





SBTIUG GENERAL MEETING 3 DEC, 1987

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by Norm Knudsen

The December meeting of the SBTIUG with 21 members in attendance, was held at the Saratoga Public Library. The meeting was called to order at 7:22 PM by President Mike Ewell.

The first order of business was a report from our outgoing editor Kevin Daberkow. Kevin and our incoming newsletter editor Bill Schult will be jointly producing the January newsletter.

Librarian, Helmut Fuchs, announced a new disk in the library with 3 games including a golf game. Helmut then explained his new 'anti clutter' system for transporting the demo system in a nearly assembled state. He also stated that a new catalog is now available.

Keith Felix said that the bulletin board would be up in an hour.

President Mike Ewell then called for nominations for 1988 officers. Kevin was agreeable when nominated for treasurer. The annual election is slated (pun intended? -- probably) for the January meeting.

The business segment of the meeting was then adjourned for the Christmas goodies which were present in abundance. A raffle was held with each member present receiving the traditional one free ticket. Congratulations, Mike, on an interesting and useful set of prizes.

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYBODY !

PRINTING FROM PRbase FILES  
reprinted from the SUNCAST BEEPER

A lot of people seem to have trouble printing out from their PRbase files. To solve the problem, the very first time you plan to print, when prompted for the output device, hit FCTN 3 (erase) before you type in PID or whatever. I'm not sure I atotally understand what went wrong here, but I think something in the program overwrites something else, and, in order to clear it out hitting ERASE will put a bunch of hex E5's in the space so it will then accept the proper input, or something like that. In any event it isn't necessary to know WHY something works only that it does.

SBTIUG GENERAL MEETING 7 JANUARY 1988

by Norm Knudsen

The January meeting of the SBTIUG was held at the Saratoga Public Library and was called to order at 7:20 PM. There were 17 members and one guest in attendance.

President Mike Ewell announced that it was the January meeting and time for the annual election of officers. He also stated that we did not have a candidate for Vice President and called for nominations from the floor. John Wente's name was placed in nomination and was seconded. John agreed to be a candidate. Mike then read the proposed slate and a motion was made that nominations cease. The officers elected for the coming year are:

President .....Mike Ewell  
Vice President .....John Wente  
Secretary .....Norm Knudsen  
Treasurer .....Kevin Daberkow

Bill Schult will be taking over the publication of th newsletter. He and Kevin will jointly produce a combined January/February issue.

Ron Springer then gave the treasurer's report. He stated that there were four renewals during the month and that the December raffle brought in \$52.00. After delineating the expenditures for the month, he stated that he would be leaving incoming Treasurer Kevin Daberkow a balance of \$528.48.

Our Librarian, Helmut Fuchs reported that we have 120 different disks available and categorized including two Forth disks.

Don Apte, our P/R man had some announcements on upcoming computer shows and swap meets. He then proposed to sell the club a Commodore color monitor for \$40.00. With a show of hands, it was agreed to accept his offer.

There was a request from the floor that consideration be given, at some future meeting, to hold a discussion of the various utility programs available for the TI 99.

The general meeting was then adjourned for a demonstation by Mike Ewell on the 'innerds' of the peripheral expansion box.

STAR PRINT-HEAD REPAIR-  
reprinted from CIN-DAY NEWS

One of the attractive features of the Star Micronics Gemini series printers ( and also some of the later models) is the "user replaceable" print-head. As it turns out, there are a couple of drawbacks to this. One is the price of the print-head, the last one of which I bought was, in 1983, \$56. The other is pretty serious, and that is the unavailability of replacement heads. When my 15 X went out, I requested a replacement from three local suppliers, and one on the mainland, and 11 months later, I have yet to see one. Being in the position of needing to use my printer, and at the same time having to wait for the ordered parts, (which at the time I figured would be at worst a week), I decided to attempt a temporary patch-up. That temporary fix has lasted till now and shows every indication of being as good as new. And since the head on my 10X just developed the same problem, I have gone ahead, and repaired in the same way, and I figured that the solution would be of use to other users of Star Micronics Printers.

The problem that has occurred in my print-heads is that the guide, for the impact-matrix pins (that make the "on-bits" comes loose. This guide is small (1x4x6 mm) piece of red glass or corundum (ruby) that is inset flush with the front of the print-head body. The symptoms when this happens are that the characters printed lose their sharpness, and/or the head tends to drag the ribbon on the paper, making a gray smudge on the paper wherever the head travels, no-matter how you set the head for paper thickness.

