TI WORLD AND LOCAL NEWS
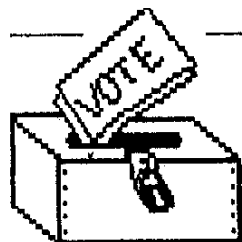
LOCAL NEWS

TOLL FREE BULLETIN BOARD?

Ht the October meeting under "New Business" I mentioned a thought I'd been having of late of how neat it would be if our group had a TOLL FREE telephone number. I went on to say how this would enable almost ALL TI'ers to call our Bulletin Board any time they want to. My thought got more attention than I ever dreamed it would, that's why you're reading about it here in the VAST NEWS.

Are there any other TI'ers in other Users Groups that would be interested in this? More importantly, Are there other TI'ers that would be willing to help us fund it? I'd VERY much like to hear from any groups that are.

Write me at our Club P.O. Box and lets at least talk about it, O.K.?

Ralph---

VAST ELECTION

Enclosed with this newsletter is your official ballot for the November Election. The ballot MUST be received by the Secretary no later than the start of the meeting on Nov. 13th. If you prefer, you may mail the ballot to our P.O. Box to be received no later than Nov. 12th.

JUST REMEMBER TO VOTE!
(honorary members excluded)

MEETING DOOR PRIZE

Tom Pfeffer came up with an excellent idea that he told the group about at the Oct. meeting. From now on, VAST will be offering a *DOORPRIZE* to be given away *FREE* to a lucky *ATTENDING* member. This means that in addition to having lots of fun at meetings, you stand a chance at *WINNING* something. Our prize this month will be 3 disks of your choice from the VAST library.

Now you have even more of a reason to attend the meetings, So get on the truck!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM THE VAST USERS GROUP

MINUTES

VAST COMPUTER USERS GROUP

OCTOBER 9th 1993

The October 9th, 1993 meeting of VAST was called to order by president Ralph Rees at 9:57. The gathering took place in the green room at the Pyle Adult Community Center. There were a total of 17 people in attendance.

Ralph opened up the meeting by congratulating all of those in attendance as the turn-out has not been rather large of late. After the treasury report, Ralph proceeded to discuss current committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROGRAM

Chairman Mike Scheller reported that some upcoming topics for demos would be TI-Artist and First Draft. He also asked for more ideas for future meetings.

NEWSLETTER

Other than the minutes being printed again in the newsletter, Ralph reported that everything is pretty much the same. He still would like members to submit articles. He stated that he does have a series of good articles for upcoming VAST issues. The articles were written by Jim Ely.

As far as the programs that the group ordered to ease newsletter production, Ralph stated that he still had not received them from Asgard. He is hoping that they will show up before the next edition.

Ralph also mentioned the questionaire that he has inserted in the October newsletter. He requested that everyone fill one out and return it to him.

LIBRARY

There was nothing new to report from the library.

BBS

Ralph suggested that VHST look into the cost of opening and maintaining a 1-800 number for the BBS to drum up some more usage. He found a volunteer to find out the costs and report back. There was a quite long discussion about the really possible benefits of such a move.

Ralph also stated that he is learning about the BBS software so that he can act as a backup SysOp if the need should arise.

PUBLICITY

Mike Scheller asked for club interest in contacting former exchange newsletter senders in the hopes of locating more members and also interesting articles. He asked if the club would be interested in backing him in this task. He stated he's currently cataloging all of the newsletters that the club has received over the years.

Mike also mentioned that he has been talking to people that are on the old labels from TI. He asked if

USING THE VAST BBS

Part 1: An Overview
By Jim Ely, Assistant SysOp

Most of the members of VAST Know that the Group operates a neat Bulletin Board System (BBS), but only a very small percentage of the membership makes use of it. Why is that?

I believe that a big part of the problem is intimidation. Members are afraid to call because they think they will make a mistake or break something. A lot of folks also picture in their minds this gigantic machine that is too complex for them to learn how to use.

In this series of articles, I will try to take some of the mystic out of BBS usage.

What is the BBS, anyway? All it really is is a computer system, much like your own computer system, running a BBS program, connected to a telephone line, allowing a caller (user) access to its functions. You, through the phone line, control what the BBS computer does by using your computer to "talk" to it.

There is some very necessary hardware and software items required. With the TI-99/4a you need an RS232 interface card, a modem and a special cable to connect the modem to the RS232 card. The modem connects your computer to the phone line and the modem serves as a translator by which the two computers can communicate.

