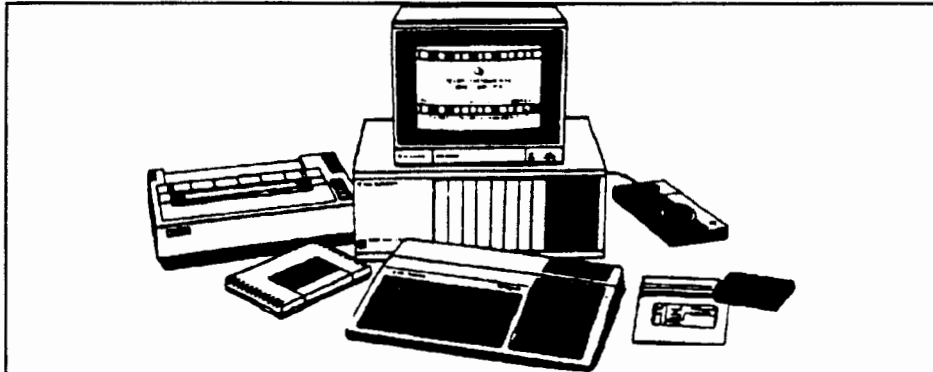


VAST NEWS

Newsletter of the VAST Computer Users Group

Volume 6 Number 7

July 14, 1990



TI World and Local News

(Compiled from various sources including GENIE, CompuServe, MICROpendium Magazine and Asgard News/Reflections on TI.
Edited by Jim Ely for VAST News.)

Stop The PRESS!

Asgard Software has finally confirmed, in a letters to customers and an article in its newsletter, long held speculation that *Press*, a new word processor for the TI,

VAST USER GROUP MEETING

July 14, 1990

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

has been placed on "indefinite hold." The article/letter said that the programmer/analyst, Charles Earl, did not give reasons for stopping work on the project. Chris Bobbitt of Asgard speculated that the program tried to do too much. The package was designed from the ground up to work on both a Geneve and a 99/4A with a minimum of degradation in the TI-99/4A version. In essence, Bobbitt believed that the program was too big for any single person to get his arms around the entire package. Some have suggested that Charles Earl is no longer programming for the 99/4A or the Geneve.

Familiar People Form Software Company... but not for the TI

The ever active J. Peter Hoddie and Paul Charlton have formed "Bluestreak Software," a new company to produce Apple Macintosh and PC compatible software. No software has been produced by the firm, and

"Bluestreak" has not announced its purpose.

This year so far has been an "unusually slow release period" for JP Software, a company formed not so long ago to produce TI/Geneve software, with the only new product being an update to First Base, by Warren Agee.

Peter Hoddie has expressed an intention to come up on CompuServe's TIFORUM and leave messages from time to time, but this busy Apple engineer has been unable to find time to meet all demands from his public. It is

See "NEWS,"

Continued on page 5

INSIDE INFORMATION

ITEM	PAGE
VAST Information	2
Secretary's Slate	3
Member Profile	4
Constitution Comment	4
TI-Writer Help	6
Editor's Desk	9
Disk Of The Month	10

**VAST BBS
(602) 433-2767**

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 July 14th. 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, hold offices or chair committees, or use the club library.

CURRENT OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Mike Grogan272-4315

VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Ely Unpublished

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Mike Marfisi.491-1552

LIBRARIANS

Hazel & Wallace Knight . . .938-5446

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Ely Unpublished

BBS SYSOP

Leo Baker 931-9010

Memberships now all expire on December 31. Persons joining in any given month will have their memberships pro-rated to the end of the year. Address renewals to VAST User Group, c/o 1425 E. Del Rio Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282.

The VAST Computer User Group BBS is in operation 24 hours a day. The phone number is (602) 433-2767. The board is setup per the guidelines established by the BBS committee. The software should be familiar to those of you who used the board before the last sysop changed it. It is PCBoard.

Don't be shy. Give it a try!

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 uploaded to the VAST Users Group BBS. Please leave a message to the current newsletter editor so he knows the file is for him.

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.

VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP

MINUTES

JUNE 9, 1990

The June meeting of the VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP was held at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center in Tempe on Saturday June 9, 1990. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Vice President Jim Ely in the absence of President Mike Grogan.

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted as published in the VAST News. The treasurer reported an account balance of \$320.79. Mike Marfisi reported that we had purchased 2 Teac DS/DD disk drives with case and power supply, 1 Myarc DS/DD disk controller card, and 1 RS232 card for the club systems. One of the drives will replace the drive on the BBS which belongs to Walt Brown. The other will be installed in the club system along with one donated by Mike Grogan. That plus the Myarc controller will upgrade the club system to DS/DD capability.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Library

Wallace reported acquisition of video tapes on how to configure Funnelweb and of the demonstrations from last years Lima User Group TI Fest. Jim pointed out that we should make every effort to make sure that we have the latest versions of programs such as Telco, etc. in the library.

Program

Dan Shell reported that this month's program will be presented by Bud Barnes and will cover some of the finer points of Multiplan. Jan also will show some of the art work he has created with his Geneve. Next month Dan and Jan will show some of the newer Geneve software. In the coming months we will take a look at some of the new equipment available for graphics such as optical scanners and laser printers.

Newsletter

Jim Ely reported that he now has a scanner that will allow us to begin including photos in the newsletter.

Publicity

Tom Pfeffer reported that he is still working on getting the word out to local "in house" publications. Mike Marfisi will see that Tom gets the phone number and address for Dimension Cable.

Constitution/Bylaws

Mike Marfisi passed out a first draft of the proposed constitution and bylaws and asked members to look it over and give comments and/or suggestions by next month. It is hoped that the process can be completed so we can have the vote in August or September.

OLD BUSINESS

Poster Contest

The poster contest will start now. The purpose being to create a poster that can be reproduced and distributed that will promote the club to those that have TI computers. All entries must be turned in by July 31st. Judging will be done by 2 artists and the results will be announced at the August meeting. Two prizes will be awarded. First prize will be \$25 cash. The second prize will be a one year renewal of club membership.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m. and turned over to Jan and Bud for a look at some graphics from the Geneve and a special session on Multiplan.

Respectfully,

Mike Marfisi, Secretary

Member Profile

Our member profile this month is of Mike Grogan. He was born in Los Angeles, CA in 1951. He went to John Glen High School in Norwalk, CA and college in western Montana. Mike married young (with no regrets) to his wife Connie. He has 2 BIG sons (Mike, jr. and Tim) who are taller than he is and he is 6' 3"!



Mike is a truck driver who has logged more than 2,000,000 miles of safe driving. He has driven across this great country of ours hauling mostly hazardous materials such as gasoline, solvents and propane, but has also hauled health foods and household goods. He works now for Shamrock Foods where he started by picking up raw milk from local farms and hauling it to processing plants in Phoenix, California and Nevada.

In 18 years of driving, Mike has more safe driving awards and letters than could fill a wall! He took 1st place in a truck rodeo in 1985.

At Shamrock, he is very active in

the safety programs and is involved in the "TRIPMASTER" computer which involves computers in all of Shamrock's trucks. They are using these computers to help the company run safer, more effectively and more economically.

Mike uses the TI-99/4A at home and an IBM at work. His overwhelming choice is the TI.

Mike joined V A S T in 1985 so he could have contact with other Tiers around Phoenix. He was elected President of the Group in April, 1989 and re-elected to that post again this year. He felt he could use the experience of the post and, as it turned out, was the only member willing to volunteer to run for it. He inherited a group divided and needs the help of every member to bring it together again.

P.S. What is wrong with Mike's picture. Don't Know? See page 10 for answer. Are you wondering about that frame, too? Ask Mike to explain it to you.

Constitutional Comments

by Mike Marfisi

For the past several months a committee has been going over our constitution with a fine tooth comb. We have been looking at it from several angles trying to see where it might be too heavy or too thin. You know what we found? For an organization of our type and size we are doing fairly well.

