

# VAST NEWS

Monthly Newsletter of the VAST Computer U. G.

Volume 5 Number 9

September 9, 1989

## TI World News

### From The Pages of MICROpendium

(Compiled by Mike Marfisi  
and Jim Ely)

The folks at MICROpendium have announced that subscription rates for the coming year will have to be going up. Rates will be going from \$20 to \$25 per year. This is still the best value in the TI marketplace. The good news is if you hurry you can renew for one more year at the \$20 rate. If you already subscribe, renew now. If you don't subscribe you had better get your order in before Oct 15th.

In this issue, look for features on building magnified sprites in Extended BASIC and getting around TI-Writer's problem of printing "\*", "&" and "@" through the formatter.

Continuing articles: part 3 of the calendar program bring you the section that will allow the calendar to print to the screen. Also the final installment on building a portable TI is presented. The final installment of the Character Generator program for building CHARA1 files for the 4A and 9640 is featured.

For those interested in c99, this month features 2 more math functions.

The Forth section features another full screen editor.

The product reviews this month are about Chainlink (a solitary type game), Personal Auditor Home Accounting and micro reviews on several music programs are included.

### New TENEX Catalog?

Several months ago, we reported in VAST News that TENEX Computer Express, one of the remaining TI Hardware and Software distributors, would no longer be publishing a TI catalog. Then, the following month, we took back our words as a more supposedly accurate report stated it would still be published. Well, seems there is a new Tenex catalog and it does contain TI products but it is nothing like the company used to handle for the TI. Looks like they are going to stay in at least for a while, but not in as big a way as in the past. At least they are still in....

### Zeno Board In Production

The internal board that fits into the console of the TI and allows the user to install 32K of memory, a clock, Extended BASIC and the speech synthesizer is now in production in lots of 100 pieces. The board, as you may recall, was announced several months ago to determine whether there was enough interest in pursuing the project. Obviously, interest is high.

The boards are being sold for \$17.50 each plus \$2.50 shipping for the first board and \$.50 shipping for each additional board in the U. S. Eight pages of documentation, including schematics, user

notes, parts lists and placement overlays, plus software for the clock, is available for \$1.00 per copy.

For further information or to order, contact Eric Zeno at 414 Highland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235 or phone (412) 371-4770.

### Expansion Now Available For The Geneve 9640

Bud Mills Services, 166 Dartmouth Drive, Toledo, OH 43614, the people famous for the Horizon Ram Disk, now has available a memory expansion board for the Geneve 9640 computer.

The board, called "MEMEX", will support "zero wait state" and can be expanded up to 1.5 megs.

The fully constructed, tested and warranted 504K board sells for \$245. Kits are not available as a timing adjustment is required on the board.

See "NEWS..."  
on page 9

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403-996-0690

# VAST USER GROUP INFORMATION

The **VAST USERS GROUP** is a support group for Home Computer users. We primarily support the TI-99/4A Home Computer and compatibles, but all computer users are welcome. We will be meeting at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center in Tempe on the 2nd Saturday of the month (September 9). In the coming year, the meetings will ALL be on the SECOND Saturday of the month. A two month calendar showing the meeting dates for October and November is included on the Editor's page so you will know when the next meetings will be. The meetings will start at 10:00 a.m. and continue until 11:00 a.m. with socializing starting at 9:00 AM. Please see the address page for additional meeting information. The yearly membership fee is \$15.00 and now includes the newsletter mailed to your door!

All meetings are open and anyone may attend. Only dues paying members may vote in elections and obtain programs from the Users' Group Software Library.

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## CURRENT OFFICERS

### President

Mike Grogan.....272-4315

### Vice-President

Bill Wedmore.....998-1821

### Secretary

Mike Marfisi.....491-1552

### Treasurer

Mike Marfisi.....491-1552

### User Group Librarian

Stephanie Bannon..433-9624

### Newsletter Editor

Jim Ely.....921-3375

### BBS SysOp

Sue Miller.....375-8456

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The date that appears in the upper right hand corner of your mailing label is your newsletter subscription expiration date. Address renewals to the return address on page 10. Newsletter *ONLY* membership is available for \$12.00/year, First Class Mail.

