editorial of sorts on the state of things. That is what I have for you this month. je

**Upcoming Meetings**

Our meeting this month will be in the GREEN ROOM at Pyle Adult Recreation Center. Below is the calendar for the next two months with our meeting dates indicated...

OCTOBER 1991							NOVEMBER 1991						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

See you at the meeting!!! Come and see the changes that are being made.

Elections are close at hand so raise your hands and volunteer to hold some post. YOU are going to run this year. Rumor has it that NONE of the current board members is going to run for re-election so that leaves YOU! If YOU don't do it, FEST WEST '92 could just be the last official function of the VAST Computer User Group! je/mg

# SECRETARY'S SLATE

## MINUTES

VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP  
AUGUST 10, 1991

The regular monthly meeting of the *VAST* COMPUTER USER GROUP was held on Saturday, August 10, 1991 at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center in Tempe. The meeting was called to order by my President Mike Grogan at 10 a.m. All officers and 13 members were present.

A motion to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter was made, seconded and passed. The treasurer's report was accepted as given by Mike Marfisi.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**NEWSLETTER:** Jim apologized for getting the newsletter out a bit late. He pointed out that he has nothing for next month's edition. The *New Age 99* series is now complete. A suggestion was made to run the Martin Smoley TI BASE series. The idea met with some enthusiasm and the series will begin in the September issue.

Jim once again asked for some input on what our members would like to see.

**BBS:** Working just fine. Nothing new to report. The club has paid Mike Grogan for the use of his phone line for the rest of the year.

It was suggested that we hold a SIG or demo on the use of TELCO. The idea of having the session at someone's home met

with favor. It will be worked out for the near future.

**LIBRARY:** Wallace announced the addition of about 30 new disks from the Jim Peterson public domain series. Also several new TIPS image files have been added.

In response to several questions, we determined that the library still needs some cataloging work. It is a slow process and the librarians could use some help.

**PUBLICITY:** Tom Pfeffer reported that the *VAST* name is getting a lot of press with regards to *FEST WEST*. We are mentioned in several magazine columns and other newsletters.

### OLD BUSINESS

None

### NEW BUSINESS

Mike made an announcement about a free computer awareness seminar to be held over the next few weekends.

Jim Ely introduced the subject of holding our annual picnic. Mike Marfisi offered the use of his home and pool for the event. We asked for volunteers to make the arrangements and organize the event. No one seemed interested in working on the project so the idea was dropped. There will apparently be NO annual picnic this year!

Mike Marfisi proposed that we make video

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See MINUTES on page 4

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**MINUTES, from page 3**

tape demos of some of the programs we use. This would help folks learn to use the program and give members a source of more info about the TI. Mike will give the project a try. Our first effort will be DM1000.

Ray Frantz brought up the fact that the dues charged by the club is not even covering the cost of producing the newsletter. He questioned if it was time to think about increasing the dues. Jim Ely explained why the dues amount was set as it is. He pointed out that donations were really down over the last few months. It was proposed that we pass a donation bucket at each meeting rather than just have it sit on the table.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 11:07 a.m.

Virginia Davis then gave a demo of her Page Pro artwork.

Respectfully,

Mike Marfisi, Secretary,  
VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP

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# 4/A Foray

by Ralph Rees

◆ **PICNIC PICNIC DEPARTMENT**

Well, it's a sad note that we won't be having a picnic this year. The one that was held last year was a LOT of FUN and GREAT food. It was a time for a lot of discussions of various TI related stuff and a general gabfest. It was also at that event that I decided

that I just HAD to get involved more in the group and volunteer or do something to help support the club. Hence, this column came about and I became co-chair for the *FESTWEST '92*. Probably around election time I will through my name into the hat and run for Vice-President.

Anyhoo, maybe later on this year or next year **SOMEBODY** will have the feelings I had (and have) and step up to the pump and volunteer to to manage the picnic.

◆ **DISK ART DEPARTMENT**

I am strongly thinking about developing a small software business of my own that will deal in a diskful of instances, scenes, fonts, etc to use with TI-artist, etc. I am setting up a young lady who is an excellent artist with a normal TI system to develop artwork on.

