

VAST NEWS

for the VAST Computer User Group

Volume 7 Number 11

November 9, 1991

TI World and Local News

Compiled by Jim Ely from various sources,
mostly MICROpendium Magazine.

Locally, Bud Barnes Hospitalized Again

Bud Barnes was hospitalized on October 15th again with chest pains. He was moved to the University Medical Center in Tucson on October 22nd. Apparently, the artery close to his heart that was cleaned out the last time this happened has again clogged up and is causing a serious problem. The doctors are going to once again unclog the artery and see if this time it will be a more permanent fix. We wish Bud all the best!

FLASH! Bud returned home from Tucson on Sunday October 27. The surgery to re-open the clogged artery was a success and

he is feeling much better now. He says he expects to be at the meeting on November 9th. We'll see him there!

ELECTIONS

VAST User Group members will find enclosed with this newsletter the official ballot for the board member elections. According to our constitution, members are to be notified approximately 2 weeks prior to any election or special ballot. That is why this newsletter is

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Please Note! Your **BALLOT** for the board member election is enclosed.

Happy Thanksgiving



**From the VAST
Computer User Group.**

NEWS, from page 1

a little earlier than normal. Note that the meeting is still at the usual time and place, only the newsletter is a little early. PLEASE! Remember to either send the ballot back to reach the secretary by November 8th or bring it to the meeting on November 9th. **THIS IS THE ONLY BALLOT YOU WILL RECEIVE!** If you lose it, another ballot cannot be issued, which means you don't vote.

ESD Hard Drive Controller Update

A prototype of the new IDE hard disk controller was shown recently at a meeting of the MANNERS User Group by Shane Truffer and Chris Pratt of ESD.

It was a functional card wire wrapped on a proto board and it drove a West-ern Digital 42 meg drive with no problems. Virtually no software yet (the demo was a simple program that stepped the drive into the last track and wrote a bunch of data, then parked the drive). Shane talked a bit about plans and it was clear he has been listening and thinking about the questions everyone has asked. First the card itself has a very modest chip count — about half of it was empty.

ESD is thinking about 4 packages:

- 1) An IDE HD controller plus 40 meg drive (\$280 max).
- 2) A high density Floppy controller - 4 drives of 1.2 meg and/or 1.44 meg capacity including a floppy drive (less than \$165).

- 3) An IDE HD + FD controller plus 40 meg drive (less than \$310).

- 4) An IDE HD + FD controller plus 40 meg HD and floppy drive (less than \$380).

Each card will be CRU address adjustable so you could run several controllers in the same P-box. The high density format is not guaranteed to be readable on current controllers since it will be using the latest NEC 765 style chip. So you could have your current floppy controller, an HFDC, and several ESD controllers in the same P-box.

They are also thinking of multiple DSRs and a scheme to detect the type of host machine so they can be run from a 99/4A or 9640.

DIGITAL SOUND for the TI-99/4A and Myarc Geneve

New from OPA and Don O'Neil is the DIGI-PORT digital sound adaptor and player!

This unique cable plugs into your 99/4A's or Geneve's PARALLEL port (TI, Myarc, or CC) and allows you to play incredible 8 bit digitized sounds from the IBM, MAC, AMIGA, ATARI ST, SOUND BLASTER and many more!

The software supplied allows playback of the sounds from 0 Khz to 80 Khz either through the supplied PIO adaptor cable or through the 4A's built in 9919 sound generator (The 9919 plays sounds only at a 5 bit accuracy, whereas the PIO cable plays at 8 bits accuracy). With a standard 4A you can p

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SECRETARY'S SLATE

MINUTES

VAST Computer User Group
October 12, 1991

The monthly meeting of the VAST Computer User Group was held on Saturday, October 12th at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center. The meeting was opened by President Mike Grogan at 10 a.m. All officers, 17 members and 5 guests were present.

Mike began by welcoming Dan Shell back to the fold after an absence that took him "down under" for a while. He also welcomed the Mathis' and Tom Wills from SW 99'ers in Tucson.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. The treasury report was approved as read by Mike Marfisi.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NEWSLETTER

No report

PUBLICITY

No report

BBS

No report but several questions about the board were addressed.

LIBRARY

New additions include Ver 5 of DM 1000 and ver 4.4 of Funnelweb. A disk containing the complete listing of programs available

has been produced. Copies are available from the library or BBS.

ELECTION

Presented a slate of nominees for 1992 including: Jim Ely for President, Ralph Rees and Jim Wayne for Vice President and Jack Workman, Ed Morse and Tom Pfeffer for Secretary/Treasurer. The floor was then opened for additional nominations. None were forthcoming. The nominations were closed and the slate, as presented was accepted.

