

VAST NEWS

Volume 6 Number 2

February 10, 1990

TI FEST WEST 1990 Next Weekend, Sat. & Sun., Feb. 17 & 18

The TI FEST WEST is being held in Tucson this year on February 17th and 18th. It is being sponsored by the Southwest Ninety-Niners User Group of Tucson and is being held at the Day's Inn at 88 E. Broadway in Tucson. According to B.J. Mathis, President of the Tucson Group, there has been some confusion with reservations at Day's Inn. If you have made reservations for the FAIRE at Day's Inn and have not received confirmation of those reservations, it would be advisable to check again with the hotel to make sure they do indeed have your reservations.

The VAST User Group will have a table at the FEST, but believe it or not, at this late date, we do not know what we are going to be

doing with the space accept to be there. I also understand that our table is right next to the display being set up by RAVE 99 Co. Just about everybody who is anybody in the TI world will be in attendance at the FEST. Admission for the FEST is \$4, under 15 years old free when accompanied by an adult. Hours of the FEST are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the 17th and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the 18th.

I had planned to go to the FEST again this year, but with all the things that are happening in my life at this time, I (Jim) will be unable to attend. I hope someone from the group who is going will be kind enough to submit a report (article?) for publication in next month's newsletter <HINT, HINT, HINT>.

Ed Johnson announced that he would soon be releasing a group of templates for PP that will help in the production of forms, envelopes, greeting cards, certificates, ads, etc. We'll keep you posted.

MOUSE COMING?

Rumors from the source, Chris Bobbitt, say that ASGARD will be making a low cost mouse available for us TI's very soon. It should be selling in the \$50 range and will come complete with driver software so it can be used with TI ARTIST, Ext Basic programs, Assembly programs and soon for c99 and Fortran(9640). This mouse will be of standard construction so that if broken it can be replaced

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VAST USER GROUP MEETING

February 10, 1990

**Pyle Adult Rec.
Center
655 E. Southern
Avenue
Tempe, AZ**

TI WORLD NEWS

Compiled by Jim Ely and Mike Marfisi
from MICROpendium and various
othersources.

PAGE PRO 99

Page Pro users can get the update of this fine program by returning the *original disk* plus \$4 to ASGARD. You will get the update and a supplement for the manual.

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VAST User Group Information

The *VAST Computer User Group* is a support group for the TI-99/4A Home Computer and compatibles, but all computer users are welcome. We meet at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center in Tempe on the second Saturday of every month. This month's meeting is on February 10th. The business meeting starts at 10 a.m. with socializing starting at 9 a.m.

The yearly group membership fee is \$15 which includes this newsletter mailed to your door!

Our meetings are open to all. Only dues paying members may vote in elections, hold offices or chair committees, or use the club library.

CURRENT OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Mike Grogan272-3415

VICEPRESIDENT

Bill Wedmore.....998-1821

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Mike Marfisi.....491-1552

LIBRARIANS

Hazel & Wallace Knight .938-5446

NEWSLETTEREDITOR

Jim Ely921-3375

BBSSYSOP

There is currently no BBS sysop.

The date that appears in the upper right hand corner of your mailing label is your newsletter and/or membership expiration date. Address renewals to VAST User Group, c/o 1425 E. Del Rio Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282.

The VAST BBS is currently in-operative as the group evaluates its policies and awaits the conclusions of the BBS Committee. Watch this space for more information.

Deadline for submission of materials for this newsletter is the first Saturday of the month. Materials may be submitted in any form, but the preferred method is by modem directly to the newsletter editor at the phone number above.

ADVERTISING RATES

COMMERCIAL

FULL PAGE . . . \$12.00

HALF PAGE . . . \$ 7.00

QTR. PAGE . . . \$ 4.00

PERSONAL

Four Lines . . . \$ 1.00

(30 characters per line)

Each line over 4 \$.20

ALL RATES ARE FOR *ONE* ISSUE ONLY!

Software 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 per copy page will be made. If the group supplies the disk, add \$1.00 to the above charges. We do have an exchange program for new software added to the library. Contact the librarian for further details.

DISCLAIMER: The VAST 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.

SECRETARY'S SLATE

MINUTES

VAST USER GROUP

JANUARY 13, 1990

The January meeting of the VAST User Group was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by President Mike Grogan. All officers were present.

Mike Grogan began the meeting with a statement of the goals he would like to see met during the new year. These included: the completion of the library re-organization so that it could be at each meeting, having a complete TI system at each meeting, more membership participation in demos and programs at the monthly meetings, restoration of the BBS as soon as possible, more publicity for the club, and a complete inventory of all club property.

The minutes of the December meeting were accepted as published in the January newsletter.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$384.49 in the account.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There was no Library report due to the usual absents of the Librarian. Wallace and Hazel Knight were appointed to act as club Librarians for the rest of the fiscal year. They will make arrangements to transfer the disks from Stephanie and continue the re-organization.

