

# VAST NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VALLEY OF THE SUN TIGERS

Volume 9 Number 9

September 1993



## EDITORIAL COMMENT

Whew! This month has been a real bear! Setting up the newsletter is a real time consuming task. It almost seems that all my free TI time was spent working on it! Anyway, I have the general format pretty much set up the way I want and I hope the membership will find it readable. Please note that I borrowed heavily on the format that Jim Ely had used in the past (THANKS JIM!) I liked the way he composed the newsletter so I set up pretty much the same way.

At this time I will do as all the newsletter editors before me have asked: PLEASE SUBMIT AN ARTICLE!!! There is only so much time I am going to be able to spend putting together the newsletter so I need your help. The alternative will be a very small newsletter indeed.

I request that any article written be in a 28 column format to give me an easy way to edit and utilize them. All you have to do is go into your favorite word processing program and set your left margin at zero and your right margin at 28 or you can use the excellent program written by Bill Gaskill - PAGEFORM. I also request that members let me know what they'd like to see published in the newsletter.

Ralph...

## TI WORLD AND LOCAL NEWS

### LOCAL NEWS

As some of you may know by now, Ray Frantz has had to resign as the President and Newsletter editor of our group. The reason given was due to a untreatable breathing difficulty. We wish Ray well and thank him for the many tireless hours he has spent doing things for the group.

### INSIDE INFORMATION

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**VAST BBS**  
**233-0790**

**DISCLAIMER:** The VAST COMPUTER USERS GROUP can assume NO responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this newsletter or for the programs or the construction projects tried by its members or others. YOU try them at your own risk! Material contained herein may be republished as long as credit is given to the original source.

**MENU BUILDER**

The following program is a good utility to have. It allows you to build an auto-loading menu for any XB programs you have on a disk. Complete instructions are prompted throughout the use of the program.

Please note that I ran the program through "CHECK" adding checksums to help keep keying in errors down to a minimum. ENJOY!

```

100 GOTO 130 :: A :: A$ :: B
$ :: C1$ :: C2$ :: C3$ :: CN
:: I :: J :: K :: KK :: LC
:: LOUT :: LPP :: M :: MM ::
OP$ :: PAGE :: Q :: S :: SS
:: X :: X$ :: Z$ :: K$ :: B
:: C :: D :: E !006
110 F :: R :: S$ :: L :: T :
: CALL KEY1 :: CALL RECT ::
CALL CEN :: CALL SHELLSORT4
:: CALL CHAR :: CALL CLEAR :
: CALL KEY :: CALL SOUND ::
CALL UCHAR !126
120 CALL HCHAR !208
130 DEF INC$(X$)=CHR$(ASC(X$
)+1)!241
140 DEF M$(X$)=CHR$(199)&CHR
$(LEN(X$))&X$ !063
150 DEF MN$(X)=CHR$(200)&CHR
$(LEN(STR$(X)))&STR$(X)!160
160 DIM F$(127),N$(127),NC(12
7)!144
170 !@P- !064
180 CALL CHAR(96,"00FF")!151
190 DISPLAY AT(3,8)ERASE ALL
:"MENU BUILDER" :: CALL RECT
(1,8,16,5,42)!026
200 CALL CEN("A UTILITY PROG
RAM PRODUCED BY",7):: CALL C
EN("THE ^VIRTUAL ^SOFTWARE ^FAC
TORY",10)!017
210 DISPLAY AT(17,1):"PERMIS
SION TO COPY THIS PROGRA
M IS HEREBY GRANTED PROVID
ED THAT THIS NOTICE IS INC
LUDED." !139
220 GOSUB 1050 !110