The User Group's BBS is in operation 24 hours a day. Contact it at (602) 242-9868. There are 4 message bases, a TI specific download section, and a lot of interesting conversation and information available here so why not give it a try.

Deadline for submission of articles or advertising for the Newsletter is the first Saturday of every month. Articles may be submitted in any form, however, the preferred method is by phone transfer directly to the Editor or to the VAST User Group BBS NEWSLETTER Section.

\*\*\*\*\*

Advertising rates are as follows:

### COMMERCIAL:

Full Page

\$12.00

Half Page

\$7.00

Quarter Page

\$4.00

### PERSONAL:

Four lines,

30 Characters/line

\$1.00

\$.20 per line over four.

All rates are for *ONE* issue only!

\*\*\*\*\*

Programs are available from the **USERS' GROUP LIBRARY** at the following rates:

SS/SD Disk \$2.00

DS/SD Disk \$4.00

If copying of documentation is required, it will be at the rate of \$.10 per page. If the User Group supplies the disk, please add \$1.00 to the above charges. An exchange program for free programs is also in effect. Please contact the librarian for further information. A complete list of what is in the library is available on 2 disks free of charge if you supply the disks or for \$1.00 per disk if the User Group supplies the disks.

**DISCLAIMER:** Information in this newsletter is gathered from other user group newsletters from around the world and original articles by members of our user group. The information is believed to be correct and accurate as published. Where possible, original sources and authors are stated. Errors should be brought to the attention of the editor of this newsletter. This user group is not responsible for programs and construction projects tried by its members or others. **YOU** try them at your **own risk**. Permission is hereby granted to other user groups to republish articles appearing in the *VAST News*.

# The Secretary's Slate

## MINUTES

### VAST User Group

August 12, 1989

The August meeting of VAST User Group was called to order by President Mike Grogan at 10:05AM on Saturday, Aug. 12, 1989. The meeting was held at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center in Tempe.

The minutes were approved as published in the VAST newsletter. Mike Marfisi reported a bank balance of \$528.30 with income for the month at \$88.25 and expenses of \$46.54.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**LIBRARY:** Stephanie reported that she and Bud were working at getting the listing up to date. They are also checking each disk and writing descriptions.

**BBS:** No report. Chairperson absent.

**NEWSLETTER:** Jim Ely reported that the BBS now has a special section to be used to upload items for inclusion in the newsletter. It is called Jim's Newsroom. He would really like to see some activity. Jim said he would like to start a feature that would highlight a member of the group each month. It would be sort of a biographical piece that could include a picture. He asked that we all give it some thought and try to come up with some interesting stuff that others might like to know about us.

**PROGRAM:** Dan Shell reported that the program for September would be a demonstration of the Geneve 9640 and the latest version of advanced BASIC. Jim Ely suggested a program that would include a tour of his print shop along with a demo on desk top publishing. He would show us first hand how the VAST newsletter is produced. All seemed very interested. This would mean that on the month of the demo, our meeting would be held at his shop at 48th and Baseline.

**OTHER:** No report. Chairperson absent.

**PICNIC:** Stephanie is waiting to find out just how much money we can spend on the event. It is the intention at this time to have the club supply hot dogs and buns along with condiments, chips and soft drinks. We would also supply plates and utensils.

We really need to have an idea of how many are planning to attend, so we will send a postcard to all

paid up members asking who plans to attend. It was also suggested that we invite the folks who are regular visitors to our BBS but are not members of VAST. This would be a nice way to get to meet them and maybe get them to join us.