Jim reported nothing special going on in the newsletter department. Jerry McDowell presented the club with a copy of Volume 1 Number 1 of a newsletter he is producing called the "Swan Song." The newsletter will cover the Geneve 9640.

Dan Shell for the Program committee stated that the members are going to have to be more willing to take an active part in producing demos and other presentations at the meeting. There simply is not enough

local support out there to produce enough material for us each month. He suggested that members demonstrate their favorite programs thus giving them a chance to learn it better and the membership a chance to see it in action.

Mike Grogan reported for the TI committee that they are still trying to get together with Rene Mitchel from Software so that we can reach some kind of agreement about the items to be sold at the Fest next month. Jerry McDowell mentioned that a good item to consider for sale would be the "Curtis Clip." This is a plastic devise designed to hang copy from a monitor, thus making it easier to see while typing. He had been in contact with the company that wholesales them and was told we could get a much better price if we had a resale number. Dan said he had one and would be glad to purchase the clips if we could get a price that would allow us to sell them at an attractive price and still make a little for the club. Jerry also said he had plans to produce a demo disk for the 9640. Jan Klabunde plans to attend the Fest with a 9640 system and run the demo. We could offer copies of the demo for sale. Also Jerry McDowell suggested that we make copies of the BBS listing of active TI BBSs around the United States that he has compiled and perhaps offer them for sale at a small fee.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Grogan asked for a complete inventory of all club owned equipment. Jim Ely said that he had the TI system that had been used for the BBS when he was Sysop. He also felt that there was a second system out there somewhere but no one else could confirm that. It was mentioned that perhaps Bob Nixon knew about it. The secretary will check through the old minutes to see if there is any reference to a 2nd system.

See "SECRETARY'S SLATE",
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SECRETARY'S SLATE",
Continued from page 3. . .

Jack Workman volunteered to take possession of the system and see that it was at each meeting. Jim Ely pointed out that the drives in the system may need to be repaired or replaced.

Bill Wedmore read a statement to the group expressing his displeasure at the way in which the BBS was taken off line. (copy included in files) After completing his statement, he resigned from the club and left the meeting.

A general discussion on the future of the BBS followed. A vote of the membership indicated that we do wish to resume operation of the BBS. A committee made up of Bud Barnes, Dan Shell and Jan Klabunde was formed to study all aspects of the BBS question including: cost and affordability, selecting a location and Sysop, and setting up guidelines for its operation. The committee will report to the group at the next meeting.

A motion to appoint a "parliamentarian" to help keep the meetings on track and in line with Roberts Rule of Order was made and seconded. Bud Barnes was appointed to the post.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 11:45AM.

Respectfully,
Mike Martisi,
Secretary

"NEWS,"
Continued from page 1. . .

with an IBM type mouse. There have been some users who have modified other mice to work with the TI but the problem has always been in the software. This one will come complete with all needed software. If I know Chris, it won't be long before we see a lot of other support items for it. Sounds interesting.

PRESS REPORT

Still finding problems to be worked out. Still no firm release date. Hang in there. It will see the light of day yet!

ALSO FROM ASGARD

(Is this starting to sound like an ASGARD ad?) For users of the Corcomp disk controller card who need to be able to read disks formatted on a Myarc controller, ASGARD announces FILE 16. It is a DM1000 like program that lets you copy files between the different disk formats. Myarc for some unknown reason chose to format disks in 16 sectors which made it very difficult for them to be read with any other controller.

YOUR BBS AND YOU

The newly formed BBS committee (Jan Klabunde, Dan Shell and Bud Barnes) have met and drafted a list of proposals for the operation of the club BBS. They will be outlining those proposals to all of us at the next meeting. If you are at all interested in the BBS and want input on how it will be run in

the future, this meeting will be the place to air those ideas. The committee has worked hard to present a reasonable criteria under which our board should be run. It is one of those "speak now or forever hold your mouth shut", or something like that, situations. The final choice of locations has, as of this date, not been made. It has however been narrowed, and we should have the decision of the committee by the meeting.

RUMOR CONTROL

Someone let it slip that there is a strong possibility that one of our members may be doing some independent contracting work for ASGARD Software. This reporter has learned from a very reliable source that our member may be designing some greeting card templates to be used with Page Pro 99. Way to go!

TI SYSTEM AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS

Jack Workman has now taken possession of the club system. It will be at our meetings and available for your use. If you are having problems working with any programs, why not bring them to the meeting. We can throw them onto the system and see if someone may be able to help work them through with you. Remember the club system has a SSSD disk drive so make sure you bring disks in that format.

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TI-WRITER (Part 5)

From *THE PUG PERIPHERAL*,
Newsletter of the Pittsburgh User Group

by Stan Katzman

There are several miscellaneous routines that we ought to discuss that are useful (and important), so here goes.