The one big suggestion for change came in the area of its organization. Perhaps the word "change" is a poor choice. Maybe "re-organization" would be more in tune. Throughout the years we have taken votes and made policy that has affected our day to day operation. But if we needed to go back to the source to find out just how we decided to do something, we needed to sift through years worth of minutes and notes.

After some research, we felt that all these "policies" should be drawn together into one document along with our constitution. This way we can go back anytime to check just how we wanted things done. This all lead to the formation of a set of bylaws.

Then we took a good look at the constitution itself. We found that many of the provisions within it were out of date or should be in with the bylaws. So we re-organized the whole thing. We created two documents: a constitution and bylaws. What is the difference you may ask? Good question. Let's take a look.

A constitution is a document that lays out in detail the "who, what, why, and where" of an organization. It outlines the name of the group; what type of an organization will it be; what are its basic goals and purposes; who will be allowed to join; what officers will there be; how is the document changed or updated and how is the group an organization. It outlines dissolved if that day should

See "COMMENT,"
Continued on page 10. . .

"NEWS,"*Continued from page 1*

hoped that the stream of Hoddie/Charlton software for the Geneve continues to make that machine more and more viable.

Other Hard Disk/Floppy Drive Controllers Being Produced

As Myarc continues to experience difficulties in shipping new Geneves and the HFDC, other sources of hard controllers seem to be appearing. In an article from the June West Penn 99'ers Newsletter, Chris Pratt, a member of their group, is going to unveil a new controller sometime this month. It will support all current floppy densities on both 5 1/4" and 3 1/2" drives in TI, CorComp and Myarc formats. The card will support up to four floppy drives and up to four hard drives in various densities. The price for this controller is \$225, which seems right in line.

Other future sources include possibilities from Florida, Australia and Washington D.C. Meanwhile, Triton still has Geneves and HFDC available for shipment.

Triton Goes To Single Annual Catalog

Triton has announced that it is going to a single annual catalog. That means two catalogs have been eliminated. Orders are still being taken from the older catalogs, which will be the last until this Fall.

RUMORS, RUMORS

Next Generation Geneve? Perhaps it is time to bring current rumors about a "next generation" Geneve out of the closet. All sorts of people are saying that they have heard various "close to the horses mouth" sources say it is being worked on. Lean over and smell the vapors. Hope these are true.

RAVE Revises Shipping Schedule

RAVE 99 Co. has revised its shipping schedule for the New PE/2 Professional Expansion System for the TI because of 2 new added features they want to add to the system. The first is a "System Expansion Bus" which provides additional address, data and control lines for future 16 bit PE cards. The second is the "Dual Processor Backplane" which would allow for both the Geneve and TI-99/4A to share the same backplane (sort of like a networking system allowing 2 computers to use the same hardware at the same time).

System design has now been "frozen" and no other enhancements will be considered. This has been done so that so that "bugs" in the system can be eliminated and final PCB artwork can be generated. The schedule now calls for shipment hopefully by the 3rd week in August. This gives ample time for circuit board manufacture, assembly and final testing.

Because of the above new fea-

tures, several of the current PE boards will need a slight modification to work in the new PE/2 chassis. The manual that will be supplied with the unit will give detailed instructions on which boards will require modification and how to go about it.

Also, I need to correct a misstatement in last month's newsletter. I mentioned that the PE/2-B system included the RAVE Keyboard Interface and Keyboard. This is not true. Provision has been made to allow installation of the interface card into the expansion box but the Keyboard Interface and keyboard must be purchased separately. Sorry for the misunderstanding.

Canada Loses TI Distributor

Laflamme & Wrigley has decided that "the TI world is unable to support a Canadian distributor." Jane Laflamme says the company will continue on a part time basis and as a last commitment to Canadian users, the company will be offering the version 3.1 upgrade to Inscobot's TI-Base to those who have purchased version 2.04.