However the pin-guide is held in place at manufacture, it can be re-fastened in place by gluing it. It takes a bit of care to do this, because no glue must be allowed to get into the pin slot. I have found the easiest way to deal with the head is to completely remove it from the printer. Get comfortable at a work table, and with tweezers, a needle (or pin) and some paper towel, lift the pin-guide out of the head. Now wipe the guide clean of ink and dust. It may be necessary to clear the pin slot with the corner of a piece of paper. Then, with the needle, carefully clean out the recess in the head (where the guide goes) to get out all the inky ribbon-lint, taking care to get the corners all clear and taking special care NOT TO BEND ANY OF THE PINS.

Now, GENTLY place the pin-guide over the recess, precisely lining up the pin-slot with the row of impact pins. With a finger-tip press lightly downward, and wiggle the guide until the pins slip into the slot. (the guide will sort of rock on the pins until they line up and then it will "fall" into place in the recess). The guide is seated properly when its front is flush with the rest of the head and all of the pins are just flush with it. (the pins must not be recessed or protrude.)

Now dip the needle in some glue and apply it to the crack around the outside edge of the guide. (Used a plastic glue, like the kind used for models, but epoxy should also work. crazy glue is too fluid and may get on the pins) Be sure the glue is fluid enough to go into the crack between

the guide and the head, but do not allow it to get in the slot area. Let the glue dry, and re-apply until the crack is filled completely after drying. It is OK if the glue builds up a ridge, as long as it doesn't get on the pins.

After thoroughly drying, use a SHARP knife with a gentle sawing motion to slice the excess glue off of the face of the print-head. Be sure that the front surface is flat and flush with the impact pins. Then reinstall the print-head in the head carriage, and the printer is ready to go back on line.

#### PRODUCT ANNOUNCEMENT

Tigerclub Software has released Nuts Bolts Disk #3, containing another 140 subprograms in Merge format. Contents include 19 screen character fonts, etc; 17 screen display routines; 6 screen formatting, 8 plotting, 6 joystick and keyboard, 32 math, 4 time and date, 10 input and accept, 9 string handling, 15 file handling, and 9 miscellaneous routines. The 11 pages of documentation contain a programming example to demonstrate the use of each routine.

The three Nuts and Bolts Disks now provide a total of 348 subprograms which even a beginning programmer can merge into his own programs and use, almost like having another 348 CALLS available in Extended Basic. The price of all three of these disks has been reduced to \$15 each, prepaid.

The four Tips from the Tigerclub disks, and the 18 Tigerclub Collections disks, have been reduced to \$10 each, postpaid. The 130 individual Tigerclub programs have been reduced to \$2 each plus \$1.50 per order for cassette or disk and postage (minimum order \$10). Cassette orders will only be filled until stocks of blank cassettes have been exhausted. Tigerclub catalogs are available for \$1, deductible from first order, until stocks are exhausted.

These items may be ordered from TIGERCLUB SOFTWARE  
156 Collingwood Ave.  
Columbus, Oh. 43213  
phone (614) 235-3545

#### FOR SALE

TI 99/4A Black and Silver model in new condition and in the original box with power supply, RF modulator and original manuals and documentation. Asking \$50.00

If interested contact:

David Carkeek  
30703 Mainwright Ct.  
Union City, Ca. 94587

THANKS  
by Jim Van Gycoc

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Those who attended the November meeting may remember that I asked for help, seeing that my system suddenly decided that it did not have disk drives, memory expansion or serial ports. You will also recall that the parallel port still worked, as did the triple tech card clock, speech and parallel printer buffer.

Our president, Mike Ewell, offered to assist me, so the following Saturday I took my console and expansion box to his house. When the condition persisted using his console and interface card/cable, we delved into the intricacies of my expansion box, and discovered that the +16 volt power to the cards was missing. (note: in an unloaded state the +16 and -16 volt busses run close to 25 volts, and the 10 volt bus is close to 15 volts)

We disassembled the box and investigated the power supply. Replacement of an obviously damaged terminal on one of the plugs did not cure the problem. After checking components and continuity as well as we could without removing components from the power supply board I carefully bent some of the contacts on another connector which appeared to be too deep in the plug.

After reconnecting the power supply the proper voltages appeared. A short time later all the components and cards were reinstalled and working. The next day I ran the system for about ten hours with no problems.

