

VAST NEWS

for the VAST Computer User Group

Volume 8 Number 5

May 9, 1992

TI World and Local News

(compiled by Jim Ely from various sources,
mostly MICROpendium Magazine)

Speakers Set For Lima Conference

Several speakers and topics have been announced for the Lima Multi User Group Conference May 15-16 at Reed Hall on the Ohio State University Lima campus.

They include: Ken Gladyszewski, "Do It Yourself Products for the TI, Including Analog to Digital Conversion"; Eunice Spooner, "Teaching TI LOGO to First Grade Students, an Actual Demonstration with a First Grader"; Jack Sughrue, "Using the TI Computer to Educate Children"; Bruce Harrison, "New Non-Music Products from Harrison Software"; Deloris Werths, "Programming Music for the Midi Interface; New Music from Harrison Software"; Charles Good, "A Preview of Funnelweb v5 with a totally Rewritten Text Editor"; Lee Bendick, "A Demonstration of the TI 99/8 and Its Unique Set of Peripherals"; Barry Traver, topic to be announced; Bud Mills, "Hardware Products from Bud Mills Services"; Gary Bowser, "O.P.A. Products"; and Bob Nelson, "Comproline Products."



Happy Mother's Day!

Admission and exhibit room tables are free. For further information, phone Dave Szipp (419) 228-7109 or Charles Good (419) 667-3131 evenings, or write the Lima Users Group at P.O. Box 647, Venedocia, OH 45894.

INSIDE INFORMATION

ITEM	PAGE
Secretary's Slate	2
4/A Foray	5
Game DOM	6
Raffle Results	6
Our BBS and You	7
Editor's Desk	9
TI-99/4A Suppliers	9
VAST Information	12

See NEWS on page 3

SECRETARY'S SLATE

MINUTES

VAST Computer User Group
April 9, 1992

President Jim Ely called the April 9, 1992 meeting of VAST to order at 10:00 a.m. All of the officers were among the 17 people present. Jim announced that due to a problem (IBM), the newsletters were not ready for the April meeting. Because of that fact, Jim proceeded to read the minutes of the March meeting. The minutes were accepted by a voice vote and the treasures report followed thereafter. Following the acceptance of that report, Jim asked for **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

PUBLICITY: Nothing to report.

NEWSLETTER: Nothing to report.

LIBRARY: Nothing new to report.

RAFFLE: Gene Gibson stated that donations would always be accepted for the monthly raffles. He also requested that people please write their names on the back of tickets if they were not able to stay for the drawings. He volunteered to hold any winnings until the next meeting for those that left early.

BBS: Jan was not present, so there was no further report about the BBS upgrade. Jim stated that there was nothing new otherwise.

PROGRAM: No report was given.

FEST-WEST: Even though the Fest-West committee has dissolved, the status of the

video of the Fest was discussed. It was mentioned that SW 99ers still had not made copies of the video.

This concluded the reports. Next came **OLD BUSINESS.** There being no old business, the subject of **NEW BUSINESS** was introduced.

Ray Frantz introduced a motion to limit the "swap meet" atmosphere during the social hour between 9 and 10 a.m. He also proposed that VAST have a swap meet every 3 months instead. After a long discussion of pros and cons, the motion was defeated by a vote of 4 for, and 9 against. Members were encouraged to make more use of the BBS and newsletter for selling used equipment.

Mike Marfisi brought in the club disks that were ordered after the last meeting. Members can purchase disks from the club, but no firm price was ever given. There being no further new business, Jim Ely closed the meeting at 11:00 so that a demo could be given and Bud Barnes could pick up the pizzas. Unfortunately, no one had a monitor cable to use on the club system, but the pizza was good.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Pfeffer
VAST Secretary/Treasurer

NEWS, from page 1

Efforts underway to Purchase Myarc's MDOS

Beery Miller, publisher of 9640 News, has begun coordination of an effort to purchase rights to the MDOS source code from Lou Phillips of Myarc and Paul Charlton, author of the code.

Miller says he began the project because Myarc has officially released no version of MDOS for more than two years, and the versions released, 1.14F and 0.97H, have several, "if not many" bugs which require programming around and patches to function with other programs.

Miller says cost discussed nearly a year ago with Charlton for MDOS was \$10,000, too large a sum for any individual to pursue. However, Miller has received pledges of donations to aid in purchase of MDOS ranging from \$25 to \$250 for the purchase, and he says he is donating \$100 plus time for acquisitions and negotiations.

Lou Phillips informed Miller that "He felt things would work out if the money was raised on his (Miller's) end and felt the price tag may be less than originally estimated. How much less, he didn't know."