**PUBLICITY:** No report. Chairperson absent.

It was suggested that we ask Jim Ely to print a box of "business type" cards with information about our group to be used by members as public relations tools. They can be given to folks who may be interested in computers, left on grocery store bulletin boards or in computer stores. The suggestion received the approval of the members.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Fest West 90:** We received a letter from SW 99ers in Tucson in response to a letter we sent last month. We had offered our help to them with the upcoming TI FEST to be held in Tucson this coming February. BJ Mathis, the SW99ers group President, suggested that we might best serve by offering transportation to vendors who may be flying into Sky Harbor rather than Tucson. We may also provide a nights lodging to some of these folks to help them make airline connections. We seem to be in general agreement with this proposal and we will ask for volunteers in the coming months.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Purchase of blank disks:** Mike pointed out that with the Disk of the Month program getting into full swing, we are going to need to purchase some blank disks. There are several places where we can buy disks at bulk prices. Anywhere from \$.21 to \$.30 per disk depending on quantity. Anyone interested in ordering blanks for themselves should contact Mike. We will then place the order and save some \$'s.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 11:05am.

The TI Committee presented a program on how to load and run program files on the TI when you are not sure of the program type. Between Jan Klabunde, Dan Shell and Mike Marfisi, we got just about all of the questions answered.

Respectfully submitted.

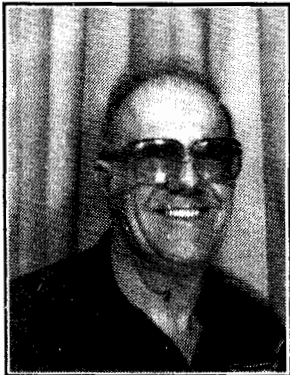
Mike Marfisi, Secretary

## Know the People In Our Group

### This Month's Member Profile...

Ellsworth P. "BUD" Barnes

Born in Baltimore, Maryland



on January 5, 1926, Bud is married to his wife of 39 years, Mary Lue. He joined the U. S. Navy at the tender age

of 16 and served 2 hitches as Electrician's Mate and Deep Sea Diver. He also served a 3 year stint in the U.S. Merchant Marine as a Warrant Bos'n.

Bud has attended 3 years of college in Law School, Engineering and Teachers College. He spent 21 1/2 years in the Aerospace industry as a Technician, Engineer and Administrator and has worked 9 1/2 years for the State of Arizona as Administrative Assistant for the Attorney General's Office and Contract Writer for the Department of Economic Security. He retired as Administrative Manager for the Department of Health Services in 1985.

Among Bud's hobbies are Duplicate Bridge, Magic, Chess and reading (about 6 books a month!). He is presently involved in the fabricating of plastics ("You draw it, I'll fabricate it."). He has a big interest in the TI-99/4A and says it is "the best home computer ever made."

In our User Group, Bud is currently involved with trying to get the disk library organized and

properly labeled with meaningful descriptions of the different files available. He is working on this project with Stephanie Bannon, our Librarian. At the beginning of 1990, Bud has volunteered to head the Publicity Committee of the Group. And that is our Member Profile this month.

## The Treasurer's Statement

### AUGUST COMINGS AND GOINGS

Well gang... keep a stiff upper lip... after all summer will be over in just a few more months! Just think... we won't have to pay our APS and SRP bills by armored truck!

The heat took its toll on our August meeting attendance. It was a small but lively group.

The following demonstrated their faith in VAST by renewing memberships (one optomist actually sent in dues for NEXT year too... how's that for blind faith!)

- Erik Anderson
- Steve Gendler
- Virginia Davis
- Bob Laubenthal
- Jan Klabunde
- Bud Barnes

A very special VAST welcome to Mr. John Keck who joins us as our newest victim. Nice to meet you, John.

Now to the renewals. Because of the fact we are having no meeting in October (PICNIC REMEMBER!) here are those who need to renew in the next 2 months. Look for your renewal notice with your newsletter.

- Henry Bacon
- Joe Dienstbier

- Bill Wedmore
- Mel Brown
- Mike Grogan
- Curtis Mavity

It is with heavy heart that we say bye to those who have expired.

- Earl Bonneau
- Ike Van Kampen
- Gerry Kennedy
- Bobby Mc Cray

## From The Editor's Desk

Well, here is the September edition of the VAST News.

