Newoletter

Volume 9 Number 12

DECEMBER

TI NORLD AND LOCAL NEWS

LOCAL NEWS

VAST U.G.



The results of the election on November 13th are:

> PRESTAERY ralph Rees GENE GIPSON SECRETORY/TREASURER En Morse



As you can see, I have used Asgards PP Page Composer to make up the newsletter. It's actually quite an involved process, but I think the end will justify the means, as we now will have 120 columns width versus 60 when I was using just Page Pro.

What this boils down to is being able to publish TWO Page Pro pages on one page. Cool, huh?

DON'T FORGET THAT NERBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE IN ! YAAUNAT WHY NOT RENEW TODAY LOCAL NEWS

TOLL FREE DULLETEN BOARDY



It appears that the costs of operating a toll-free BBS are 100 costly. The following is a list of prices that Ed Morse checked for UAST: (thanks,Ed!)

SPRINT per month: \$5.00 per minute: .25

NCI. per month: \$10.00 days/per minute: .23 evenings/per minute: pm/wkend/per minute: . 16

US WEST per month: \$4.95 M-F/Bam5pm/per minute: .28 Other time/per minute:

Oh well, Maybe someday!

Merry Christmas



From the VAST Users Group

LETTER FROM **ASGARD**

1993. Effective Nov. ownership of Asgard Software is being transferred Harry Brashear.

Nothing worthwhile comes easy, and Lord Knows running a II software business has never been easy. When I founded Asgard in 1983 (in fact, almost 10 years ago exactlu). mu softuare company was one of perhaps over 100 II software providers. Over the years, l'ue seen all of my original competitors, almost all of the ones that came after them, and most of the ones in the "generation" after that, disappear by the wauside.

I stuck with it despite many opportunities to move on, and despite setbacks similar to those that wiped out many of my peers. I don't regret it - I learned a lot. lot about learned а computers, business I learned how to loualtu. tell who was honest and who was a charlatan.

When I started this business I was a teenager in high school. Ten years later, I run the Computer Department for a major non-profit organization here in Washington, D.C. The TI-99/4A introduced me to computers in general, and opened many opportunities to me. In many ways, it made me what I am today.

However, my professional and family obligations over the last 2 years have forced me to change my priorities. I haven't been able to spend much time on Asgard, and it

SEE "ASCARD", PACE 6

INSIDE INFORMATION Page ITEM Secretarys Slate.....2 Using the VAST BBS....3 File Transfer W/Modems.4

Raffle Winners.....5 VAST News Submissions..5 Editors Desk..... Want Ads.... YOUR ARTICLE....

DISCLAIMER

the vast computer users group

can assume NO responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this newsletter or for the programs or for construction projects tried by its members or others.YOU try them at your own risk!

Naterial contained herein may be republished as long as credit is given to the original source.

SECRETARYS SLATE



VAST COMPUTER USERS GROUP

The November 13, 1993 meeting of VAST was called to order by President Ralph Rees at 10:01 am in the Green Room at Pyle Adult Community Center. There were 19 people in attendance.

The first order of business was the counting of the votes for the election of club officers. Ed Morse and Tom Pfeffer left the room to tabulate the votes. returning, they announced that 21 ballots had submitted and that Ralph Rees was elected as president, Gene Gipson was vice-president and Ed Morse was selected as secretary/treasurer. A round of applause followed the announcement.

Ray Frantz introduced a new member to the club and also uelcomed a visitor that may join in the future. Members were also reminded to use the mailing labels to try to get more neu members.

Ralph told the group that the programs that we ordered from Asgard Software had finally showed up. He said that Asgard is changing the way it does business. He said that Chris Bobbit is now going to handle all of the hardware and that Harry Brashear will be handling the software.

Gene told the group that he had recently gone down to Tucson and joined the Southwest 99'ers. He told everyone that the upcoming Fest-West '94 is in full swing. He is selling raffle tickets for the fest at \$1.00 each. With every 10 purchased, you receive a free admission to the fest. The raffle prizes lined up so far are: a Myarc harddrive controller with a 20 meg harddrive; an Asgard memory card; a 5.25/3.5 combo drive; a 2400 baud modem; and an Horizon randisk. Contact Gene for further info. It was also mentioned that the reason that the club was not getting any information directly from SW '99ers was that the address that they were mailing all material to was incorrect. Anyway, it was suggested that VAST send the money for a table and also a contribution of \$50 to help SW 199ers with expenses. Gene volunteered to man the table for a couple of hours and Ralph asked for more volunteers to help at the fest.