```

```

230 DISPLAY AT(5,1)ERASE ALL
:"PLACE THE DISK FOR WHICH Y
OU" :: "WISH TO GENERATE A ME
NU" :: "PROGRAM IN DSK1 AND P
RESS" :: "ENTER." !187
240 ACCEPT AT(11,8)BEEP:A$ :
: DISPLAY AT(12,1)ERASE ALL:
"CATALOGING DISK..." !091
250 OPEN #1:"DSK1.",INPUT ,R
ELATIVE,INTERNAL !236
260 INPUT #1:A$,J,J,K :: FOR
I=1 TO 127 :: INPUT.#1:A$,A
,J,K :: IF LEN(A$)=0 THEN
0 !232
270 IF ABS(A)<>5 THEN 300 !
32
280 IF A$="LOAD" OR A$="MENU
-BUILD" THEN 300 !184
290 M=M+1 :: F$(M)=A$ :: NCM
)=M !113
300 NEXT I !223
310 CLOSE #1 !151
320 CALL CLEAR :: ON ERROR 3
90 :: OPEN #1:"DSK1.@@_@_",I
NPUT ,DISPLAY !218
330 DISPLAY AT(12,1)ERASE AL
L:"RETRIEVING OLD MENU" :: "D
ESCRPTIONS..." !247
340 IF EOF(1)THEN 380 ELSE L
INPUT #1:A$ :: LINPUT #1:B$
!037
350 FOR I=1 TO M :: IF A$=F$
(I)THEN N$(I)=B$ :: GOTO 340
!246
360 NEXT I !223
370 GOTO 340 !164
380 CLOSE #1 :: ON ERROR STO
P :: GOTO 400 !083
390 RETURN 400 !226
400 DISPLAY AT(1,1)ERASE ALL
:"IN THE FOLLOWING SECTION,"
: "YOU WILL BE ASKED TO ENT
ER" :: "A ONE LINE DESCRIPTIO
N WHICH" !223
410 DISPLAY AT(7,1):"WILL AP
PEAR IN THE MENU" :: "PROGRAM
. IF YOU WISH THE" :: "PROGR
AM'S FILE NAME TO" :: "APPEAR
YOU MAY SIMPLY PRESS" !038
420 DISPLAY AT(15,1):"-ENTER
- THUS ENTERING A NULL" :: "S
TRING. IF YOU DO NOT WISH" :
:"THE PROGRAM TO APPEAR ENT
ER" !227
430 DISPLAY AT(21,1):""-""

```

see **MENU** page 4

# SECRETARYS SLATE

## MINUTES

### UAST COMPUTER USERS GROUP

AUGUST 14 1993

I am writing the minutes for this issue because Tom wasn't able to be present because of pressing things he needed to do for the business he is starting. I hope all goes well for him and his partner. GOOD LUCK TOM!

I called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. There were approximately 10 to 15 members present. I was the only elected officer attending.

The members present at the meeting were informed that Ray Frantz was in the hospital and would be unable to attend the meeting. It was decided that the group would send Raymond a floral arrangement. The Mundhenks took care of this for the group.

The meeting then progressed rather loosely due to the Vice Presidents surprise of having to run the show by himself. We discussed mostly what the membership would like to see demoed or shown. A few items that were discussed were, Page Pro, Checksum, XB Autoloader Disassembly of a console & a few other subjects.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### PROGRAM

SEE TEXT ABOVE

### NEWSLETTER

NO DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE.

### LIBRARY

NO DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE.

### BBS

NO DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE.

### PUBLICITY

NO DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE.

### OLD BUSINESS

NO DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE.

### NEW BUSINESS

NO DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE.

### RAFFLE

NO DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE.

Respectfully,

*Ralph...*

Ralph Rees  
temporary Secretary  
Vice President  
President  
Newsletter Editor  
Chief bottle washer  
UAST COMPUTER USERS GROUP

Editors note:

The President has informed me that the upcoming meeting in September will follow the guidelines of a more normally structured format.