Miller says he plans to coordinate development of the source code with several programmers, and will also supply copies of the source code to persons contributing to its purchase, if they send in diskettes and postage paid mailers. Although he forsees unofficial releases of MDOS versions by different individuals, Miller hopes to coordinate

official releases by the development group.

Contributors should send a check, along with a self addressed stamped envelope, to Beery Miller/9640 News, P.O. Box 752465, Memphis, TN 38175-2465.

Miller says contributions will be deposited into a special separate account. Interest will be applied to his telephone and travel expenses in connection with the project. Once MDOS has been purchased, "numbers will be crunched tallying people's contributions and returning unspent money if contributions exceed purchase price and expenses," Miller says.

New Catalog Available From OPA

OPA (Oasis Pensive Abucators) has released its 1992 spring catalog on disk. The catalog comes on a sssd disk and is in D/V80 format. The catalog is available in a hard copy format by request.

OPA also confirms that it has ended its development role in the TI Accelerator project.

For more information, contact OPA at 432 Jarvis St. #501-502, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y-2H3; 416-960-0925 (8 a.m.-1 p.m. ET), 416-963-TITI (24-hour hotline), 416-921-2731 (24-hour BBS).

Bill Gaskill Releases Microdex 99

Microdex 99, by Bill Gaskill, is a companion program to Gaskill's MICROpendium Index II programs. Microdex 99 allows users to completely modify their existing MPI-II databases as well as expand them. The cost

See NEWS on page 4

NEWS, from page 3

is \$10 when sold separately, \$6 when purchased with MPI-II. Current owners of MPI-II may purchase Microdex 99 for \$6. MPI-II, covering 1984-1991 of MICROpendium, is \$24.

Order through MICROpendium, P.O. Box 1343, Round Rock, TX 78680.

TI SIG Now On Prodigy

Edward Kuehn and Frank P. DeCandia have started a TI/Geneve Club/Support group on the Prodigy system. No membership fees other than the regular Prodigy service fee apply.

To join the group, contact Kuehn (Prodigy member DTVH43A) or DeCandia (SSN89A). Standard Prodigy BB rules apply, DeCandia says. They ask that all TI related Notes be written in the Computer Club section under the Other PC Topics section. DeCandia says related Notes should start with "TI"; for example, TI HELP, TI99/4A TODAY.

TI Presence Unlikely At Next TICOFF

It's not likely that any TI vendors will be at next year's TICOFF, if it is held. Over the past several years the fair has expanded to include PCs, and apparently there's precious little left for TIers. My understanding is that it wasn't a big success for anyone, which is unfortunate. TICOFF has been around for a long time and has seen better days. At any rate, there were only two TI vendors on site, so it had to be disappointing for any TI users who attended.

TI Conference Setup On BIX

An active TI conference covering the TI99/4A and the Myarc Geneve 9640 is available on BYTE Information Exchange, an electronic conferencing system created by BYTE Magazine. Moderator is Ron Lepine and co-moderator is Al Beard.

BIX offers a fixed price of \$156 per year in network charges (billed quarterly). Telecommunications (e.g., TYMNET charges) are extra.

To join BIX, dial with your computer software set to 7-bit, even parity, 1 stop bit. full duplex: 1-800-225-4129 (in Massachusetts, call (617) 861-9767), then log in:

login:bix
Name? bix.ville

Off-peak access to TYMNET is available at a fixed price of \$20 per month or \$3 per hour, Beard said.

In Other News...

The *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, a leading Japanese business newspaper, has reported that computer makers IBM and Apple Computer are talking with Japan's Toshiba Corp. about jointly developing multimedia Computers. The companies were likely to reach agreement by the end of May on a wide-ranging plan to develop, manufacture and sell multimedia equipment, the report said. Multimedia computers can combine computer functions with television images and sound. ❖

4/A Foray

by Ralph Rees

Well Folks, My column this month is going to be short and sweet. I have been down and out through ALL of April with a sinus and respiratory infection that has about knocked the props out from under me. Anyway, See you at the May meeting.

❗ PROBLEMS...PROBLEMS

I have had some problems with some of my hardware and thought I'd run it by some of my fellow TI'ers and see if they have an answer. If any other TI'ers from other states have the answer to these questions PLEASE contact me via our group newsletter address.

❶ Using PLATO with a Corcomp disk controller. The problem is you CAN'T! I have verified this with Mike Grogan and he stated that his system (also equipped with the Corcomp controller) will not read PLATO diskettes either.

With the PLATO cartridge in place and a PLATO diskette in drive 1, the system will read the diskette and then state "I/O ERROR - PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE." The only problem is, pressing enter does no good as at this point the system is locked and the only way out is shut down. Anybody out there got any clues?