Ralph then asked for reports from the various committee chairpersons.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LIBRARY: The Knights had nothing new to add to the library at this time. Gene mentioned that he had 85 disks of programs that he was planning to give to the library. that the cost of a disk of programs was lowered to \$1.88 each.

PROGRAM: Mike mentioned that he needed ideas from members as to what they wanted to see in upcoming demos. was mentioned and Gene said that he would prepare a demo of Page Pro for a future meeting.

Newsletter: Ralph mentioned that he was getting used to some of the new Page Pro programs that the club bought to help him with the newsletter. He said that he would still like to get more articles from members.

Publicity: Gene had nothing new to report.

BRS: After a discussion of recent problems on the BBS, a motion was accepted to create a BBS committee made up of the officers of the group and the Sysop. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

OLD BUSINESS: Ralph was asked about any response from other user groups about his 1-800 number proposal. He stated that he had no responses at all and that the cost of such a number would make it unrealistic.

Ralph also mentioned that he did not get many of the questionaires back. He would still like to get them from members so that he can see which way he should aim some of the demos, etc.

NEW BUSINESS: Kalph mentioned that he would like someone to volunteer to chair a new member committee. He would like one member to concentrate on new members and any questions that they might have about the club, etc. How about volunteering?

Hazel also suggested that the club also set up a system whereby members might fill out a check-out card for videos or exchange letters so that the club can Keep track of where the club property is located. It seems that there is a video tape missing. Do you have it?

It was also mentioned that the dues for 1994 will become due in December. Members were reminded to bring there accounts up to date.

There being no futher business, Ralph closed the meeting by appealing to the membership to get involved in club activities. He stated that you will only get out of the club what you put into it. VOLUNTEER! The accting was adjourned at 10:47. After a brief intermission, the door prize and raffle prizes were awarded to the winning ticket holders. Mike Scheller then followed with a demo of how to disassemble a console to do a major cleaning.

> Respectfully submitted, Tom Pfeffer Secretary/Treasurer

VAST

PART II: FIRST TIME LOG-ON, REGISTRATION, AND SUBSEQUENT LOG-ONS

By JIM ELY, BBS ROVISOR

In this part of our "adventure" to learn how to use the VAST BBS we will learn how to configure TELCO to autodial the VAST BBS, log onto the VAST BBS, choose a PASSWORD, and then logging on in subsequent sessions on the BBS.

to access the BBS you need to have your computer and modem turned on and your terminal program (TELCO) terminal program loaded. (I'm assuming you are using IELCO to call the board.)

TELCO has as part of its BBS." Then press Enter. function the ability to instruct your modem to dial BBS phone numbers. Up to 99 different numbers can be included in its "phone dialing directory" and after being programmed, can be dialed simply by pressing "A" at TELCO's Main Menu and selecting the BBS you want to call.

Here is how to program the B. 1200 VAST BBS into TELCO's auto dialer directory:

At TELCO's Main Menu, select F. other "A" for Auto dialer.

The Prompt states: to modify. Enter M for MODIFY. The Prompt states: Edit which entry? If you have no entries in

the dialer yet, the entry A. 8N1 would be "1" because you are B. 701 going to add the VAST BBS as C. 7E1 the first entry in the D. 8 dialer. If you already have E. 7 entries in the dialer and F. the VAST BBS is not one of 6. then the number H. them. entered would be the next I. available spot to add an J. entry.

After you select the entry you wish to modify, this menu appears:

- A. name
- B. phone number
- C. term or mod.
- D. baudrate
- E. paritu
- F. duplex
- 6. width

Use the FCTN E and X Keys to highlight the selection you are going to change and then press ENTER to select.

Select "A" and enter "VAST

Select "B" and enter the phone number of the VAST BBS, "233-0790."

Select "C" and enter "ANSI."

When item "D," baudrate, is selected the following menu appears:

- A. 300
- C. 2400
- D. 4800
- E. 9600

Vou will select a speed not higher than 2400, but the Enter numbers to dial or M highest speed your modem can support.

> When item "E," parity, is selected this menu appears:

Ε

For the UASI BBS this should be set "R," ON1. This is the selection for most other

THE PROPERTY OF

When item "F," duplex, is selected this menu appears

FULL HALF

BBS' as well.

Select "FULL." This is the selection for most other BBS' as well.

When you are done with all your selections, press FCTN 9 twice, then Select "S" for Setup and finally "C" for save Changes.

There now, that wasn't so bad, was it. And now that we have the number of the VAST BBS in our dialer, let's call the board and log on for the first time!

From TELCO's Main Menu, select "A," then select the number you have assigned to UAST. Press ENTER and your modem will dial the BBS.