I have some ideas on what I would like to do, but would also like to bounce the question off of group members. What sort of artwork would you be interested in seeing, but have not seen as yet? Are "theme" disks wanted such as "Disk of Dinosaurs"?

If you are interested and have ideas let me know, huh?

◆ **PASS THE BUCK DEPARTMENT**

As I stated last meeting, one way or the other we will have our *FESTWEST '92* raffle tickets available at the September meeting. Well, thanks to the artistic efforts of Hazel & Wallace Knight and the printing expertise of our illustrious vice president, Jim Ely, they will be available at the Sep-

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See *4/A FORAY* on page 6

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# CONTEST!

As some of you may know from first hand experience and others from hearsay, September marks the eighth year of publication of the VAST Newsletter. To commemorate the event, I would like to run a little contest concerning Volume 1, Number 1 of the newsletter. First a few rules:


- ① This contest is open to ALL members of the VAST Computer User Group EXCEPT the members of the board, the newsletter editor (obviously), and the current person cataloging the newsletters (Jim Wayne, et al).
- ② There will be only one prize awarded, that being a disk case and ten 5 1/4" disks.
- ③ Earliest postmark will determine winner. Deadline for entries is September 30, 1991. If no winner is apparent, the contest will be extended and additional information will be required.
- ④ Entries must be MAILED! No entries will be accepted at a meeting or hand delivered.
- ⑤ Winner will be announced in the October, 1991 VAST News, unless no winner is apparent, at which time subsequent rules and questions will be forthcoming.
- ⑥ MAIL ENTRIES TO: Editor, VAST News, c/o P.O. Box 27616, Tempe, AZ 85285-7616.

Now for the contest questions...

- ① Who was the Editor of the First newsletter? (HINT: his initials are at the bottom, right in the newsletter picture logo above.)
- ② Who was the president of the VAST Computer User Group at the time Vol. 1, No. 1 was published? (HINT: you can also find this information on the reproduction above.)



**newsletter**



**IN THIS ISSUE**

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(WATCH THIS SPACE FOR NEW AND EXCITING THINGS TO COME)

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Hello everyone, and welcome to the first issue of the Vast-99 Users Group Newsletter! I would like this opportunity to introduce members to our group. At this point in time, we are still in the formative stages of our development. Our first meeting was held in November of 1984. So, we have been around almost a year now. We held our meetings at the Phoenix Public Library at Central and McDowell Road on the second Saturday of the month. The meetings are held in the small conference room in the north east corner of the main floor. The room is open at 9 a.m. and our meeting is from 10 until 12. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge to attend the meetings. We rely on donations to fund the group, although we have established a \$5 membership fee. This will entitle you to full membership privileges. So far, the major privilege as a member is the ability to obtain programs from our software library. Oh, and of course, voting rights.

We have members in all ranges of knowledge from people who work with computers, all the way down to beginners. So, we touch upon just about everything at one time or another. Well, this about wraps it up for me. See you at the next meeting.

>BERRY KENNEDY<

See CONTEST on page 6

**CONTEST, from page 5**

- ③ According to the table of contents in the reproduction, there was a column called HALF-VAST on page 7 of that newsletter. There were two recipes on that page. What were they and include the SECOND recipe as part of your answer. (HINT: this one will require a little research on your part.)
- ④ Name 3 persons who wrote articles for the first issue.
- ⑤ Was there any advertising in the first issue? If so, what for?
- ⑥ How many pages was the first issue?
- ⑦ What was the yearly membership fee of VAST as stated in that issue?
- ⑧ Who were the Librarian and Secretary/Treasurer of VAST at that time? (2 different people)

There, that should keep you busy for a while. I know some of you still have that first issue, and others will have to do a little research for it, if not borrow a copy from "somewhere." I will tell you that several copies are available from a certain source, NOT ME, and are yours to keep just for the asking. Now all you have to do is determine who has those extra issues of VOL. 1, NO. 1 of the VAST NEWS and get busy!!

je

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

tember meeting and any time there after up until the fest.