In this issue on page 5 we start a new series of articles on using TI-Writer and its clones. This series has appeared in several newsletters and is quite good. Since the program part of this month's User Group meeting is on the Geneve/Myarc 9640 computer, Jan Klabunde has written a sort of history of what was promised and what is reality of the machine. That is on page 6. I seem to always get questions on TI-Artist. A couple of months ago, I started a series of articles on using this fine graphics program. Part 2 of the series is on page 7 this month. And that is about it.

### Upcoming Meetings

Instead of my usual 2 month calendar, I will just tell you that the next meeting is on October 14, 1989 and is our 2nd Annual Swap Meet/Picnic at Encanto Park. BE THERE! The November meeting is on the 11th and is tentatively set to be at Ely Ink Printing for the meeting and a demo of Desk Top Publishing (DTP) on an IBM clone computer. Should be an interesting one in November...

See "Editor's Desk" on page 9. . .

## TI-WRITER

by Gary Taylor

From the *Pug Peripheral*, Newsletter of the  
Pittsburg User Group

### Part 1

The following series was originally written by Stan Katzman for the West Penn 99'ers.

The best place to start is at the beginning. When I first unpacked T.I.-Writer, it was intimidating... a cartridge, a disk and that BIG manual. It is not as bad as it seems and it really is an easy program to learn to use. One must have the following:

- 1) Console,
- 2) 32K memory expansion,
- 3) RS232 card,
- 4) disk drive (2 drives are best but you can do very nicely with one) and
- 5) a printer (The printer should be Epson compatible.).

First make a copy of the program and use the original as a backup. (Very important).

Place the cartridge in the port and power up the system. Place the program disk in the drive. (I am assuming one disk drive.) and get T.I.-Writer from the menu, using the English version. Next you will see:

1. EDITOR
2. FORMATTER
3. UTILITY.

We will discuss the Editor first because all writing is done here. Press (1) and the disk will now run putting the editor program in memory. A line will show across the top with a cursor (you are in Command mode). The line says...

Edit, Tabs, Files, Lines, Search, Recover-Edit, ShowDirectory, Quit.

We will now just discuss Tabs and Edit.

The line starting with "Edit" is called the Command Mode. Let us set our tabs (and margins). Press "T" and the cursor will move to a numbered line. First hit the space bar and remove the "L", then with the "FCTN D" move the cursor to the 10th space and type "L". Then move the cursor with "FCTN D" to 70 and type "R", press ENTER and you are in the editing mode and you can type anything you want with the margins set at 10 and 70 (If you want different mar-

gins just press "FCTN 9" then "T" and reset the margins to whatever you want as we did before). You do not have to press the enter key at the end of the line unless you want to start a new paragraph. You are in the Word Wrap mode.

If you want to print out your document at this stage, just press "FCTN 9" and you are back in the Command Mode. Now press "F" (files) and you will see more selections such as...

LoadF, SaveF, PrintF, DeleteF, Purge or Show-Directory.

At this point, type "PF" and you will now see "PRINT FILES", enter device:, at this point, if you have a parallel printer, enter "PIO", press ENTER and your document will be printed out as you typed it.

Try using the word processor and reading the instructions. You will find it easy to use. More next time.

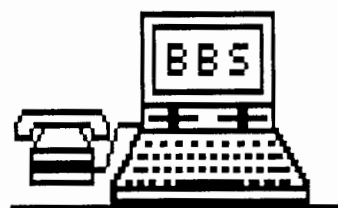
G.T.

## Quik Tip...

### TI-WRITER TIP:

(from the Salt Lake Valley User's Group)

If you are printing out of TI-Writer Editor, finish your letter (or whatever) with CTRL U, SHIFT L, CTRL U and when it is printed, the paper will automatically feed to the top of the next sheet.



*The V A S T User Group BBS*

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Phone: (602) 242-9868

**TI-99/4A and Geneve 9640 Downloads**



## A Brief History of the Geneve/ MYARC 9640 System

by Jan Klabunde

This month's User Group program is to be about the MYARC 9640 computer. It seems like a good time to bring everyone up to date with a bit of history of 9640 software and a review of the current software.