After your modem and the BBS modem "connect," you see a small message telling you the name of the bbs you have connected to and the name and version of the BBS program running CPCBoard, ver. 10.8). It also tells you the date and time at which you connected. YOU'RE IN! It then asks you: "Want color graphics [C/R̄]-no?"

(That [C/R] means carriage return or the same as pressing the ENTER Key.) As a II-99/4A computer user, you will answer "N" (for NO) and press enter to this prompt. Just pressing the ENTER Key, in this case, would have the same effect.

Even though IELCO can read and interpret the BBS "ANSI" graphics, most systems are set up for full screen 80 format and TELCO column cannot show you 80 columns on your screen at the time. It can only show you a window of 49 columns.

A Velcome message is then displayed, and then a prompt asKs: "What is your first name?" Obviously, you will enter your first name here.

Then a prompt asks: "What is your last name?"Obviously here again; enter your last name.

Now the board searches its data base for the name you entered. If this is the very first time you have called the BBS, it won't find your name and will prompt: "(Your Name) not found in users file. [R]e-enter nane [C]ontinue?" You will want to enter "C" to continue and the board will respond with a "New User" message and then prompt "Want to register?" Answer "V" for Yes and answer truthfully all the questions that follow...

(At several times while you may be reading the various screens, this prompt will come up: "More: [C/R] or [Y]es, [N]o, [NS]non-stop? Just do what the prompt asks you to do and you will be

see "IBS", rase 1

NEWS

Page 4 "BBS" continues

alright. In this case, pressing ENTER is the same a particular protocol, then your shoulder and you don't as entering "Y" and then by all means select that pressing the ENTER Key. Entering "NS" will allow you can be changed from the Main to confinue reading without further prompts for "More." This one can be helpful if you have been scrolling everything that is on your screen to a printer (we'll talk about that at some other time.)

City and State calling from? (Enter the city and state you live in, separated by a a "NEWS" message and shows comma.)

Password (1 word, 12 chars max)? (Your password can be any combination of numbers or letters or whatever that you can REMEMBER up to 12 characters long. The board will NOT show you what you have entered; instead only periods will be seen on the To log off, simply press screen.)

The board will then ask: Re-enter passuord verification? (Just re-enter the password exactly the same as you entered it the first time.)

Bus/Data Phone # (13 digits nax.)? Home/Voice Phone # (13) digits max.)?

(For most people these phone numbers will be the same and that's all right.)

Protocol: [X]modem, [C]rc Mnoden, [Y]moden CRC, [A]scii, or [N]one? (I recommend that "N" for none be used here. This way the board will give you a chance to change your mind about which protocol to use every time you upload or download a file. If you know that every time you upload or

protocol here. The protocol Menu and time you wish to change it.)

The next prompt says: "Registration information saved."

SUCCESSFULLY have COMPLETED all the necessary information the BBS needs and the board continues with you the MAIN MENU. At this time it is probably a good idea to log off the system as you won't have much time on the board and won't be able to do very much on the board until your name has been verified as a member of VAST.

[6]oodbye and Enter and the board will disconnect you.

Pretty Nifty, HUH?

Now the next time you log on to the VAST BBS it will be even easier! Try this...

At the prompt "What is your first name?" enter your first name, a space, your last name, a space, and, if no one is looking over your shoulder, your password all If you own a modem you can on the same line.

Example: What is your first name? Jim Ely ŌOGDX40 [first] [last] [password]

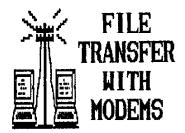
This will get you into the BBS system fast and will eliminate two additional prompts in the process: the one for last name and the one for password. How's that for efficiency?

download you will always use If some one is looking over The first thing you must do went them to see your password, just type your first and last names on one line and the board will then prompt you for your passuord.

> That's all for this time. In the next article I will show you how the HELP sustem on the BBS works and how you can get help on any prompt that the BBS has.

'til next time...

i.c.



HOM TO DO A PERSON TO PERSON DOWNLOAD Jeff Overton

How many times have you wished that you could get a copy of a program from someone? You could go to their home and make a copy, or you could just wait until the next VAST meeting. But what if you needed that program uesterday?

get the file that you need in a matter of minutes. You call the BBS and get files all the time. Why not call a friend and get the file that you want? I know you're thinking, "I have tried before and it didn't work." Well. I also tried it before and it didn't work but this time it did.

will try to take you through step by step how it the other modem. When his is done using TFLCO 2.3

is call your friend (on voice) and tell them what you want to do. Tell your friend what file you want. If that file has more than one file, then your friend should archive it, or you will have to transmit and receive the files one at a tine.