❷ 1200 baud modem usage with a Corcomp RS232 card. My pal Wallace Knight was having a bad time getting a 1200 baud modem to function with his system. So me

being the confident hardware junkie that I am said "No problem Wallace, We'll get you fixed up in a jiffy! It must be a dipswitch problem or something REAL simple!" Right! WRONG! After a couple 2-3 trips over to the Knights and wracking my feeble brain out, I had remembered that a Corcomp RS232 can on occasion do some weird things, so I asked Wallace if he had a TI RS232. He did, we installed it, and the 1200 baud modem worked fine!

Now mind you, a 300 baud modem worked fine with the Corcomp, but plug in a 1200 baud and NO GO! Now check this out... I am building a portable TI of sorts using a Corcomp M.E.S. and SAME PROBLEM! I use a 300 baud modem with nary a hitch but connect a 1200 baud and NO GO again! Does anyone have an answer for me on this!?

❸ Keeping the MYARC 512 energized. I have really been having a problem with my Myarc Ramdisk. I am presently using as backup power a 9 volt ATARI power converter that supplies OVER 1 amp and the Myarc card STILL glitches after I power down. Does anyone out there know of a RELIABLE way to backup power to this card so the files will be there for you?

❹ Mechatronics GRAM-KARTE. I own one of these cards and do not use it very much because it has no means of power back-up. I was told at one time that there is a way to wire it to a transformer to keep the card alive after system shut down but have never found it. Does anyone have this info?

See 4/A FORAY on page 6

4/A FORAY, from page 5

Also, there was supposed to be some files that would allow using this card as a Ram-Disk of sorts. I contacted a man at T.A.P.E. in California and he said he would send me the files, but never did. Anybody else got em'?

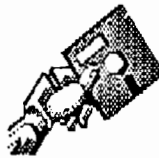
♣ PIZZA PIZZA BLOWOUT

If you missed the April meeting, you missed a fun time! Bud Barnes did an EXCELLENT job on pizza selection and we all chomped on flat pie 'til we about busted AND there was STILL plenty to go around! You shoulda been there! A comedy of errors kinda took over too as I was supposed do a demo on Disk Utilities and we had no monitor cable! Here we have a nice new monitor and no cable to feed info to it! Our president, Jim Ely took a trip to the local Rat Shack to find a cable and came back empty handed. Mike Marfisi took a trip home to snatch a small t.v. (we had a modulator) and it had no connections on the back to hook the modulator up! So we gave up! Still had fun though!

Well, that's about all I can think to type into this little black and silver beauty. I would like to remind you all again to USE the BBS, SUBMIT articles for the newsletter and PARTICIPATE more in your TI user group.

TCTN +

-Ralph...♣



GAME DISK OF THE MONTH

Well gang, I've got another fantastic four-some on the ol' GAME DOM again! This month we are going back to E/A Option 5 games with an included Extended Basic loader.

The games are:

1. CAVERNS
2. E.T.
3. DRIVING
4. SCRABBLE

The disk will be available at the May meeting. Don't forget to pay the secretary!

—Ralph...♣

RAFFLE RESULTS

4 prizes were won in last month's raffle at the meeting. Ray Frantz won an EA Book and Cartridge, Wallace Knight won some Page Pro pictures from the Littlest Mermaid and Ed Morse and M. A. Geissel won a 3 disk selection of software from the SCCG software library. Available for this month's Raffle are War Zone, a bundle of books and magazines and a couple of sports watches donated by Mike Grogan.

The total amount collected at last month's raffle was \$17. j.e.♣

Our BBS and You

The 30 Commandments of BBSing

(Author unknown) (Downloaded from Technoids Anonymous BBS, Phoenix, AZ.)

Some very intelligent SysOp gave some great thought to how a BBS should be operated and came up with these 30 BBS Commandments.