He also stated that we will need volunteers for chairing the PROGRAM & RAFFLE committees.

```
(MINUS)." :: GOSUB 1080 1011
440 CALL CLEAR :: FOR I=1 TO
M :: DISPLAY AT(2,1)ERASE A
LL:"PROGRAM";I;"OF";M: : "W
HAT DESCRIPTION WILL YOU": :
"USE FOR": : ">>" ;F$(I): : "
?? ";N$(I)!082
450 DISPLAY AT(15,1):"REMEMB
ER": : " - NO MENU ITE
M GENERATED": :
:"-SPACES-" 1152
460 DISPLAY AT(20,10):"FILEN
AME AS SHOWN": : " WILL
APPEAR": : " IN MENU"
1147
470 ACCEPT AT(11,4)BEEP SIZE
(-25);N$(I):: IF N$(I)=" " TH
EN N$(I)=F$(I)!092
480 NEXT I :: DISPLAY AT(5,1
)ERASE ALL:"IF YOU MADE AN E
RROR OR JUST": : "WISH TO CHE
CK THINGS OVER," : "YOU MAY
PRESS 'B' NOW" 1216
490 DISPLAY AT(11,1):"TO GO
BACK TO THE ENTRY": : "SECTIO
N." : : "ANY OTHER KEY WILL AL
LOW THE": : "PROGRAM TO PROCE
ED." 1046
500 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF S=0
THEN 500 1057
510 IF K=66 THEN 440 1245
520 DISPLAY AT(12,1)ERASE AL
L:"SAVING DESCRIPTIONS..." :
: OPEN #1:"DSK1.@@_@_@",OUTPU
T,DISPLAY 1171
530 FOR I=1 TO M :: PRINT #1
:F$(I);N$(I):: NEXT I :: CLO
SE #1 1204
540 DISPLAY AT(5,1)ERASE ALL
:"DO YOU WISH THE MENU TO LI
ST": : "THE PROGRAMS IN THE O
RDER": : "LISTED IN THE CATAL
OG OR": : "AS SORTED BY DESCR
IPTION?" 1118
550 DISPLAY AT(15,1):"CATALO
G":CHR$(96):"DESCRIPTION":CHR
$(96):"PRESS 'C' OR 'D'" 11
96
560 CALL KEY(1,K,"CD"):: IF K
=1 THEN 600 1026
570 IF OP$="C" THEN 600 1227
580 DISPLAY AT(12,1)ERASE AL
L:"SORTING..." 1234
590 CALL SHELLSORT4(N$( ),N(
,M))1029
```

```
600 DISPLAY AT(12,1)ERASE AL
L:"BUILDING THE MENU PROGRAM
..." :: OPEN #1:"DSK1.LOAD",
OUTPUT,DISPLAY ,VARIABLE 163
1186
610 C1$,Z$-CHR$(0):: C2$-CHR
$(1)!217
620 FOR I=1 TO 4 :: READ A$
:: PRINT #1:C1$;C2$;CHR$(154
);A$;Z$ :: GOSUB 1040 :: NEX
T I 1086
630 !@P+ 1062
640 DATA "THE","VIRTUAL",
"SOFTWARE","FACTORY" 1240
650 !@P- 1064
660 PAGE=0 :: C1$=INC$(C1$):
: C2$=Z$ :: SS=0 :: LOUT=0 :
: C3$=CHR$(20):: MM=0 :: FOR
I=1 TO M :: MM=MM-(N$(I)<>
-"):: NEXT I 1043
670 PAGE=PAGE+1 :: LPP=0 ::
LC=6 :: CN=65 1172
680 PRINT #1:C1$;C2$;CHR$(16
2);CHR$(240);CHR$(183);MN$(1
);CHR$(179);MN$(1);CHR$(182)
;CHR$(239);CHR$(236);CHR$(18
1);M$("PROGRAM SELECTOR -- P
AGE "&STR$(PAGE));1126
690 PRINT #1:Z$ :: GOSUB 104
0 :: A$="PRESS A LETTER TO C
HOOOSE THE PROGRAM YOU WAN
T.
=====
===== " 1184
700 PRINT #1:C1$;C2$;CHR$(16
2);CHR$(240);CHR$(183);MN$(3
);CHR$(179);MN$(1);CHR$(182)
;CHR$(181);M$(A$);Z$ 1057
710 GOSUB 1040 1100
720 IF LOUT=MM THEN 840 1228
730 IF LPP=9 AND MM>10 THEN
780 1248
740 SS=SS+1 :: IF N$(N(SS))-
"- THEN 740 ELSE A$=CHR$(CN
)&") "&N$(N(SS)):: CN=CN+1 :
: LOUT=LOUT+1 1247
750 PRINT #1:C1$;C2$;CHR$(16
2);CHR$(240);CHR$(183);MN$(L
C);CHR$(179);MN$(1);CHR$(182
);CHR$(181);M$(A$);Z$ 1204
760 PRINT #1:C3$;C2$;CHR$(13
5);CHR$(201);"#" ;CHR$(130);
CHR$(169);M$("DSK1."&F$(N(SS
)));Z$ 1032
770 LPP=LPP+1 :: LC=LC+2 ::
C2$=INC$(C2$):: GOTO 720 123
5
```