In addition, they have stock to dispose of from all companies they have represented and there should be some great deals for the summer. For more information, contact Laflamme & Wrigley Wholesale, 5480

See "NEWS,"
Continued on page 9

TI-Writer

Part 9

by Stan Katzman

(Reprinted from the West Penn 99ers Newsletter)

This time I wish to discuss the dot commands. These commands format the text in the text formatter. They are entered in the document, and for the sake of brevity, occupy a line of their own. The commands I want to discuss are for setting margins, right adjust, indenting the beginning of a paragraph and centering text headings. All dot commands and text formatting commands (even those discussed last time) do not show up in the final document when put through the text formatter.

All dot commands must start with a period and end with a carriage return symbol.

To set the left margin, at the head of your document type **.LM 15** followed immediately by a carriage return. To set the right margin, type **.RM 70** followed by a carriage return. This sets the left margin at 15 and the right margin at 70. Then type **.FI** and a carriage return. The **.FI** (fill command) says to fill the line with as much text as possible between the margins. You must have the **.FI** command in to have the margin commands effective.

If you want to indent a paragraph, type **.IN +5** (carriage return) and this will indent the start of a paragraph 5 spaces. The indent command must follow the margin settings.

To center a line of text, type **.CE** (carriage return) before the line of text to be centered. If you want 2 lines of text centered, type **.CE 2** (carriage return).

In order to right adjust your margin, type **.AD** (carriage return). In order to right adjust you must also have the **.FI** command on.

Now I realize this might be a bit abstract so I have provided some copy that I used in my work in order to illustrate these commands. At the top of figure 1 on page 7, you will see the dot commands. On the screen, the carriage return symbols show, but they

do not show on the printed copy. The centering command works only for the line designated, while the margin and adjust commands work until turned off. (To turn off the right adjust, enter a **.NF** (no fill) command on the area where you do not want the margin right adjusted.) To change margins just type the appropriate changes on a separate line using the numbers for the margins you want.

Figure 2 on page 8, shows the final copy after being put through the text formatter. s.k.

Editor's Note - The rest of the articles in this series deal with the formatter dot commands. Something that is not mentioned or demonstrated is the ability to put several commands on the same line to conserve space in your already long documents. This can be done as illustrated below:

On one line type

.FI;AD;LM 15;RM 70;IN +5;CE (carriage return)

The line must begin with a period and each command must be separated with a semicolon. Again, an order must be observed. The **.FI** command must precede the **.AD** command and if centering is required for the next line or lines, it must be the last command on the line.

After having said the above, there are several commands that cannot be entered with other commands on the same line and must be entered on lines by themselves. These are the **.DP** (define prompt) command, the **.IF** (include file) command and the **.TL** (transliterate) command, all discussed later in this series.

Another point not mentioned is the fact the the commands must be entered in capital letters or they will be ignored. This is very important if you want the formatter to do its job correctly. j.e.

See "TI-WRITER,"

Continued on page 7

"TI-WRITER,"
Continued from
page 6

Figure 1

.LM 6
.RM 70
.FI
.IN +5
.AD
.CE

OPTICAL ROTATION EXPERIMENT

In this experiment we will determine the optical rotation of two substances. One of these substances will be studied in different concentrations to determine the effect of concentration on optical rotation. The second substance will be studied in different solvents and different concentrations to see the effect of solvent and concentration on its optical rotation.

In our first experiment we will study the effect of concentration versus the optical rotation.

Accurately weigh out three samples of sucrose (table sugar) in order to make three 100 ml solutions. The first solution will be approximately 0.2 M, the second solution will be approximately 0.4 M, and the third solution will be approximately 0.8 M.

For our second experiment we will use camphor in different solvents and concentrations as a subject of a polarimetry study in order to study the effect of solvent and concentration versus optical rotation. In the case of camphor, accurately weigh out six (6) samples with the following approximate molarities, two at 0.2 M, two at 0.4 M and two at 0.8 M. Again weigh out enough camphor to make 100 ml of each solution. Three of the samples (0.2M, 0.4M and 0.8M) will be dissolved in acetone and three of the samples (0.2M, 0.4M and 0.8M) will be dissolved in 95% ethanol.