The standard typing mode is called word-wrap. In this mode, when you come to the end of the line, that word is automatically put on the next line. This is the opposite of a typewriter where one has to return the carriage by hand. If you press the <ENTER> key, you start a new paragraph. If you want an empty line between paragraphs, just press the <ENTER> key again. If you remember an earlier article on how to edit, we used the reformat key (CTRL 2). The reformat key only works within the paragraph one is working in.

If we want to combine two adjacent paragraphs, all we have to do is remove the carriage return symbol (by pressing "Del Char", (FCTN 1) and then the reformat will combine the two paragraphs.

By default, a page of material is 66 lines long. In order to make the document have, say only 60 lines per page, just keep track of the line numbers at the left of the screen and put in a "New Page" symbol by pressing CTRL 9, and when the document is printed, the new page symbol will cause the printer to start at the beginning of a new sheet. (The New Page symbol also works in the Formatting Mode.)

The other "method" of writing a document is in "Fixed Mode". To get into Fixed Mode, press CTRL 0 (Zero), Word Wrap, and this puts you in Fixed Mode (the cursor will be a hollow rectangle). To get out of Fixed Mode, press CTRL 0 (Zero) again (toggle) and you are back to Word-wrap. In Fixed Mode, you do not automatically go to the next line. In order to get to the next line you have to press <ENTER>. If you do not press <ENTER> at the end of the line, each character entered will replace the last entered character. The Fixed Mode is used to make tables of data.

Now something more about printing out a file. If you noticed in the past, in order to load or save part of a file, you had to know the start and finish line numbers. It makes it a lot easier to load or save file parts if you have a printout with the line numbers. Well, we can do this also. In order to have a printout with line numbers, go to the Command Mode (FCTN 9), enter F and then enter PF. At the statement "PRINT FILE, enter device name:", enter L, space and then PIO (for a parallel printer). Eg. "L PIO". There is one minor catch and that is it will not print anything in columns 75-80.

You can also print only part of a file. Get the PF mode and then type the starting line number, a space, the ending line number, a space and then PIO. Eg. 23 48 PIO, and only lines 23 to 48 will be printed out.

One last function, Q (Quit) (quite appropriate). To Quit working, go to Command Mode and enter Q. There will be another menu which is obvious that you can easily follow.

More later.

S.K.

DISK OF THE MONTH

This month we will be offering the latest version of Ron Walcott's TIPP (TI Print Shop) program. This is version 1.4 just released this past week. Several assembly routines have been added to speed up the operation. Also a calendar feature has been added

allowing the creation of a one month calendar with graphics.

If you have seen some of the great graphics that members have been bringing to the meetings, this is the program they have been using to get them.

This is a great opportunity to get the latest version of the program

without the hassle of having to download the program from one of the "pay boards" that has it.

The price, as usual, is \$1.50. This is **not** the cost of the program, just the price of a disk, sleeve and time to copy the programs.

Enjoy!

"NEWS,"

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TI BASE HELP

Several of our members use TI BASE. Did you know that there is BBS with special areas with help and special programs to be used with TI BASE? The BBS is operated by TEXAMENTS, it's called TI SOURCE and can be reached 24 hrs a day at 516-475-6463. There is no charge other than the toll call to New York. Try it some night or weekend.

FROM THE TREASURER

COMINGS AND GOINGS

To each and every one of you fine folks who have demonstrated your continued faith in the VAST UG by renewing your club membership, we all thank you very much. This group is YOU! Without YOU! it would not need to exist. Thanks again!

The following have extended their membership through December of 1990...

- Erik Anderson
- Leo Baker
- Bud Barnes
- Mel Brown
- Walt Brown
- John Clanton
- Virginia Davis
- Jim Ely
- Mike Grogan
- Jan Klabunde
- Hazel & Wallace Knight
- Bill Lage
- Bob Lubenthal
- Mike Marfisi
- Curt Mavity
- Ian McGregor
- Gloria Randle
- Tom Sharp
- Dan Shell
- Harry Sutton
- Jack Workman
- Gayle Zickefoose

The following members are due to renew within the next few months. Once these folks renew, all of our members will be on a January to December membership year. This

makes it much easier to keep the books in order and keep track of memberships and newsletter subscriptions. Included with this newsletter, those named below will find a renewal application. Please consider sending it in now so that we may get everyone in line with the January to December membership year. The figure next to your name is the amount you need to send so that your membership and newsletter subscription will be paid through December of 1990.

John Cole	\$12.50
Bob Farr	\$11.25
John Keck	\$15.00
Steve Peddy-Coart	\$11.25
Tom Pfeffer	\$11.25
Chochise Robinson	\$10.00
Sy Spunt	\$11.25
Martin Sullivan	\$11.25
Mae Young	\$11.25

Again, thanks to all of you for your support.

Mike Marfisi

Happy Valentine's Day
From the VAST Users Group