You will also need to run a "terminal" program on your computer. For the TI there are several fine software programs available, the most popular of which are TELCO, Mass Transfer and Fast-Term. I personally recommend TELCO because it is very straight-forward and easy to use and has on-line help for most of the Key - press functions. (The VAST software Library has this program, as well as all of the others, and the documentation available.)

Once you have all of the necessary hardware and software set up, you are ready to go! AAH... another stumbling block. "I don't Know how to install, connect and configure all this stuff!"

There are quite a number of extremely Knowledgeable people in VAST who would be more than willing to help you "get it all together." Among them are Mike Grogan, Ralph Rees, Jim Ely and Tom Pfeffer, just to name a few... Give any of them a call, they're ready to help.

It is my intent to cover most of the major items users access on the BBS in these articles. The articles will assume that you have already gotten your system, hardware, software and modem configured and are ready to call and use the BBS.

OCTOBER RAFFLE WINNERS

Marion Geissel......War Zone

Kevin Rees.........DisK Case

Ray Frantz....300 Baud Modem

In article #2 I will discuss lugging on to the BBS and a password. In article 3 I will discuss about half of the Main Menu functions and in article 4 the rest of the Main Menu functions.

If you have any specific questions you would like answered in the Newsletter as part of these articles, send them to:
Jim Ely
P.O. Box 27616
Tempe, AZ 85285-7616.

Til' next time...   je

"MINUTES" CONTINUES:

anyone in the club would be willing to take some of the labels home and use them.

OLD BUSINESS

Ed Morse was asked and accepted to be the acting nomination chairman for the upcoming VAST elections. The nominations were made and seconded for the November 13 elections and the ballots will be mailed out to all eligeble voters in plenty of time to vote and mail them in if so desired.

NEW BUSINESS

Ralph wants to make a membership drive a high priority for VAST. He made up some certificates of achievement to those who can enroll new members. The next year's dues are free for anyone bringing in two new members. One cerificate will be worth 3 disks of software from the VAST library.
Tom Pfeffer suggested that a good way to increase the turnout at our meetings

door prize away at each meeting. After a discussion, the idea was accepted and will be tried soon.
After there was no new business to discuss, the floor was opened for any topics of interest. Among the things that the group discussed were Fest - West '94; TI console disassembly, cleaning and reassembly; and the use of laser and jet printers.
There being no further topics to discuss, Ralph adjourned the meeting at 10:58. After a short break, the raffle was held and then a demo of TI-Writer was given.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Pfeffer
Secretary/Treasurer

VAST COMPUTER USERS GROUP

from the EDITOR'S DESK

Inside this issue you will find the minutes of our Oct. meeting on page 2. Further in starting on page 3 is the 1st installment in a series of articles entitled "Using the VAST BBS", Authored by Jim Ely. THANKS JIM! Also on page 3 are the winners of last months raffle. Topping page 5 is an article submited by Mike Scheller discussing his MAJOR task of indexing all our newsletters. WAY TO HELP OUT, MIKE! Nat'l Fun & Games is also on Page 5. Page 6 contains a KIP used to check your monitor/TV. That's 30 for this'n. See U at the Nov. meeting!
DO THE RIGHT THING! VOTE!

NEWS LETTER EXCHANGE PROJECT

BY MIKE SCHELLER

Yo, VASTies; The modern parlance for "Hello". My son uses this term frequently, much to my dismay. I believe their yo is half of a toy we used (that thing on a string — I don't mean the soap).

Well, the original purpose of this was to let you know of the difficulty I am having in sorting and just organizing all the various newsletters(NL) from around the country. I have NL that date back to 1984/1985. The main trouble is the sorting of original prose compared with editing, rewrites, additions to originals and just plain plagerism.
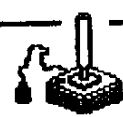
I had to start with NL names & continue to sort by city or return mail address. In this effort I think the best way would be by state & then sub-divide by groups.

I plan to list all groups that have sent VAST a NL since day-one! I also want to list by category, ie, XB, EA, TIW, LOGO, etc. Our head honcho (Ralph) keeps telling me I have no idea what I am getting into. While innocent I ain't, I find it fun and very interesting to preview all the NL. So look at those bookstands,swapmeets,attics, etc for any TI info and save for me.