Price is \$1.00 per chance and our First Prize is a color printer, with more goodies being added as we go along. If you can't make the meeting to get them, they can be obtained by writing:

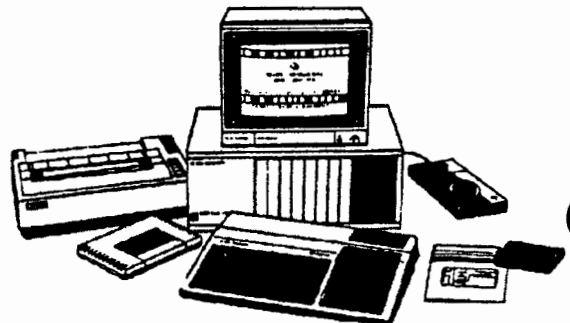
*Raffle Tickets*  
*TI FestWest '92*  
*6% 4316 W. Altadena*  
*Glendale, Az 85304*

Order a bushel basket full today!!

◆→ **AMAZING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

Last but far from least, there is a man that a few of us talked to at the last meeting that knows the TI inside, outside, sideways, etc. Three of us showed at his abode a few weeks back and he proceeded to show us some VERY amazing things he has done. He may plan some BIG things at the Fest-West '92 and at coming meetings. If I were you, I'd be at the meeting this month.

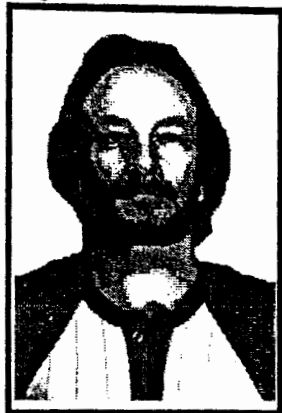
'Til next time... —Ralph...



## MEMBER PROFILE

This month our member profile is of *Jim Wayne*...

I was born West Chester, PA I moved to a small town called Kennett Square at the age of 8 and I graduated from Kennett Jr/Sr. High in 1967.



In November '67 I enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and spent the next 23 years in the service. I had assignments to Korea, Thailand, Spain, and Germany (Saw the wall fall). The stateside assignments were to Grand

Forks, N.D. (Brrrr!) for 3 assignments totaling 7 1/2 yrs, 1 year in Kansas City, MO, Hampton, VA for 5 yrs., and 8 months in California before retiring in September, 1990.

The Air Force trained me in the Supply Warehouse field in which I spent 7 years. In 1973 I was offered the chance to cross train into the Supply Computer field. I spent 6 years doing this before the doctors told me I had lost my high frequency hearing which forced me to cross train again. I selected to go into the Telephone Repair/Installation field and did so for the next 10 years. In 1989 I received my associate degree in Electronic Systems Technology from the Community College of the Air Force.

While earning my degree, I was also taking

a broadcasting course with the Columbia School of Broadcasting. I did some on-the-air work at the University of North Dakota's radio station, KFJM-FM.

I'm presently employed at RTS Technical Services as a telephone technician working at Honeywell on the Black Canyon Freeway and Bell Rd. I also have a professional networking business.

In 1983 I purchased my first TI-99/4A. I, like many others, paid full price for the console. I started with only the console, tapes, cartridges, and printer until 1987. While in Germany, I hooked up with the TI user group there. They helped me purchase my first fully loaded p-box, with 2 HH drives. I also have the Geneve, and I'm still learning both systems.

I joined the VAST 99ers in January, '91 to be with fellow (lady's too) TIers to continue to learn all I can about our orphan. I VOLUNTEERED to catalog all the newsletters the group has acquired so we will be able to locate the information on any subject needed by any club member to increase his/her knowledge of the TI. I have an extensive collection of cartridges and other items for TI, just like Mike Grogan. I try to get my hands on anything for the TI. I think I even have an item or two that he doesn't have (ha ha!!).