The November issue of the VAST newsletter will be published one week early and will include a ballot that may be returned at the November meeting or mailed so as to reach the secretary by the meeting date.

FEST WEST

Hazel reported that we have now sold 6 tables. Speakers slots have been filled for all but one slot on Saturday. Sunday is still available. Raffle tickets are starting to sell and arrangements are being made to ship tickets to user groups on a consignment basis. New mailings are going out this month to vendors.

A suggestion was made that some kind of area be set up for kids activities, perhaps to include a video game arcade with large screen TV. Ian agreed to follow-up on his suggestion.

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MINUTES, from page 3

The equipment survey will be republished in next month's VAST newsletter. Hopefully we will get better results this time. We need to know what members have available and are willing to loan for use at the Fest.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Ely announced that Bud Barnes was the winner in our Newsletter Anniversary contest. He was the only entry, but he DID get all the answers right.

There being no further official business, the meeting was closed at 10:50 a.m.

The guest speaker scheduled for the meeting failed to show-up. There was no formal program.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Marfisi, Secretary,
VAST Computer User Group



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up to 10 seconds of sound at 5Khz. But if you own a SUPER CART, 80 COLUMN CARD, RAMBO MEMORY CARD, 4A MEMEX CARD, or a GENEVE you can

play even longer sounds, up to 10 minutes and more!!!

Included in the package are a PIO Adaptor Cable (requires external amplifier to hear sound), a program disk with the DIGI-PORT Software and 1 of the following disk configurations (Select for your particular drive/memory capacity): 10 SSSD Disks containing 24k or smaller sound files (Standard 4A), Part # DP01; or 10 DSSD Disks containing 112k or smaller sound files (4A w/ 80 columns), Part # DP02; or 10 DSDD Disks containing 360k or smaller sound files (4A MEMEX/RAMBO/GENEVE), Part # DP03; or 10 DSQD Disks containing 720k or smaller sound files (4A MEMEX/RAMBO/GENEVE), Part # DP04 all for only \$39.95 US Dollars!

Call or write OPA, 432 Jarvis Street, Suite 501-502, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y-2H3 to order or for more information!

Additional sound disks are also available from OPA.

New Catalog Available

The new fall/winter catalog is now available from Texaments and it's FREE to anyone who requests it. To get your own personal copy, call or write Texaments at 53 Center St., Patchogue, NY 11772; (516) 475-3480; BBS: (516) 475-6463.

New Hours; New Products at Asgard

Asgard Software has announced new hours of operation and released LinEditor, a text

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editing program and the Asgard Mouse Developers Package.

Orders and inquiries about product prices and availability may be made by calling (703) 255-3085 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. eastern standard time Monday - Saturday and noon - 6 p.m. Sunday every day except Christmas and New Years.

For technical information, call 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Monday - Friday or noon - 6 p.m. weekends to the same number, except Christmas and New Years.

Order status questions should be made to (716) 778-9104, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Asgard has released LinEditor for the TI-99/4A and Geneve 9640 which is designed to allow the user to load and edit a text file larger than can be fitted into the computer's memory.

The program loads from TI-Writer, Editor or Extended BASIC and has a built in help screen. It uses many of the same keys as TI-Writer.

LinEditor requires a TI-99/4A with expanded memory and a disk system. It is compatible with the Hard and Floppy Disk Controller and RAMdisks. Price is \$14.95 plus \$3 shipping and handling (\$5 airmail).

The Mouse Development Package contains extensively documented routines, with source code, for assembly, c99, Fortran 99/9640 and Extended BASIC programmers, according to the manufacturer. Support routines are also provided for reading a 9938

mouse within programs on a 4A or a Geneve. The manufacturer says that users can use the routines to create device-independent programs that take advantage of both the Asgard Mouse and the Myarc Mouse on both the TI-99/4A and the Geneve.

The package requires an Asgard Mouse and either Extended BASIC, Editor/Assembler or the Fortran 99/9640 or c99 compilers and the appropriate hardware to run them. The suggested retail price is \$14.95 plus \$3 shipping and handling (\$5 airmail).

To order, send a check or money order to Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306. Rockville, MD 20849. Asgard also has a new 12 page entertainment catalog available FREE by mail or phone request.

Upcoming Meetings

This month we will be meeting in the **MAUVE ROOM**. Here is the calendar for the next two months with our meeting dates indicated...

DECEMBER 1991							JANUARY 1992						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

This Month's Meeting Program

Mr. Ward Heineman, owner of ASDF Depot Repair Services, will be talking to us about disk drives and their maintenance and repair. Unlike last month, I sure hope he makes it.