When this computer was announced almost three years ago, several items of software were promised by MYARC:

1. An MDOS operating system which would work much like the PC standard MS-DOS.
2. An ADVANCED BASIC with many new commands not found in TI Extended Basic.
3. A Run-Time component of the Pascal language.
4. An upgraded version of TI-Writer for 80 column use.
5. An upgraded version of Multiplan for 80 column use.
6. A cartridge saver program to enable the use of TI cartridges saved to disk.

I purchased my 9640 about two years ago. I figured that they would have had a year to get most of the promised software ready. I was wrong. The first version of 'MDOS' was barely useable. It was basically a cartridge loader that worked with cartridges saved to disk with the cartridge saver program. In fact, it looked just like the TIcolor bar screen when it started. In the last two years I have seen MDOS slowly evolve from that first primitive version into the promised MS-DOS clone. I have used versions 1.01, 1.06, 1.08, and the current 1.14 and .95H.

While 1.14 is not the final 'official' version, it has proved to be very good in most respects. Whatever 'bugs' exist are not really apparent to the average user. It works like a DOS is expected to work with good batch file capabilities, I/O redirection, variable sized ramdisk, print spooler, disk formatting and testing, and many of the common commands found in other operating systems.

Although the commands are similar to MS-DOS in appearance and use, it is not IBM compatible. You cannot run IBM programs and should not expect to, since the processors are completely different. The advantage is that one can use a 9640 machine or a PC clone and be comfortable with both because of the similarities in the DOS.

The GPL emulator program, which is really the TI-99/4A computer, has also evolved with each version of MDOS. In GPL mode, I still have my old TI computer, and can run most of the cartridge saved to disk, and almost any BASIC, Extended BASIC, or Editor Assembler program.

The first version of 'ADVANCED BASIC', like the first 'MDOS', was also flawed, and a big disappointment at the time. It was actually a slightly modified Myarc Ex-

tended BASIC 2.11 version. Virtually none of the new commands listed in the manual were there, and the basic seemed to crash the system with very little effort on my part.

Those of us with the 9640 waited until March of 1989 for the first Beta test version of ADVANCED BASIC to appear on the national BBS's. This turned out to be unuseable due to serious bugs and hidden problems in MDOS 1.14. Finally in July 1989, version 2.98 of ADVANCED BASIC along with MDOS .95H, were released. The .95H is a Beta test version of the Hard Disk MDOS which corrects most of the hidden problems in the older 1.14 that affect the functioning of the BASIC.

Version 2.98 of ADVANCED BASIC really works. Most of the new commands are functional. The few that are missing are not a serious problem at this time. All 9 graphics modes are available by command. This includes the 256 color mode, and several 80 column modes. It will run most of the programs I have tried, except those with speech.

The run-time Pascal is one thing that has not yet appeared. I have my doubts as to the usefulness of this. In order to actually write programs, one will have to buy the complete Pascal package. Otherwise you may only be able to run programs that are written or translated for this machine. There are claims that you will be able to run 'standard' Pascal programs from other systems, but I think that may be a bit overstated.

The 80 column TI-Writer and Multiplan upgrades did come with the computer. The word processor is called MYWORD but has the same commands as TI-Writer. It works more smoothly with expanded menus and built in help files. The early versions did have a few problems, but were functional. These have been cleaned up along the way with new versions included with newer releases of MDOS. The current versions of MYWORD and Multiplan work well, have considerably more memory available, and run much faster.

The Cartridge Saver program also came with the original package. This program worked well right away. Most cartridge software transferred to disk works fine on the 9640. A few of the non-working exceptions are LOGO I, LOGO II, PLATO, and Buck Rogers. Saver files are the same as those produced by the Gram Kracker system and appear to be interchangeable.

At this point I feel that the system software is very close to what it should have been at the start, and what I had expected when I purchased the 9640. It just took the people at MYARC a bit longer than any of us expected. Overall, I am pleased with the machine.

Now for a bit of information about what some of the other software developers are writing for this system. One

*See "Geneve 9640 History" on page 7. . .*

## "Geneve 9640 History" Continues from page 6. . .

of the first programs to work on both the 4A and 9640 and still take advantage of the 80 column text mode was TELCO. This is one of the best fairware packages ever written for TI systems.