I've lived here in Phoenix just over a year and again fellow TIers came to my aid with answer to any questions I've had and they can answer yours too. JUST ASK!!! And remember keep on compuTing.

Jim Wayne

# Grins and Groans

by Mike Marfisi

Some of you may remember that way back in May of 1990 I ordered a RAVE PE expansion box. After many unavoidable delays the box finally arrived. But, alas all was not well. There were a great number of problems with the equipment which delayed installation. During the months of trying to solve one problem after another the long distance phone bills and shipping costs almost equaled the cost of the PE box itself. I got to the point where because I had talked to him so often, I almost felt like a member of John McDevitt's family!

Well the story at last seems to have a happy ending. I am pleased to report that the RAVE PE box is up, running and doing its job flawlessly.

I want to take this opportunity to thank John McDevitt for his help, his patience and one more fine product. John has been a prince throughout this whole ordeal. He has bent over backwards to help me every step of the way. He has interrupted his family dinners to take my phone calls. A big tip of the hat to RAVE 99.

Here is a company that has an A1 record for personal service and product quality. Every dealing I have had with John and RAVE has been a pleasant experience. I have purchased 2 versions of the RAVE keyboard replacement, a speech synthesizer board, memory expansion/RAM card and now the PE box. I would suggest that

anyone looking to expand a TI system take a look at RAVE. You will NOT be sorry!

Now let's look at the OTHER side of the coin. A few years ago I would have had the same words of praise for Lew Phillips and MYARC. Here is a company that brought the TI into the big league. They developed products that have made our TI a force to be reckoned with. DSDD disk controller cards, RAM disks, RS232 card, the Geneve 9640 computer on a card and the hard floppy disk controller that opened the world of the hard drive to TI'ers. This one company has produced more great hardware for the TI than any other. THAT IS WERE THE PRAISE ENDS!

During the last year the mere mention of the word MYARC sends a lot of people running for the antacid and headache medications. Ask all those folks who invested \$400 in the Geneve computer and are STILL waiting for the completed DOS. Where is the wealth of software that was being developed to take advantage of the great potential of this machine? More important...

## **WHERE IN THE HELL IS LEW PHILLIPS AND MYARC!?**

I have been trying to contact a live body at MYARC for 6 months! Last April I damaged my HFDC card while making some modifications for use in my new PE box. I called MYARC at the phone number listed in their literature. An answering machine took my call and instructed me to return my equipment to an Alabama address with a

See **GRINS AND GROANS** on page 9



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**GRINS AND GROANS, from page 8**


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a letter explaining my problem.

About two weeks later, I got a phone call from MYARC telling me the unit would be ready to be returned soon and the cost would be \$75. I told them to go ahead and ship the unit C.O.D. That is the last I have heard. All phone calls reach an announcement machine that takes no messages. Letters are completely ignored.

I used to have a great deal of respect for Lew Phillips and his organization. Now I rate him right up there with the biggest "Butterball" that has ever crossed a Thanksgiving dinner table! This guy is doing more to turn people off the TI than anyone I have dealt with. After all, if a software dealer is slow delivering a product... no big deal. But if your system is out of service because you can't get your equipment serviced for months, you are in a heap of trouble! He has made promises that have not been kept and claims that are not backed up. When someone had the nerve to call into question a claim he made in a magazine advertisement, what did this turkey do? Instead of clarifying the ad, he got mad at the publisher and pulled all his advertising from the ONE outlet he had for promoting his products. This is a smart person? But what difference would it make? He wasn't delivering the products advertised anyway!

So here I sit with a 200 dollar disk controller somewhere in New Jersey or Alabama and a 250 dollar hard drive that is absolutely worthless without MYARC's controller. And folks... I can't express my anger by buying a controller from another company.

Phillips is the only game in town!

I am not the only person in this fix. Not by a longshot. A visit to any of the nationwide BBS's or a look through the pages of *MICROpendium* tell of scores of other people with similar tales of woe. In fact this month *MICROpendium* saw fit to print an article calling MYARC to task for this same problem. They pointed out to this "foul" that a post card costs only nineteen cents and that maybe it would be a smart idea to keep customers informed of what was happening with their valuable equipment.