On looking back, it is possible that some of the malfunctions I have had in the past were caused by these connectors. The system has had a tendency to lock-up periodically, and several weeks before the failure, I lost some of the contents of a disk to a random sprinkling of inappropriate bits. I always attributed the lock-ups to a dirty or loose contacts on the cartridge or paddle connector, but now I wonder if most of it wasn't intermittent contact in the power supply. In any case, the problem was more mechanical than electronic, and may have been a result of improper assembly at the factory.

Why do I go into such detail? I saved considerable time and expense by utilizing Mike's help. He had the wiring diagrams which assisted in analyzing the problem, and some experience in the power connections in the PE box. Perhaps by going through this, someone else with the same or similar problems may also save time, money, or even a whole system. Thanks, Mike.

TREASURERS REPORT  
by Ron Springer

PLEASE look at your mailing label to see if some color has been added. If your name has been high-lighted in RED, this is your last issue until you renew. If your name is in YELLOW, then you should renew at the February meeting.

>> THE DUES ARE \$15 PER YEAR <<

NOTE! The code to the right of your name is your membership expiration date.

If any of the information on your label needs to be changed, please let me know. Either call me at 408/281-7435 or write to me at:

SBTIUG - Treasurer  
P.O. BOX 23447  
SAN JOSE, CA. 95153-3447

There were four renewals during the month of December. The renewing members are David Caton, Kevin Daberkow, William Schult, and Christopher Taylor.

The other receipt for the month of December was \$52.00 from our Christmas Raffle.

Expenditures for the month included checks to Kevin Daberkow and Mike Ewell for \$15.29 and \$54.65 respectively ( \$69.94 total ) for the refreshments and raffle prizes that enhanced our December meeting. Checks to Keith Felix for the Oct. and Nov. BBS phone bills, \$16.76, and to Pat Micetich for the Dec. newsletter mailing, \$35.88, leaves only the Dec. BBS phone bill to complete the 1987 calendar year.

This left a balance of \$528.48 in our treasury at the end of January.

We had one NEW member at the January meeting, we welcome Kim Pifer to our great little club. We had renewals from Donald Apte and Ray Keller.

Don Apte funded his renewal by selling the club a color monitor for \$40.00, leaving our treasury at \$533.48. As you are aware, there were no charges for the January newsletter.

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FROM THE S.B.T.I.U.G. BBS

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MSG #4

From:ROLF STROHM

To :ALL

Subj:FDR/SALE

SUN 01/18/88

TI/99/4A WITH PERIPHERAL EXPANSION BOX

32K, SERIAL AND PARALLEL PORTS

DISK CONTROLLER AND DISK DRIVE

TI-MULTIPLAN AND TI-WRITER SOFTWARE

FAST-TERM COMMUNICATION SOFTWARE

CARTRIDGE EXTENDER

AND A BEAUTIFUL TEAK COMPUTER DESK

PRICES NEGOTIABLE FOR ALL CLUB MEMBERS

R. STROHM (408)734-5546

MSG #7

From:RAY KELLER

To :ALL

Subj:HWWE WANTED

THUR 01/22/88

WANTED:

IF YOU HAVE OR KNOW OF A GOOD SOURCE

FOR AN ENCLOSURE AND POWER SUPPLY TO

MAKE A STAND-ALONE FULL HEIGHT DISK

DRIVE, PLEASE CONTACT:

TIM KULTON

258-4249

THANKS, RAY

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FROM THE CALTEX #1 BBS

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MSG #1964

From:FRANK CONTINOLO

To :ALL

Subj:TI-BENEVE

Fri Dec 04 1987

We have a section on PDSE in sunnyvale Ca

, Since they have all others

systems on there why not TI994a and BEne

ve. I left a message to sysop and

hopefully we will get a answer soon. Syst

em has a 100 meg hard drive and

outitasting AT-CLONE with inner chat mod

e and 16 lines. Call and support

this system \$25.00 option for chat . Sig

n on as Guess , call back for

password. numbers listed in File module

under D, 415 and 408 numbers.

Frank SysOp

MSG #1971

From:CY LEONARD

To :ALL

Subj:SNAP SHOP BBS

Sun Dec 13 1987

\*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\*

Swap Shop (TI) BBS in Safety Harbor, Fl

24 hour 300/1200/1400 bps.

Now on line with some of the Orphan's

best downloads. Not PCP but well worth

a call. (813) 725-4568

--> CysOP <--

MSG #1975

From:SCOTT MUELLER

To :ALL

Subj:BS99E BBS

Thu Dec 17 1987

BS99er BBS IS Back ONLINE!