I got HYPER COPY last winter. This program is a copy utility specifically for the 9640. It runs directly from MDOS. The functions include copying disk to disk, formatting disks, and cataloging. It differs from other similar programs for the 4A in that you can directly control both the interlace and skew of the disk being formatted or copied to. For MDOS system boot disks, this allows one to make a disk for the fastest possible floppy disk startup short of buying a custom JUMPBOOT system disk. The other side of the program is that it will make backup copies of disks much faster than possible using the MDOS Diskcopy command. I have found it to be a very useful program.

I got PICTURE TRANSFER this past spring. This program is a Graphics file conversion and display utility that runs directly from MDOS. You can read graphics files saved in TI-Artist, Graphx, RLE, MY-Art, and GIF file formats. The pictures can be re-saved in either GIF or MY-Art format. Pictures can be moved around on the screen, clipped, or even combined. Graphics files can be viewed one at a time or run as a continuous slide show using a DV-80 script file. This program plus some of the many excellent GIF files available on BBS's really showcases the graphics capabilities of the 9640. PICTURE TRANSFER is at the top of my list of fun programs for now.

Some of the currently available programming languages for the 9640, include special versions of C99, FORTH, and FORTRAN. I have not yet tried any of these. There are two Assembly Program Developer packages available now. One is from Clint Pulley, the author of C99, and is fairware. The latest one announced is by Paul Charlton, the author of the MDOS system, and is a commercial product. McCann Software has a new version of The Printers's Apprentice and a special version of The Geometer's Apprentice for the 9640.

I think the September meeting should prove interesting for all. J. K.

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## TI-ARTIST...for the beginner

### Part 2

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

by Don McCalla and Evelyn Pacinda

Several months ago, we discussed Fonts, Instances, and printing Pictures. This month we'll explain Slides and some of the TI-Artist Menu options.

First of all, I'd better mention that if you didn't modify your computer to disengage your alpha lock with joystick use, release it or your cursor won't go up!

Slides are found under "S" in Enhancements. The default slides are a complete set of electronic symbols bordering the Enhancement menu, useful if you want to make schematics. Slides can be used to store and retrieve a set of related symbols that you frequently use, like music notes or patterns. Some slide programs are found on the supplemental disks. To use the default Slides, just position your cursor over the desired Slide and press the fire button. You can then place the Slide as desired on your picture. You can re-use the Slide by repositioning and pressing the Fire button. Press space bar to return to Enhancement Menu.

At the Slide Menu there are several options; Define a Slide, Erase a Slide, Rotate a Slide, Load a Slide, and Save a Slide. Also, Load and Save an Instance can be found here.

To define a Slide, you must first draw the symbol(s) desired using the TI-Artist menu. You can also take a portion of a pre-made picture. Keep in mind that the maximum size of your slide is about 4 characters by 4 characters. After choosing the option Define a slide, take the cursor and place it in the block where you want the slide to be. Press fire button and a box appears over your picture. Position the box where desired and press Fire. Your chosen slide now appears in the desired slide box. You can continue to do this until all 24 Slides boxes are full. As long as you're making slides, the fire button will alternate between your picture and the slide frame. Once you have created your slides, to get to the Slides Menu, press the space bar.

The Erase a Slide Function (2) is similar, except that you position the cursor over an existing slide on frame, press fire button, and it's gone. This does not effect the picture, just the slides around the frame. The Rotate Function (3) rotates the slide your cursor is on by 90 degrees each time the fire button is pressed.

To Load a Slide file from a disk, press (4) and enter drive # and filename at the prompt; Slide files are "\_S" don't add that at the end of the filename; the program does

*See "TI-Artist" on page 8. . .*

"TI-Artist" Continues from page 7. . .

that automatically. They will appear in the border slide frames.

To Save a Slide (5), enter your desired filename at the prompt after defining the slides as desired. Remember not to add the "\_S" at the end.