Personally, I don't think Lew Phillips gives a hoot anymore. Lew Phillips, who may be credited with the success of the TI after TI dropped it, may also be credited with its death.

I NEVER thought that I would entertain thoughts of buying a new system, but I find myself paying more and more attention to ads for "other" systems. I keep thinking about all the software that can be purchased off the shelf in hundreds of local outlets instead of having to wait for some software dealer to ship a mail order. I see friends using all kinds of gizmos not available for the TI that can be purchased off the shelf and used now. I see friends getting repairs done to their systems locally and being back on line in days not months. Thanks to turkeys like Lew Philips it is getting harder and harder to resist the temptation every time I pass a computer display in Price Club.

How about it Lew... Get off your \*\*\* and service the TI'ers who supported you! mm

# COMPUTER AND ELECTRONICS SWAP MEET

LOCATION:  
ELECTRONIC MATERIALS AND  
COMPUTERS PARKING LOT  
3102 W. THOMAS, PHOENIX, AZ  
272-3200

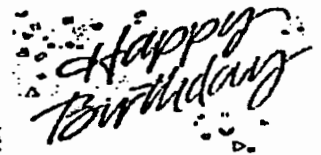
Individuals and Dealers are welcome to come and sell. Booths will be one standard parking space in size and will cost \$10.00. All proceeds will go toward **ADVERTISING**. Booths are

limited so reserve early by contacting BILL or BUD at the store. Admission will be **FREE** for buyers.

Sellers are limited to Computer and Electronic items (Bring tables and shade!). As this is a "CO-OP" Swap Meet, sellers will be expected to lend a hand cleaning up afterward, spreading the word, etc...

**SUNDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 15, 1991**  
**8:00 a.m./3:00 p.m.**

More Clip Art by *Virginia Davis*, this month featuring disk **CLIPART06**. (These images are greatly reduced to fit the limited space available.) Available from VAST *exclusively* for \$2.00 per disk + 50¢ S & H. Order from VAST at the return address on the VAST Information page.



## FOR SALE

1200 baud Uniqmodem 1200HC Hayes Compatible MODEM with Manual. Asking \$50 OBO. CALL JIM 275-8018 or leave message on VAST BBS in FORSALE Conference.

All kinds of TI STUFF! Call for prices! 272-4315. P-Boxes, keyboards, programs. Lots of Software!!! Mike Grogan 272-4315 after 5pm.

*This space is available FREE to VAST members. If you have items for sale or are looking for certain items for your TI, contact the Editor to include those items here.*

A COMPUTER USERS CONVENTION

# FOR THE TI 99-4A

and the

# MYARC GENEVE 9640

**LOCATION:** Days Inn-Phoenix/Comelback  
502 W. Comelback, 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.**

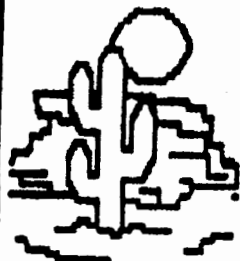
**Why not plan your THREE DAY weekend now!  
FESTWEST RATES \$54.00 (1 TO 4 PEOPLE per  
Room per Day).**

**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) 233-0790.

## CURRENT OFFICERS

### **PRESIDENT**

Mike Grogan . . . . . 272-4315

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Jim Ely . . . . . 275-8018

### **SECRETARY/TREASURER**

Mike Marfisi . . . . . 491-1552

### **LIBRARIANS**

Hazel & Wallace Knight . . . 938-5446

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Jim Ely . . . . . 275-8018

### **BBS SYSOP**

Mike Grogan . . . . . 272-4315

Send any correspondence to the address below.

## ADVERTISING RATES

There is **NO CHARGE** to **MEMBERS** for **PERSONAL** 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.

**VAST NEWS**  
c/o MIKE MARFISI  
1425 E. DEL RIO DRIVE  
TEMPE, AZ 85282



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