I'll come back & add some "can't do without" info that will not reduce the price of coffee, but will enhance our enjoyment of this orphan.

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

EDITORS NOTE:
I have only received ONE response to this item since I took on the job as newsletter editor. I don't mind publishing it if there is an interest, but if I don't hear of some new scores or some different game highscores, I will assume that nobody is interested and I will drop it. *Ralph...*

KEY IN PROGRAM

This is a useful program for checking your monitor or TV screen for proper alignment and color. I have added the checksums for reduced key-in errors. ENJOY!

Ralph...

```
1 ! BY WILLIAM M. LUCID
     6005 ELAINE STREET
     SPEEDWAY. IN 46224
     MARCH 3, 1984
     VIDEOTEST PATTERNS !056
100 GOTO 120 :: A$,B$,C$,D$
:: @,A,B,I :: CALL CHAR :: C
ALL CHARSET :: CALL CLEAR ::
 CALL COLOR :: CALL HCHAR ::
 CALL KEY :: CALL SCREEN ::
CALL VCHAR :: !@P- !086
120 UNTRACE :: @=1 :: A$="00
0000FF000000FF" :: B$="80808
08080808080" :: C$="FF010101
010101FF" !120
130 D$="010101010101101FF" ::
 CALL CLEAR :: CALL CHARSET
:: CALL SCREEN(8)!150
140 DISPLAY AT(3,2):"VIDEOTE
ST PATTERNS" :: DISPLAY AT(4
,2):"By WILLIAM M. LUCID" !0
80
150 DISPLAY AT(8,2):"PRESS K
EY FOR FUNCTION.": :" 1  HOR
IZONTAL LINES":" 2  VERTICAL
 LINES":" 3  CROSSING LINES"
:" 4  PLUS SIGN PATTERN" !06
2
160 DISPLAY AT(14,2):"5  AST
RISKS PATTERN":" 6  PERIOD P
ATTERN":" 7  NARROW COLOR BA
RS":" 8  WIDE COLOR BARS":"
9  EXIT PROGRAM" !109
170 DISPLAY AT(20,2):"PRESS
ANY KEY TO·RETURN":" TO THIS
 SCREEN." :: CALL KEY(0,A,B)
:: IF B=0 THEN 170 !198
180 IF A<49 OR A>57 THEN 170
 :: CALL CLEAR :: A=A-48 ::
ON A GOTO 190,200,210,240,25
0,260,270,380,440 !245
```

```
190 CALL CHAR(97,A$):: FOR I
=1 TO 24 :: CALL HCHAR(I,@,9
7,32):: NEXT I :: GOTO 370 !
165
200 CALL CHAR(97,B$):: GOTO
230 !254
210 CALL CHAR(97,C$):: CALL
CHAR(98,D$):: GOTO 220 !193
220 CALL HCHAR(@,@,97,32)::
FOR I=2 TO 24 :: CALL HCHAR(
I,@,98,32):: NEXT I :: GOTO
370 !160
230 FOR I=@ TO 32 :: CALL VC
HAR(@,T,97,24):: NEXT I :: G
OTO 370 !049
240 CALL HCHAR(@,@,ASC("+"),
768):: GOTO 370 !198
250 CALL HCHAR(@,@,ASC("*"),
768):: GOTO 370 !197
260 CALL HCHAR(@,@,ASC("."),
768):: GOTO 370 !201
270 CALL SCREEN(16):: CALL C
OLOR(0,2,2):: CALL COLOR(@,1
3,13):: CALL COLOR(2,3,3)::
CALL COLOR(3,4,4):: CALL COL
OR(4,5,5)!108
280 CALL COLOR(5,6,6)!184
290 CALL COLOR(6,8,8):: CALL
 COLOR(7,7,7):: CALL COLOR(8
,9,9):: CALL COLOR(9,10,10):
: CALL COLOR(10,11,11):: CAL
L COLOR(11,12,12)!089
300 CALL COLOR(12,14,14):: C
ALL COLOR(13,15,15):: CALL C
OLOR(14,16,16):: CALL CHAR(3
2,RPT$("F",16)):: CALL CHAR(
40,RPT$("F",16)):: CALL CHAR
(48,RPT$("F",16))!176
310 CALL CHAR(56,RPT$("F",16
)):: CALL CHAR(64,RPT$("F",1