Place each solution (made from the sucrose and the camphor) in a dry polarimeter tube (dry the tube between readings) and take its optical rotation in the polarimeter. (Your instructor will show you how to use the polarimeter.) Record the concentration and the optical rotation (Be sure to include the sign of the rotation, (+) for dextrorotory and (-) for levorotory.) in your notebooks. When you have finished be sure to wash the polarimeter tube thoroughly, including the screw caps and threads on the ends of the tube.

For this experiment we want to do three things 1) compute the specific rotation of each solution, 2) make a plot of optical rotation vs. concentration and 3) make a plot of specific rotation vs. concentration.

The formula for computing specific rotation is

.NF
.CE
 $a = (a)lc$

where

a =observed rotation (degrees of arc)
 (a) =specific rotation (deg ml/dm g)
 l =length of cell (decimeters)
 c =concentration (g/ml)

See "TI-WRITER,"
Continued on page 8

"TI-WRITER,"

Continued from page 7

Figure 2

OPTICAL ROTATION EXPERIMENT

In this experiment we will determine the optical rotation of two substances. One of these substances will be studied in different concentrations to determine the effect of concentration on optical rotation. The second substance will be studied in different solvents and different concentrations to see the effect of solvent and concentration on its optical rotation.

In our first experiment we will study the effect of concentration versus the optical rotation. Accurately weigh out three samples of sucrose (table sugar) in order to make three 100 ml solutions. The first solution will be approximately 0.2 M, the second solution will be approximately 0.4 M, and the third solution will be approximately 0.8 M.

For our second experiment we will use camphor in different solvents and concentrations as a subject of a polarimetry study in order to study the effect of solvent and concentration versus optical rotation. In the case of camphor, accurately weigh out six (6) samples with the following approximate molarities, two at 0.2 M, two at 0.4 M and two at 0.8 M. Again weigh out enough camphor to make 100 ml of each solution. Three of the samples (0.2M, 0.4M and 0.8M) will be dissolved in acetone and three of the samples (0.2M, 0.4M and 0.8M) will be dissolved in 95% ethanol.

Place each solution (made from the sucrose and the camphor) in a dry polarimeter tube (dry the tube between readings) and take its optical rotation in the polarimeter. (Your instructor will show you how to use the polarimeter.) Record the concentration and the optical rotation (Be sure to include the sign of the rotation, (+) for dextrorotory and (-) for levorotory.) in your notebooks. When you have finished be sure to wash the polarimeter tube thoroughly, including the screw caps and threads on the ends of the tube.

For this experiment we want to do three things 1) compute the specific rotation of each solution, 2) make a plot of optical rotation vs. concentration and 3) make a plot of specific rotation vs. concentration.

The formula for computing specific rotation is

$$a = (a)lc$$

where

a=observed rotation (degrees of arc)
(a)=specific rotation (deg ml/dm g)
l=length of cell (decimeters)
c=concentration (g/ml)

"NEWS,"*Continued from page 5*

Canotek Rd., Unit 16,
Gloucester, Ontario, Canada K1J
9H6, (613) 745-2225.

Catalog Out Of Print

Because of few orders, Jim Peterson of Tigercub Software has announced that Tigercub's catalog will not be reprinted. The catalog can still be obtained on disk, however, and orders are still being filled. The "Nuts & Bolts" disks have been reduced to \$5 each. All other Tigercub software has been released to public domain with the stipulation that no price or copying fee may be charged without his permission.

To obtain the latest TI-PD catalog No. 2 and supplement No. 8 which includes the Tigercub software and now totals almost 400 disks, send \$1, which is refundable, to Tigercub Software, 156 Collingwood Ave., Columbus, OH 43213.

New Software

KB Computer Concepts has reduced prices on several items including Spinner, Memory Motel and Quizzard to \$6 each and Phrase disks for Spinner to \$4. They have also released YALP! (Yet Another Lotto Program), described as "loaded with features that allow you to approach the lottery with a serious, proven strategy for winning big!" It requires Extended BASIC and is available on cassette or disk for \$6. For a Catalog or to order,

write KBCC, 653 1/2 Fair Ave.,
New Philadelphia, OH 44663.