The last option on this menu is Save an Instance (7). Instances are sections of pictures which can vary in size from as small as you want to as large as the screen. This option directly saves your Instance to Disk at the same time it's defined. You are first prompted for a filename (remember, you don't need the "\_I"), and you are then returned to your picture. The cursor must be positioned in an upper corner of the chosen area, press the fire button, and a blinking box appears. Move the cursor until your chosen Instance is within the box, and press fire. The Instance is then immediately saved to disk.

Now for the TI-Artist menu. There are other Enhancements, but we'll deal with them later. To get there from the Enhancement menu, press FCTN Quit and load TI-Artist from the Main Menu. To select any function on this menu, you can position the cursor over the desired box, or press the appropriate letter. You can access these functions directly from your picture without going back to this menu if you know which keyboard letter to press. Otherwise, press space bar to alternate between picture and menu.

The first box (icon) is Draw (D). This allows you to draw freehand whenever the fire button is pressed. To move the cursor to another area, simply release the fire button. There are options to change brush styles and colors at the bottom of the menu screen. Point (P) draws one point at a time when the fire button is depressed. Otherwise it works the same as Draw.

Line (L) is for all of us who can't draw straight lines. To make a Line, position your cursor over the start point and press fire. A "rubber band" type line appears wherever you move your cursor to. When positioned, press fire button again and your line is set. The cursor is then returned to the beginning point of the line.

K-Line (K) works the same as Line, but you can continue your line from the second endpoint of the previous line.

Rays (R) is also similar to Line but you can create multiple lines from the first point just by moving the cursor and pressing fire. All rays created originate from the first point specified.

Fill (F) is a very DANGEROUS function. It is used to fill a shape with a desired pattern or color. It only takes positioning the cursor in the shape and pressing fire. Be aware that this keypress may terminally ruin your entire picture if your shape is not TOTALLY enclosed. If you

have any doubts as to whether or not your shape is totally enclosed, and you really like your picture, go to the Zoom function and check the outer border of the shape you desire to fill. At any time during the FILL process you may abort by pressing the space bar. Hint: Keep your finger ready on this bar!

Frame (V) makes rectangles and squares. Designate a corner of the frame and press fire. A rubber band box appears; by moving the cursor you can make interesting sizes and shapes. When positioned as desired, press fire again. Your frame is now complete.

Box (X) is exactly like Frame except that rectangle is filled in with the color or pattern chosen in the bottom of the menu screen.

When pattern is set to (P), and the Plot/Erase icon is OFF, this makes a good block eraser.

Circle (O) makes individual circles. Pressing fire sets center, move cursor to set radius and press fire again.

Disk (Q) works like Circle and fills area in like Box function.

Clear Image (A) is accessed by pressing "CTRL A". This clears pattern portion of the screen (this is everything unless you are using color). It leaves the color portion untouched. If in Zoom mode, it will only clear the Zoom window.

H or V (H) is used to draw individual horizontal or vertical lines. This is extremely useful if drawing plots or graphs where precision is desired. To use, define endpoint and press fire. A rubber band appears which determines length of line. Press fire to set. Don't worry if you aren't sure whether the line is exactly H or V, the function makes it exact.

Swap (N) is a color function. It is used to swap colors. Place cursor where you want new color to be and press fire. Move cursor to desired color (already on picture) and press fire button again. The new color will then replace ALL of the old color in the picture. If you're in Zoom, it will only replace the color in the window.

Invert (I) makes a "negative" of your picture (or window, if in the Zoom mode).

Alpha Numeric (E) has nothing to do with Fonts. It allows you to type onto the picture direct. Place the cursor where you want to start the text, press the fire button and start typing. You can change the size of the type horizontally and vertically. Use C for horizontal size and FCTN F for vertical size. Both range from 1 to 9, given a total of 81 varieties of Alpha-numeric type. Press fire button to stop typing and choose another function.

That's all for this month. We didn't mean to stop here but we ran out of room. Next time we'll finish the TI-Artist menu and go on to bigger and better things.

D.M. & E.P.