Each of you must SETUP your terminal to HALF duplex. If you don't do this, neither of you will be able to see what you are typing. FULL duplex sends or "echos" the received characters back to the sender only if receiving terminals "REMOTE ECHO" is set on. Let me assure you, this is not a good choice! To go to HALF duplex, you will press "foto N" from the terminal screen, or use the Setup Terminal option screen and select option "I".

It is also a good idea to make your Setup Terminal option "C" a CR/LF. Doing this will make your text automatically advance a line at the end of your line width, or every time that you press "ENTER". This is a good way to signal the other user that you are through sending text. Hit enter two or three times and your text will roll up that many lines.

Une of you will have to put your modem in auto-answer. To set a Hayes-compatible modem to auto-answer, type "ATSO=1". This will answer on the first ring. The modem will return to non auto-answer after it is powered off.

You now hang up and whoever is NOT in auto-answer calls

SEE "# I # I L L A D", PACE 5

NEWS

December 1993

"DARNIDAD" cantinues

computer answers, you will see on your screen "CONNECT" or "CONNECT 1200" or "CONNECT 2400" (depending on your baud rate). This is just like the way you call the BBS.

Now you can "talk" to each other using the Keyboards and reading your screens.

If you are to receive a file, you must press "fctn 4" to select a transfer Both computers protocol. must be using the sane protocol (Xmodem or Ymodem) and this should have already been agreed upon.

The person sending you the file must press "fctn 6" and select a transfer protocol. The sender must then enter the file name to send exactly as it is stored on disk. However, the receiver can name the file to be received anything, as long as it follows II disk file header rules. The receiver types in the filename and it's automatic from them on.



Fred Noore LA 99'ers TopIcs #

- 1. Bulli bool op MASS TRANSFER.
- 2. Both press any Key to
- get to menu. 3. Both choose "N" (not using phone file)
- 4. Both select "R" ' (reconfigure modem)
- 5. Both select modem RS232 port. (port 1 or 2)
- 6. Both agree on baud rate (300,1200,2400) select 1, 2 or 3.
- 7. Both select on menu, Select "L" (line feed on)

- 8. Both select "E" (echo) echo on) then ENTER
- 9. Both select "9" (monitor echo on) then press ENTER.
- 10. Both go to terminal mode. (press ENTER)
- Either one may make voice contact over phone line. Leave headset OFF hook.
- 12. Both turn on their modem and yo to data mode, full duplex.
- 13. One types "ATA" 14. The other tupes "ATO"
- 15. Both press ENTER
- 16. Both moders should connect.
- 17. At same time, the handset can be put on the hook.
- 18. Both try to type a message to each other.
- 19. If ok, both go to main
- menu, press "F7". Both select "M" (multiple transfer)
- 21. One selects "S" (send) Choose "I" XMODEN Select the drive that has the files you want to transfer. Insert disk in drive selected. Press ENTER. Select what files you wont to transfer by using up/down Keys/ENTER When finished selecting press "F6" (proceed) ENTER.
- 22. The other selects "R" (receive) Have a formalled disk ready. Select drive # to receive files. Insert formatted disk in drive selected/ENTER ENTER
- 23. Both screens show filename, total sectors, records, retries.
- 24. When all files have been transfered both monitors will beep.
- 25. Both go to terminal mode (ENTER)

- 26. When both are in terminal mode they can type messages to each other again.
- 27. The one receiving goes to main menu "F7". Press "F" files Select disk that files have been downloaded to. If transfer has been a success, files should be shown.
- 20. Both go back to terminal mode to type messages again.
- 29. Both can again type messages to each other.
- 30. Both can go to voice mode to speed up exchange of information.
- 31. Both hang up phone when finished.
- 32. Both check if they have a dial tone again.



Mike Scheller..Printer Paper Ed Morse.....Disk Holder Jim Wayne........Disk Case

Our Door Prize winner was Hank Mundhenk.

AL & CHARLIE BRADBURY

JANUARYS PAGE PRO



With our new format (thanks to Page Pro Page Composer),I will now accept your written articles, reviews, tips, grocery lists, etc. in a 28 or 58 column format.

All you have to do is set your favorite word processor up with a left margin of 0 and a right margin of 27 or 57, then type your article, save to disk, and either upload the file to the BBS leaving me E-mail that you have done so OR give me the disk to copy the file.

The deadline for submission is the FIRST of the month, which will give me enough time to include YOUR article in the same months newsletter.

If you wish to include artwork, I will accept it in the any of following formats. Page ProCubich is preferred format). II-Artist. Graphx Joypaint.