6)):: CALL CHAR(72,RPT$("F",
16)):: CALL CHAR(80,RPT$("F"
,16)):: CALL CHAR(88,RPT$("F
",16))!147
320 CALL CHAR(96,RPT$("F",16
)):: CALL CHAR(104,RPT$("F",
16)):: CALL CHAR(112,RPT$("F
",16)):: CALL CHAR(120,RPT$(
"F",16)):: CALL CHAR(128,RPT
$("F",16))!071
330 CALL CHAR(136,RPT$("F",1
6)):: CALL VCHAR(@,@,30,48):
: CALL VCHAR(@,3,32,48):: CA
LL VCHAR(@,5,40,48):: CALL V
CHAR(@,7,48,48)!182
```
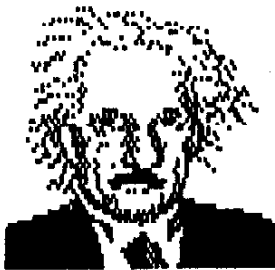
"VIDEO" CONTINUES

```
340 CALL VCHAR(@,9,56,48)::
CALL VCHAR(@,11,64,48):: CAL
L VCHAR(@,13,72,48):: CALL V
CHAR(@,15,80,48):: CALL VCHA
R(@,17,88,48)!016
350 CALL VCHAR(@,19,96,48)::
 CALL VCHAR(@,21,104,48):: C
ALL VCHAR(@,23,112,48):: CAL
L VCHAR(@,25,120,48):: CALL
VCHAR(@,27,128,48)!250
360 CALL VCHAR(@,29,136,48):
: CALL VCHAR(@,31,30,48)!043
370 CALL KEY(0,A,B):: IF B=0
 THEN 370 ELSE 120 !077
380 CALL SCREEN(15):: CALL C
OLOR(9,5,5):: CALL COLOR(10,
7,7):: CALL COLOR(11,14,14):
: CALL COLOR(12,13,13):: CAL
L COLOR(13,8,8)!106
390 CALL COLOR(14,11,11):: C
ALL CHAR(96,RPT$("F",16))::
CALL CHAR(104,RPT$("F",16)):
: CALL CHAR(112,RPT$("F",16)
):: CALL CHAR(120,RPT$("F",1
6))!061
400 CALL CHAR(128,RPT$("F",1
6)):: CALL CHAR(136,RPT$("F"
,16)):: CALL VCHAR(@,@,96,14
4):: CALL VCHAR(@,7,104,120)
:: CALL VCHAR(@,12,112,120)!
018
410 CALL VCHAR(@,17,120,120)
:: CALL VCHAR(@,22,128,120):
: CALL VCHAR(@,27,136,144)!2
04
420 CALL KEY(0,A,B):: IF B=0
 THEN 420 ELSE 120 !127
430 !eP+ !062
440 END !139
```
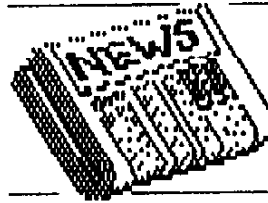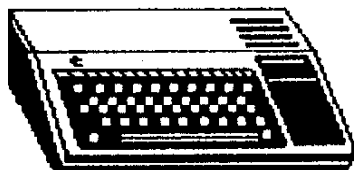
DID YOU REMEMBER TO VOTE?

WAKE UP!

VAST NEWS
c/o VAST USERS GROUP
P.O. Box 25576
Tempe,AZ. 85285-5576

PLEASE NOTE
CORRECTED ZIPCODE

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
Please be sure our
correct address is
in your files!

FIRST CLASS MAIL

NOV
PM
1993

29 USA

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P.O. BOX 29863
DALLAS, TX
75229

FIRST CLASS MAIL

VAST USERS GROUP INFORMATION

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

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VICE PRESIDENT
VACANT............000-0000
SECRETARY/TREASURER
Tom Pfeffer.......940-1629
LIBRARIANS
The Knights.......938-5446
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Ralph Rees........869-8145
BBS SysOp
Mike Grogan.......233-4315

Send any correspondence
to the address above.

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

(602) 233-0790

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We exchange newsletters
with many TI Users Groups.
Contact Our secretary.

Opinions expressed herein
are those of the writer and
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VAST COMPUTER USERS GROUP

MEETING NOV. 13TH PYLE ADULT REC. CENTER TEMPE, AZ. AT 10:00AM