After a long disconnection of the phone

line, BS99er BBS is back up in time for

the holidays

Give It A call!

24 Hours

PC Pursuit Accessable

(201) 794-3175

MSG #1981

From:HARDY LENIGK

To :ALL

Subj:TI99/4A 4SALE

NEW YEARS 1988

I have a TI99/4a computer system for sal

e, including expansion box,

expanded memory, 2disk drives, modem, ca

bles for printer, TV, tape

recorder, plus over 40 software programs

on cartridge, disk tape.

Original cost = \$2,600; I'm trying to se

ll it complete for \$995 or

best offer. Leave mail on this BBS or w

rite to 460 Brunswick Drive,

Vallejo, CA 94591-6823;

MSG #1983

From:JOHN HERBERT

To :ALL

Subj:NEW BBS

Sun Jan 3 1988

TRY THE \*\*\*JERSEY SHORE TI\*\*\*

300/1200 BAUD PC PURSUITABLE

1700 SECTORS + DOWNLOAD SPACE

CALL 201-370-0835 TODAY

How many times while working on a special project have you had the whole thing come to a screeching halt, with the computer crashing, or the printer stopping or the modem outputting unintelligent garbage or even worse smoke curling ominously out of a piece of equipment?

Times like these are very frustrating and usually after a few choice words about the 'bug' that caused our particular problem, we start all over again.

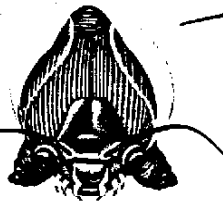
Some anonymous member of the computer community has finally identified these various 'bugs' and we are happy to share this information with our readers. While knowing what 'bug' caused our problem will not solve our problem we might find satisfaction in knowing which 'bug' to blame.

Below are pictures showing the various 'bugs' along with their names and how they affect our equipment.

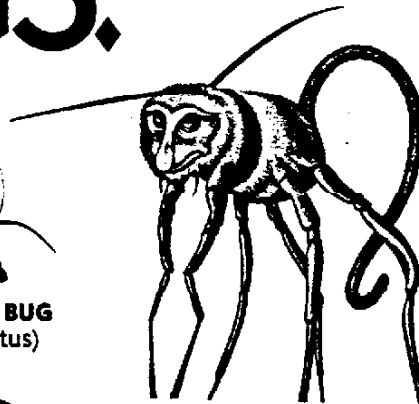
# KNOW YOUR BUGS.



**PYGMY JUMPING SPIKE FLY**  
(rapiditis bombus)



**HUMPBACK SURGE BUG**  
(destructus abruptus)



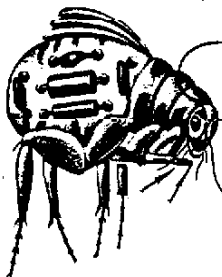
**DANCING VOLTAGE MONKEY ROACH**  
(disci dumpi)



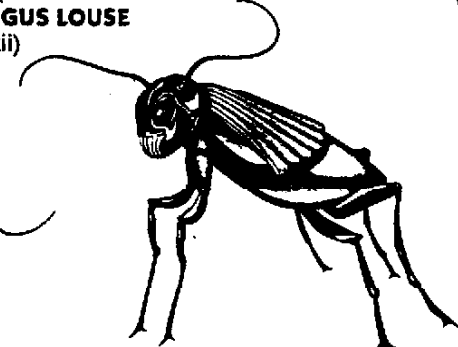
**CREEPING BROWNOUT FUNGUS LOUSE**  
(systemii interruptii)



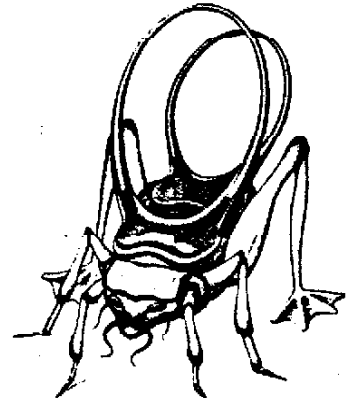
**SNOUTSUCKING SAG WORM**  
(datis obliteratis)



**TRANSIENT STINK FLEA**  
(printli garbagelli)



**GIANT BLACKOUT ASSASSIN BEETLE**  
(monstrositus catastrophus)



**RINGED-ANTENNA LINEHOPPER**  
(signallus distorti)