see MENU page 5

## MENU, from page 4

```

780 PRINT #1:C1$;C2$;CHR$(16
2);CHR$(240);CHR$(183);MN$(L
C);CHR$(179);MN$(1);CHR$(182
);CHR$(181);M$("J) * TO SEE
NEXT MENU PAGE *");Z$ !002
790 GOSUB 1040 :: PRINT #1:C
1$;C2$;CHR$(157);CHR$(200);C
HR$(4);"KEY1";CHR$(183);"K";
CHR$(179);M$("ABCDEFGHIJ");C
HR$(182);Z$ !132
800 GOSUB 1040 :: PRINT #1:C
1$;C2$;CHR$(155);"K";CHR$(13
4);!069
810 FOR I=ASC(C2$)-11 TO ASC
(C2$)-3 :: PRINT #1:CHR$(201
);C3$;CHR$(I);CHR$(179);:: N
EXT I !037
820 C1$=INC$(C1$):: C3$=INC$(
C3$):: C2$=Z$ :: PRINT #1:C
HR$(201);C1$;C2$;Z$ !197
830 GOTO 670 !239
840 IF MM>10 THEN PRINT #1:C
1$;C2$;CHR$(162);CHR$(240);C
HR$(183);MN$(LC);CHR$(179);M
N$(1);CHR$(182);CHR$(181);EL
SE 000 !105
850 PRINT #1:M$(CHR$(CN)&")
* TO SEE THE FIRST PAGE *");
Z$ :: CN=CN+1 !070
860 GOSUB 1040 :: PRINT #1:C
1$;C2$;CHR$(157);CHR$(200);C
HR$(4);"KEY1";CHR$(183);"K";
CHR$(179);M$(SEG$("ABCDEFGHI
J",1,CN-65));CHR$(182);Z$ !1
77
870 GOSUB 1040 :: PRINT #1:C
1$;C2$;CHR$(155);"K";CHR$(13
4);!069
880 FOR I=2 TO LPP :: PRINT
#1:CHR$(201);C3$;CHR$(I);CHR
$(179);:: NEXT I :: PRINT #1
:CHR$(201);C3$;CHR$(LPP+1);!
167
890 IF M>10 THEN PRINT #1:CH
R$(179);CHR$(201);CHR$(1);CH
R$(0);!077
900 PRINT #1:CHR$(0)!132
910 FOR J=1 TO 4 !060
920 READ I :: IF I=0 THEN 93
0 ELSE A$=CHR$(I):: PRINT #1
:A$;:: GOTO 920 !131
930 PRINT #1:CHR$(0):: NEXT
J !230
940 PRINT #1:CHR$(255);CHR$(
255):: CLOSE #1 !105
950 DATA 35,40,162,240,183,2
00,2,49,50,179,200,1,49,182,
239,236,181,199,22,71,69,84,
84,73,78,71,32 !224
960 DATA 84,72,69,32,80,82,7
9,71,82,65,77,46,46,46,130,1
36,0 !096
970 DATA 39,16,161,200,4,75,
69,89,49,183,75,179,75,36,18
2,0 !230
980 DATA 39,26,157,200,3,75,
69,89,183,200,1,48,179,75,17
9,83,182,130,132,83,191,200,
1,49,176,201,39,26,129 !022
990 DATA 75,190,217,183,75,3
6,179,214,183,75,182,179,200
,1,49,182,130,132,75,190,200
,1,48,176,157,200 !037
1000 DATA 5,83,79,85,78,68,1
83,200,3,50,48,48,179,200,3,
49,49,48,179,200,1,48,182,13
0,134,201,39,26,0 !224
1010 DATA 39,36,157,200,5,83
,79,85,78,68,183,200,2,51,48
,179,200,3,57,57,57,179,200,
1,53,182,130,168,0 !019
1020 DISPLAY AT(5,1)ERASE AL
L:"READ THESE DIRECTIONS": :
"CAREFULLY AND UNDERSTAND":
:"THEM! THEY WILL DISAPPEAR
": : "AFTER THE FIRST STEP."
!234
1030 DISPLAY AT(13,1):"TYPE:
": : " NEW": : " MERGE DSK
1.LOAD": : " SAVE DSK1.LOAD
": : " BYE": : : "NOW RE-ENT
ER EXTENDED BASIC" :: STOP !
025
1040 C2$=INC$(C2$):: RETURN
!101
1050 DISPLAY AT(24,1):"PRESS
ANY KEY TO BEGIN." !131
1060 CALL KEY(0, KK, SS):: IF
SS=0 THEN 1060 ELSE CALL SOU
ND(20,999,0):: RETURN !073
1070 DISPLAY AT(24,1):"PRESS
ANY KEY TO EXIT." :: GOTO 1
060 !080
1080 DISPLAY AT(24,1):"PRESS
ANY KEY TO CONTINUE." :: GO
TO 1060 !127
1090 !eP+ !062
1100 SUB KEY1(K,K$)!097
1110 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF S=
0 THEN 1110 ELSE K=POSCK$,CH