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## "News" Continues from page 1. . .

For more information or to order, contact Bud Mills Services at the above address.

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## Local and OTHER News

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### PICNIC

Don't forget we are planning our annual picnic/swap meet for the 2nd Saturday in October at Encanto Park. We must have a good idea of how many people to expect. All PAID UP members will have received a post card by now asking how many of you plan to attend. If you have not already mailed them back or somehow communicated with Stephanie, please do so by the September meeting. We need to plan budgets and shopping lists. Thank You.

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### IBM (Clone) User News

In case you missed page 28 of the July, 1989 issue of Video Games & Computer Entertainment, Dan Lawton of Color Dreams has devised a development system that turns an IBM (or clone) into a programming workstation for the Nintendo Entertainment System (NES). Eddy Lin, marketing director for Color Dreams says that by using a different shape of cartridge, a different design of Printed circuit board inside the cartridge and their own method of working around Nintendo's infamous "lock out chip," they have bought as much protection from lawsuit possible, given their aim. Programs are developed on disk by a team, not necessarily

geographically close or working for the same company, and then burned into cartridges to provide protection from copying and to access the enormous Nintendo game market.

Interested? Color Dreams is located at 2700 E. Imperial Highway, Building A, Brea, CA 92621. Their phone number is (714) 579-0693.

Article submitted to V A S T News by Ian McGregor of Casa Grande, AZ.

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### Disk Of The Month

I have chosen two interesting disks for you this month. The first is a disk full of classical music by Johann Sabastian Bach. This album is not available in any store at any price! Just send \$19.95 to.....

Disk #2 is a group of files for use with TI Writer or other TI word processors. It includes programs that will print DV 80 files in multiple columns, add CR's, LF's or hyphens to DV 80 files. Also several programs that will remove the above named items if you so desire. Two programs will count the number of words in the file. Another will sort DV 80 files and still another will help to initialize a printer. Some very handy files. As always, each DOM is \$1.50. Buy one or both.

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### "Editor's Desk" Continues from page 4. . .

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#### Plea for Articles!

Last month I asked for each of you to upload to the BBS, or otherwise get to me, an article on **YOURSELF** and a small snap shot of yourself. What could be hard about that, he asked with a smirk? On page 4 is an example of

what I want from **YOU**. Not anything long and winded but just a simple who you are and what you do. I have received only • 1 • response and that is on page 4. I'll tell you what. If I don't get at least 3 of these suckers this next month, **DON'T LOOK FOR A NEWSLETTER IN OCTOBER!** I don't think it is asking too much for **YOU** to be a part of **YOUR** newsletter. If you can't find a snap shot of yourself, a lot of the game arcades have those self portrait machines that take either a 3 x 5 snap or 4 smaller shots on one snap and in **COLOR**. It is good enough for what I need and is about \$2.00. (This is what was used for this month's picture.) **PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!**

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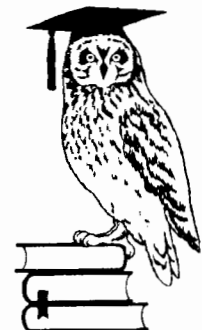
### TI Faires of Interest

Sept. 16 is the TI International Expo in Alexandria, Virginia. It is sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Ninety-Niners and for information write P. O. Box 4005, Rockville, MD 20850 or phone (301) 340-7179

Sept. 23-24 is the Fourth Annual TI-99/4A Seattle Convention in Kenmore, Washington. Contact Barb Wiederhold at (206) 361-0799 for further information.

*Don't Forget the Picnic* next month. See you at the meeting...

Jim Ely, Editor





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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**MEETING NOTICE**

**September 9, 1989**

This month's program is an update/demo of the Myarc 9640 Geneve Computer. See article on page 6 as a preface to the demo.

*Meeting Location:*

Pyle Adult Recreation Center  
655 E. Southern Avenue  
Tempe, Arizona

Open 9:00 a.m. – Meeting 10:00 a.m.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

12/89

RALPH REES  
18815 N. 13TH AVE.  
PHOENIX, AZ 85027

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