1. Thou shalt love thy BBS with all thy heart and all thy bytes.
2. Thou shalt remember thy name and thy password.
3. Thou shalt speaketh to the SysOp thy real name.
4. Thou shalt not POST IN ALL CAPS!
5. Thou shalt Honor thy SysOp.
6. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's password, nor thy neighbor's real name, computer, software, nor any other thing of thy neighbor's.
7. Thou shalt only call a BBS two times a day.
8. Thou shalt not post messages that are stupid, worthless, or have no meaning, lest thee be deemed a fop.
9. Thou shalt use the English language properly so that thee may be deemed wise.
10. Thou shalt spell thy words correctly. Amen.
11. Thou shalt delete thine own mail.
12. Thou shalt delete thine ancient mail.
13. Thou shalt help other users so that thee may be deemed a friend.
14. Thou shalt not post anonymously when offering criticism.
15. Thou shalt keep thy foul language to thyself lest thee be forever banished.
16. Thou shalt not occupy thy BBS with thine arguments, for Verily, I say unto thee that thou shalt maketh thyself the charlatan.
17. Woe be unto the user who attempth to crash thy BBS, for such shall be cast out from the sanctuary of thy hobby and must repent by doing 40 mega-days and 40 mega-nights of penance in voice-only communications.
18. Thou shalt not post PRIVATE messages, lest thou truely has something to hide.
19. Thou shalt not post other user's real names.
20. Thou shalt not post messages after imbibing excessively of ale.
21. Thou shalt confine thy messages to those of friendship, requests for assistance, aid to the needy, advice, and advancement of thy hobby; yea, and thou art obligated to repel any who wouldst transgresseth upon these commandments.
22. If thou doth promise to reply to a mes-

See **COMMANDMENTS** on page 8

COMMANDMENTS, from page 7

sage and thou doth not, then surely thou shalt spill liquid into thy keyboard and shorteth out thy central processing unit.

23. Thou shalt not giveth any false information when applying for membership to thy BBS, for Verily it is Written that whosoever shall do so will surely be found out and thy welcome on all boards will thus be denied forever and ever.
24. Thou shalt log on properly and in accordance with thy SysOp's wishes.
25. Thou shalt observeth BBS time limits.
26. Thou shalt not upload "worm" or "trojan" or "virus-ed" programs. Amen and Amen, for to do so wilt bringeth foul curses upon thee and thine, thy children, and thy children's children yea unto the 7th generation. So shalt it be.
27. Thou shalt not ask stupid questions that art already fully explained in BBS bulletins and instructions.
28. Thou shalt not exchangeth commercial software thru thy BBS.
29. Thou shalt not violate any applicable state/federal/local laws and regulations affecting BBS telecommunications, or thee will face the wrath of thy judicial system.
30. Thou shalt not hack. ❖

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
MAY 17, 1992
8:00 a.m./3:00 p.m.**

From the Editor's Desk

I'll make it short and sweet this month...

IN THIS ISSUE

On page 4 (below) is a listing of most, if not all, suppliers of TI compatible products, support magazines and persons to contact for repairs. On page 5 is *4/A Foray* with some interesting questions concerning hardware and software compatibility problems among other things. I thought you might be interested in the *30 Commandments* that one enterprising SysOp of

another board has set up for his BBS. That is on page 6. Most of the rest of this issue is filled with NEWS, which there seemed to be an abundance of this month. A description of this month's *GAME DOM* can be found on page 8 along with the results of the *Raffle* held at last month's meeting.

Here is the calendar for the next 2 months with our meeting dates highlighted. Next month we will be meeting in the MAUVE Room. See you all at the meeting... ❖

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

SUPPLIERS OF TI-99/4A COMPATIBLE PRODUCTS

Compiled by GARY W. FOX
of the MID-SOUTH 99
USERS GROUP
(Submitted to VAST News by:
Ray Frantz)

The following is a list of vendors of products for the TI-99/4A and the Geneve 9640 computers. The list is not complete as there are more suppliers than are listed but this covers a good portion of them.

TM DIRECT MARKETING
1650 Broadway
Redwood City, CA 94063
1-800-336-9966

L.L. CONNER ENTERPRISES
1521 Ferry Street
Lafayette, IN 47904
(317) 742-8146

JOY ELECTRONICS
PO Box 542526
Dallas, TX 75354-2526
1-800-527-7438

ASGARD SOFTWARE
PO Box 10306
Rockville, MD 20849
(703) 255-3085

TEXAMENTS
53 Center Street
Patchogue, NY 11772
(516) 475-3480
(516) 475-6463 (24 hr BBS)

COMPETITION COMPUTER PRODUCTS
2219 S. Muskego Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53215
1-800-662-9253