That's it for this month.
See you at the meeting.



MEMBER PROFILE

This month's Member Profile is of Ed Morse, another relatively new member of VAST.

I was born at Boston City Hospital in Massachusetts on August 20, 1930, and I lived in Hyde Park, a small suburb southwest of Boston. I lived in Hyde Park until I enlisted in the USAF at the age of 20. For the first 13 years of my Air



Force career I was in the Office Administration field and was assigned to such duty stations as San Antonio, TX; Maryville State College, Maryville, MO; Anderson AFB, Guam; Larson AFB, Moses Lake, WA; Otis AFB, Falmouth, MA; Rhein Main AB, Frankfurt, Germany; Nellis AFB, Las Vegas, NV; and Wake Island AB, Mid-Pacific.

Upon my return to the continental United States, I was sent to Lowry AFB, Denver, CO to cross train in the field of F-4 Fire Control System Technician. Upon graduation from Lowry, I was sent to MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL where I spent 6 years. During my stay at MacDill, I was sent on temporary duty to the Phillipines, CamRan Bay, Vietnam and to George AFB, CA. I also was selected for Instructor Duty and sent to Shepherd AFB, Wichita Falls, TX for training. From MacDill AFB I was reassigned to Korat AB, Thailand. Upon return to the States, I was assigned to Hill AFB,

Utah, from where I was retired on Nov. 1, 1971.

After retirement, I was employed by Omni Spectra, Inc., building, testing and modifying oscillators. After approximately 5 years, I was laid off and subsequently was hired by a manufacturer's rep and was trained in the service and repair of microscopes and balance scales and how to build, align and repair probe cards for testing ICUs.

After 5 years I was laid off and then started my own business of microscope and balance scale repair. Because I was unwilling to expand my business, I soon found myself out of business. So I took about a year off and then was hired by a company that rented digital scales for which I would be repairman. It was while I was employed in this capacity that I had a heart attack, which, luckily, resulted in no surgery and is now under control with medication.

While convelescung I got my TI, and, for many years (about 5), I had only a cassette system. In 1990 I finally got a printer (STAR NX-1000II) and joined VAST. After I saw some demonstrations with TIPS and other disk systems, I was on the lookout for a PE box. I found one with 2 disk drives and an RS232 card that was just within mu budget. Then, of course, I needed a MODEM so I could get on the board. Now I am a full fledged addict to this computer and its many programs. I still have a lot to learn, but I am sure I will get lots of help from VAST.

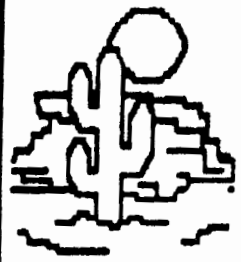
Ed Morse

A COMPUTER USERS CONVENTION

FOR THE TI 99-4A

and the

MYARC GENEVE 9640



LOCATION: Days Inn-Phoenix/Comelback
502 W. Comelback, Phoenix, AZ 85013
(602)264-9290 or 1-800-688-2021

DATE/TIME: Sat Feb 15, 1992-9am to 5pm
Sun Feb 16, 1992-9am to 3pm

**PRIZES
COLOR PRINTER**

**Other prizes to be Announced
there will be some door prizes, Too!**

**Fest tickets are on sale now (\$5.00
for both days). Any one under 15, is free
if with an Adult.**

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

**TI FEST WEST '92
THE BEST YOU CAN GET**

**Presented by: THE VALLEY OF THE SUN TI
USER GROUP (VAST)**

**For more information: Call BBS 233-0790 or
H. KNIGHT (602)-938-5446 or
R. REES (602)-869-8145**

**VENDOR'S MEETING WILL BE HELD.
TIME WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.**

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**SOFTWARE
HARDWARE
&
ACCESSORIES**

VAST User Group Information

The VAST Computer User Group is a support group for the TI-99/4A Home Computer and compatibles.

The VAST Computer User Group operates a BBS 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The phone number is (602) 233-0790.

CURRENT OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Mike Grogan 272-4315

VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Ely 275-8018

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Mike Marfisi. 491-1552

LIBRARIANS

Hazel & Wallace Knight . . . 938-5446

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Ely 275-8018

BBS SYSOP

Mike Grogan 272-4315

Send any correspondence to the address below.

ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

DISCLAIMER: The VAST Computer User Group can assume **NO** responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this newsletter or for programs or construction projects tried by its members or others. **YOU** try them at your **OWN RISK!** Any material herein may be republished by other user groups so long as credit is given to the **ORIGINAL** sources.

VAST NEWS

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

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