```

see MENU page 6

**MENU**, from page 5

```
R$(K),1):: IF K=0 THEN CALL
SOUND(200,110,0):: GOTO 1110
!039
1120 CALL SOUND(30,999,5)::
SUBEND !145
1130 SUB RECT(A,B,C,D,E)!035
1140 CALL HCHAR(A,B,E,C):: C
ALL VCHAR(A,B+C-1,E,D):: CAL
L HCHAR(A+D-1,B,E,C):: CALL
VCHAR(A,B,E,D):: SUBEND !211
1150 SUB CEN(S$,R):: S=1 ::
IF R<0 THEN CALL CLEAR :: R=
-R !239
1160 F=POS(S$,"^",S):: IF F=
0 THEN F=LEN(S$)+1 !203
1170 DISPLAY AT(R,14-(F-S+1)
/2):SEG$(S$,S,F-S):: IF F>LE
N(S$)THEN SUBEXIT !216
1180 S=F+1 :: R=R+1 :: GOTO
1160 :: SUBEND !056
1190 REM SHELL METZNER SORT
FOR STRINGS WITH INDEXING !0
02
1200 SUB SHELLSORT4(A$( ),B( )
,N):: M=N !228
1210 M=INT(M/2):: IF M=0 THE
N SUBEXIT ELSE J=1 :: K=N-M
!031
1220 I=J !081
1230 L=I+M :: IF A$(B(I))>A$
(B(L))THEN T=B(I):: B(I)=B(L
):: B(L)=T :: I=I-M :: IF I>
=1 THEN 1230 !045
1240 J=J+1 :: IF J>K THEN 12
10 ELSE 1220 !177
1250 SUBEND !168
```



"IS IT HOT ENOUGH FOR YOU?"

"Ask NOT what your users group can do for YOU, But what YOU can do for YOUR users group."



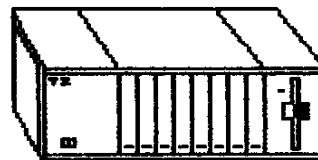
## from the EDITOR'S DESK

Starting on page 2 of this issue you will find a Key-in program named MENU BUILDER. What it does is catalog the disk in drive one and then proceeds to build a "LOAD" program for the disk. This program is also going to be demoed for the Sep. meeting. Page 3 has the sparsely written minutes of the last meeting. Page 7 has "KEVINS KORNER", which is a small article written by my son. THANKS KEVIN! Finally, page 7 also lists the "NATIONAL FUN & GAMES" started by Ray. For those who wish to compete, either send me your score thru the mail to our PO box or leave me E-Mail on our underused BBS.