COMPRODINE SOFTWARE
1949 Evergreen Avenue
Fullerton, CA 92635
(714) 990-4577

TEXCOMP
PO Box 33804
Granada Hills, CA 91344
(818) 366-6631

BUD MILLS SERVICES
166 Dartmouth Drive
Toledo, OH 43614
(419) 385-5946

RAVE 99
112 Rambling Road
Vernon, CT 06066
(203) 871-7824

TIGERCUB SOFTWARE
156 Collingwood Avenue
Columbus, OH 43213
(614) 235-3545

See SUPPLIERS, page 10

SUPPLIERS, from page 9

HARRISON SOFTWARE

5705 40th Place
Hyattsville, MD 20781
(301) 277-3467

HUNTER ELECTRONICS

4 No. 370 Pine Grove
Bensonville, IL 60106
(312) 766-9503

**ARCADE ACTION
SOFTWARE**

4122 N. Glenway
Wauwatosa, WI 53222

DISK ONLY SOFTWARE

PO Box 244
Lorton, VA 22079
1-800-736-4951

**ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS
DEVELOPMENT**

PO Box 23805
Washington, DC 20006
(301) 322-6150

**WESTERN HORIZON
TECHNOLOGIES**

Don O'Neil
10225 Jean Ellen Drive
Gilroy, CA 95020
(408) 848-5947

THE BUNYARD GROUP

PO Box 62323
Colorado Springs, CO 80962
(719) 488-2572

ALBOES COMPUTER SUPPLIES

6298 Hamilton Road
3G Main Street Village
Columbus, GA 31909
(404) 327-4900

MC CANN SOFTWARE

4411 N. 93rd Street
Omaha, NE 68134

OPA

432 Jarvis Street, Suite 502
Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2H3
Canada
(416) 960-0925

RAMCHARGED COMPUTERS

PO Box 81532
Cleveland, OH 44181
1-800-669-1214

J P SOFTWARE

2390 El Camino Real #107
Palo Alto, CA 94306
(415) 328-0885

JIM LESHER

722 Huntley
Dallas, TX 75214
(214) 821-9274

CaDD ELECTRONICS

81 Prescott Road
Raymond, NH 03077
(603)895-0119

**BRAATZS COMPUTER
SERVICES**

719 E Byrd Street
Appleton, WI 54911

NOTUNG SOFTWARE

7647 McGroarty Street
Tijunga, CA 91042
(816) 951-2718

LGMA PRODUCTS

5618 Applebutter Hill Road
Coopersburg, PA 18036

**TI & GENEVE SUPPORT
PUBLICATIONS**

MICROpendium MAGAZINE

PO Box 1343
Round Rock, TX 78680-1343
(\$25/yr)(Sample \$3.00)

Genial TRAVeLER DISKAZINE

835 Green Valley Drive
Philadelphia, PA 19128
(215) 483-1379

9640 NEWS

PO Box 752465
Memphis, TN 38175-2465
(901) 369-0112 (BBS)

**VULCANS COMPUTER
MONTHLY**

PO Box 55886
Birmingham, AL 35255
1-800-366-0676
(\$15.95/yr)

FOR REPAIRS... CONTACT

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INC.

Attn: TI-99/4A Repair Center
2305 N. University Avenue
Lubbock, TX 79408
1-800-TI CARES

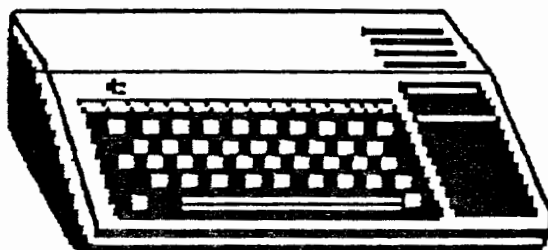
99 COMPUTER REPAIR

2102 W. Crescent Avenue
Unit A
Anaheim, CA 92801

MYARC INC.

c/o Lou Phillips
50 Darren Drive
Martinsville, NJ 08836





REMEMBER THIS?

TI-99/4A

**GET IT OUT OF THE CLOSET! LEARN TO USE IT!
LEARN TO LOVE IT!**

LOOK

**...WORD PROCESSING...SPREAD SHEET MANAGEMENT...GAMES
...DESKTOP PUBLISHING...DATA BASE MANAGEMENT...MUSIC
...MUCH...MUCH MORE!
WANT MORE INFO?...**

CONTACT US! WE ARE HERE TO HELP! WE ARE THE...

VAST USER GROUP

**MEETING AT
THE PYLE RECREATION CENTER
SOUTHERN & RURAL RD.
TEMPE, AZ.
FOR INFO CALL**

481-1552

272-4315



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

Jim Ely 275-8018

VICE PRESIDENT

Ralph Rees 869-8145

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Tom Pfeffer 940-0974

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

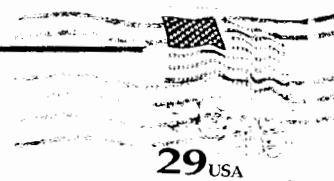
There is **NO CHARGE** to **MEMBERS** for **PERSONAL** advertising. Non-members will be charged \$1.50 per ad.

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

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VAST NEWS

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

RALPH REES
18815 N. 13TH AVE
PHOENIX AZ 85027

FIRST CLASS MAIL