

January, 1991

LONGVIEW COMPUTER USERS GROUP

P. O. BOX 9284 , LONGVIEW, TEXAS 75608

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By
Ray Coates

We had a great meeting in December. We had a good turnout, had a raffle, and gave away a door prize. Larry Brignac won a TRS-80 color computer, W.L. Hankins won version 6 of PC-Tools, and I think it was Paul Fletcher that won the door prize - a box of Maxell 5-1/2" floppy disks. Congratulations, folks. There will be another raffle and door prize at the January General meeting, so yall come.

Some more good news. At the December General meeting we assembled the IBM SIG attendees in the lecture room, put two people in charge, gave them a list of qualifications for a SIG Chairman, charged them with the task of choosing a SIG Chairman, and locked the door until they came up with a name. Well, I didn't really lock the door, which was fortunate, because if I had locked the door the SIG Chairman that was chosen would not have been chosen. Let me explain. After some discussion (I don't know how much "some" is), the group decided that whoever walked in the door next would be the new SIG Chairman. I'm serious. Guess who walked in the door next - "Mac". That's right, Mac is our new SIG Chairman. Obviously he didn't have to accept the new appointment, but I glad he did. We have been without an IBM SIG Chairman since the first part of 1990. We'll be looking for some great things from the IBM SIG in 1991. If Mac calls to ask for your help, please do all you can to make his job easier.

Let's change the subject. Several times since I've been the President the suggestion has been made that we start a Teen SIG. Well, that's not the way SIGs are started. SIGs are started by a group of people with a common interest organizing and then asking the LCUG Board of Directors if they can be a part of the Longview Computer Users Group. Enough of that. Rita Castleberry, our secretary, spoke with an employee of All Types Computers about starting a Teen SIG. This young man, Ben Kirk, who is also a SYSOP on the Association BBS, decided to get in touch with me about doing just that. I encouraged him to put some ideas together and bring some other teens with him to our next Board meeting, January 7th. At that meeting we will also share with Ben (and hopefully his guests) both the privileges and responsibilities of being a SIG of the Longview Computer Users Group.

If any one else would like to start a SIG, give me a call and we'll help you get started. This is my personal invitation to you to join us at the LCUG Board Meeting on January 7th at the United Methodist Church at 7 P.M., and, at the LCUG General Meeting on January 8th at the Pine Tree Jr. High School at 7 P.M. Hope to see YOU there. You might be one of our lucky winners!

Chairman:
Leo W. DuBry
758-5042

TI Report

by
Leo DuBry

Librarian:
Leo W. DuBry
758-5042

By the time you receive your news letter it will be January and too late to wish you a Happy New Year, but I do wish you the best for the new year. Now what is new in the world of the TI-99. According to the latest MICROpendium the Chicago TI Faire was a huge success. There were over five hundred that attended the event and a large number of booths were filled with goodies.

There are a couple of items that I feel the TI community would be very interested in. I've spoken of the Rave Keyboard in the past as being an upgrade for the TI-99. The Rave Company has come out with a new expansion box that is an excellent improvement over the box that TI put out years ago. The box comes in two forms. PE/2-A is for the Geneve unit which was placed on the market about three year ago. The PE/2-B is for both the Geneve and the original TI-99. This unit allows both the Geneve and the TI-99 to be operated at the same time. The box will house either hard or floppy drives, plus a number of cards. It was about time that some one came out with an Expansion Box upgrade. Today a person that loves the TI system can upgrade his system with new keyboards, disks drives, hard drives, expansion boxes, and anything that his bank account can afford.

Asgard's has come out with a help for the music minded person. Using the MIDI Master interface, and electronic keyboard, musical scores can be printed using a word processor. While playing a piece of music on the keyboard the computer will convert the music into score and print it on a sheet of music. This is going to be a great help to people who are excellent musicians but never learned to read music. This will include those that read music but would have a very difficult time transposing it to a music sheet. Years ago when studying music my instructor was capable of whistling the tune and writing it down on paper. It would be nearly impossible to teach a person to do that. But with the TI-99 and the proper software and hardware, any musician can now do it.

Next there is the IMAGE Maker which is an expansion board that supports a 80 column display. According to the manufacturer it is capable of 19,268 different colors on the screen. The board also supports up to 32 sprites, a New Gismo that allows up to eight cartridges to be plugged into the TI at one time, a card from Germany that uses low energy chips and runs disk drives which support single sided, double sided, single and double density disks.

Now if you are interested in these items come to the next TI Sig meeting here at the Studio. No the TI is not dead; its demise is only greatly misunderstood.

END