Asgard Software has released the Animator for generating animation sequences on the TI-99/4A or Geneve. The program is written by Brad Snyder and includes two disks and a manual and requires 32K, Extended BASIC and one disk drive. Cost is \$14.95 + shipping and handling. Contact Asgard at P. O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20849, or (703) 255-3085.

Barry Traver has release Coney Games, a disk which comes from the first two volumes of his TI diskazine, the Genial TRAVeLER.

There are eight games on the disk including 31/CARDS, 31/DICE, 31/STICKS (variations of the "31" game); GALE/GAME (also know as BRIDG-IT); NIMROW; PENNEYTOSS; SHUT-OUT; and TIC-TAC/PHI (Tic-Tac-Toe, Philadelphia style). The games pit a single player against the computer or you can have to competing players (except TIC-TAC/PHI). The price is \$10 from Barry Traver, 835 Green Valley Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19128, or (215) 483-1379.

**From The
Editor's Desk**

As you can see, there is quite a bit of news this month. Hope you all had a safe 4th of July. Let's get right to it!

IN THIS ISSUE

This month we have the continuation of the TI-Writer help files with the missing documents FOUND! Thanks to John Wilforth of the West Penn 99'ers for his assistance in providing what we could not find. The article starts on page 6. We are starting the Member Profile section again this month on page 4. This month we profile Mike Grogan. Mike Marfisi has written a small article describing what the constitution committee has been doing with the group's constitution and the changes that will be made. This is also on page 4. And the July disk of the month is described on page 10. This is one of the bigger issues of the newsletter in some time. However, we still have room for **YOUR ARTICLE!**

POSTER CONTEST

Is anybody doing anything for the Poster Contest? According to Bud Barnes, only one or two persons has mentioned doing something for it. Is this going to be another one of those "I'll just sit back and let the other guy do it" type of projects? We have enough of those kinds of projects already. This is your group. PLEASE pitch in and make an effort. Remember, first prize is \$25! Deadline is July 31st.

See "EDITOR'S DESK,"
Continued on page 10



"COMMENT,"
Continued from page 4

come. All of these "roots" are part of a constitution.

The bylaws, on the other hand, outline things like: how does one become a member; how much are dues; what does a person get for his membership; what are the duties of officers and how and when are they chosen; what committees will there be and how will they operate etc. These are things that may change often, maybe several times in a year. They can be tailored as the need arises without having to go through the cumbersome constitutional amendment process.

So this is what the committee has done. We divided the document into a constitution and bylaws. At the July meeting the committee will present its report along with a copy of the proposed documents. Those at the last meeting got a rather complete version of it (along with all the spelling errors). A motion will be made to accept the new documents. Then a constitutional amendment vote will be taken at the August meeting to fully implement the change. So when you get a copy of it in your next newsletter, please read it carefully and be sure to vote in August. m.m.

"EDITOR'S DESK,"
Continued from page 9

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Here is the calendar for the next two months with our meeting dates indicated.

AUGUST 1990						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SEPTEMBER 1990						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Next month's newsletter will be rather short as we will be including the final draft of our revised constitution and bylaws. At this point about the only thing that would make it longer would be an article from YOU!

That's about it for this month. See you at the meeting this Saturday, July 14th.

Jim Ely, Editor



ANSWER TO PICTURE QUIZ ON PAGE 4

Did you discover what was wrong with Mike's picture? Well, for one thing, it is an old picture, about a year, so you would have to remember seeing Mike a year ago. Still don't know? He no longer has the moustache you see in this picture!!

JULY DISK OF THE MONTH

A summer sale! That's right a BIG sale on this month's disk of the month. As a matter of fact we give you a 2 for one special. Our July Disk of the Month will combine 2 disks in one. We have combined two disks into archived files and put them on 1 SSSD disk.

Program 1 is for kids. We present about a dozen programs just for kids. All programs take advantage of the speech synthesizer. Some really neat stuff here, both educational and fun.

The second program is a collection of classical music for you long hairs. All good music.

These 2 programs are archived using the archiver program (available in the library). You will need 2 SSSD disks to de-archive them.

For \$1.50, enjoy! m.m.