*Ralph...*



**NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 9TH**



**BUILT TO LAST!**

**K<sub>5</sub> E<sub>1</sub> V<sub>4</sub> I<sub>1</sub> N<sub>1</sub> S<sub>1</sub>** by Kevin Rees

**O<sub>1</sub>  
R<sub>1</sub>  
Z<sub>1</sub>  
M<sub>1</sub>  
R<sub>1</sub>**

If you're not the type to play video games then  
DO NOT READ THIS ARTICLE!

The game I will be reviewing this month is "Hitch-  
Hikers Guide to the Galaxy". Our editor <HI DAD>  
thought that I should beat the game first before  
reviewing but I decided to write about it anyway.

In the game you play the role of a poor man trying  
to make it in the world when all of a sudden alien  
destroyers come along to destroy the planet to make  
way for an interstellar freeway.

Now what makes the game hard is that once you figure  
out how to get past one part another hard part comes  
up to discourage you and the computer always comes  
back with witty, funny, yet annoying remarks. Like  
when you ask it "why?" about something it says "why  
not?"

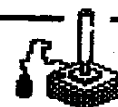
If anybody has tips on this, give them to me at one  
of the meetings.

P.S. If anybody doesn't like me writing in the  
newsletter please tell me or the editor.

K.r.



## NATIONAL FUN & GAMES

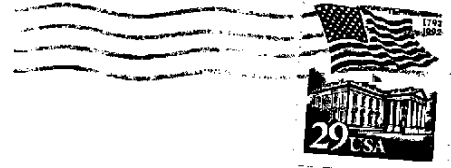


GAME TITLE	LOCAL/SCORE	NATIONAL	GROUP
JAWBREAKER	Jim Wayne/15025	Jim Wayne/15025	VAST
BURGERTIME	Jim Wayne/28950	Jim Wayne/28950	VAST
MUNCHMAN	Jim Wayne/31170	Jim Wayne/31170	VAST
CAR WARS	Jim Wayne/6050	Jim Wayne/6050	VAST
HOPPER	Jim Wayne/23970	Jim Wayne/23970	VAST
TI INVADERS	Jim Wayne/2230	Jim Wayne/2230	VAST
TOMBSTONE CITY	Jim Wayne/8450	Jim Wayne/8450	VAST
BLASTO	Jim Wayne/31010	Jim Wayne/31010	VAST
THE ATTACK	Jim Wayne/31800	Jim Wayne/31800	VAST
BREAKTHROUGH	Ray Frantz/1850	Ray Frantz/1850	VAST
TOUR SOLITAIRE	J. Remenski/319	Gene Bohot/328	PV 99er
POKR SOLITAIRE	J. Remenski/3790	J. Remenski/3790	VAST
SUPER YAHTZEE	Jackie Rees/603	Jackie Rees/603	VAST



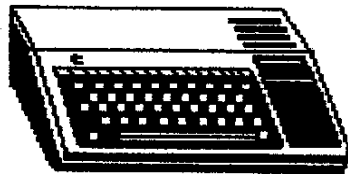
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SEP 31  
1993



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# VAST USERS GROUP INFORMATION

The **VAST COMPUTER USERS GROUP** is a support group for the Texas Instruments TI-99/4A Home Computer and Geneve.

The **VAST COMPUTER USERS GROUP** operates a BBS 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. the phone number is:

## CURRENT OFFICERS

**(602) 233-0790**

### PRESIDENT

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### VICE PRESIDENT

VACANT.....000-0000

### SECRETARY/TREASURER

Tom Pfeffer.....940-1629

### LIBRARIANS

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### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Ralph Rees.....869-8145

### BBS GROUP

Mike Grogan.....233-4315

Send any correspondence  
to the address above.

**ADVERTISING:** There is no charge to paid members for **PERSONAL** advertising. Non-members will be charged at a cost of \$1.50 per ad.

**NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE:**  
We exchange newsletters with many TI Users Groups. Contact Our secretary.

Opinions expressed herein are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the **VAST COMPUTER USERS GROUP**