I will also accept Page Pro pages that you compose. All I ask is that you follow the general layout of the newsletter. If you like, OR you require a "template" page to use just let me knou.

As editor I'm UFRY acllively soliciting for ANY related articles from VASI members(which would be nice) OR from ANY OTHER II'er who reads our newsletter. r.r.

Page 6 -វិវិពីមី" លោយនេះ

hasn't been fair to felt whose experiences and beliefs matched my own.

years I have the received and generated much criticism. I've tried to be hard back. Why? I really cared about black and silver box - and people who care about something aren't silent when they think something is urong. In my drive to do what I felt was best for the community, I ran over more than a few toes. I've also had my lues run over many times in return.

In retrospect, I was too hard on some people and not hard enough on others. I'd like to apologize to a feu:

Craiq Miller: I was one of your earliest and most persistent critics. While I still think you were trying to sell yourself as a programming genius, slighted you by net recognizing the high quality of your work.

Larry Hughes: At the time I felt it was wrong for you to sell the Kind of software you sold. It was wrong for me to say this publicly. You did some original things, and your customers found out about the rest without 'my help. I made much ado about nothing.

Chris Faherty: I wrote an published article in MICROpendium comparing GRAPHX to II-Artist that was

community, so I decided to I had and improved on them. give the company to the one While I still think GRAPHX person in the community I was a very elegant program. and I stand by most of my opinions, it was petty of me to let my feelings interfere in such a comparison.

While the II The 70 or so people who paid community has been hard on for Press in Chicago, 1987: me at times, through it all I wanted it so much I sold myself, and then sold it to you. It was a beautiful what happened to my little idea - I just wish it had been a beautiful reality. My apologies for raising expectations, and holding onto your money for months before realization struck, and I returned it.

> As for those I wasn't hard enough on; well, most of them have long since left the community. Some of them have already gotten what In any case, I'd also like they deserved. I'm fairly confident that the rest will in time. I'm not going to name names - endings are times for reconciliation, not vindication.

Unfortunately, the community was what really suffered at the hands of these people.

The II world has had more than its share of frauds those that would talk up something and then disappear with the money. The worst scam artists, though, were those that would talk about something for years, have endless conferences, mail out scads of detailed announcements, and then lose interest and drift away. They may not have taken too much money from people, but they did worse - they took their hopes.

wrong. At the time I wrote It isn't the people who try these last 8 years. it. I was angry that you and fail that harm our

than try, and make claims business-like, and for your they know they can't meet. wry sense of humor.

While most of these people Finally, I'd like to thank have moved their games to greener pastures, a few of them remain in the II To the few community. unwary 99/4A remaining ouners - beware.

I learned this truth the hard way experiences. I haven't been perfect over the years and led a few wild goose chases myself, as well as have been taken in by a fraud or three. I just hope that when others judge me, that what I have done for the community outweighs what I couldn't do, or did wrong.

to thank a few people in particular for help and wisdom over the years:

John Koloen and Laura Burns of MICROpendium: In too many ways to enumerate. The II community was very lucky when they got these two devoted supporters.

Jack Sughrue and the guys at N.U.N.C.H.: For not looking too askance at the teenager trying to sell then software, and for supporting me through good and bad times.

Barry Traver: Tough but fair for all these years - and I don't have any hard feelings over Peter Hoddie.

Jerry Coffey, Ed Hall, Jim Horn and many others at the departed recentlu 99 'crs Mid-Atlantic "hone" (MANNERS): For a

the took several original ideas community as much as the Jeff Guide: for help in people who like to talk more making Asgard much more

> the 12,000 or so people that have bought software from me over the last 10 years - my customers. IHESE are the people that I worked for for 10 years, and in the bottom line, whose opinion mattered most.

As of Nov. 1, 1993, the new address for Asgard Software will be:

Asgard Software 2753 Main Str. Newfane, NV 14108 716-778-9104 •

hardware products, including the Asgard Mouse, AMS memory cards, the Extended BASIC 3 and other cartridges will be available from:

Asgard Peripherals 1423 Flagship Dr. Moodbridge, VA 22192

My involvement in the II community will be limited solely to the hardware products sold by Asgard Peripherals. No phone calls will be accepted - all orders or inquiries should be placed by mail.

Thank you.

Chris Bobbitt October 11, 1993

SEASOA THE

NEWS



FROM THE EDITORS DESK

As you can tell by the front cover and pages 2 thru 6, I have changed the "look" of the newsletter quite a bit. This is made possible by the use of Page Composer. I have published pages 7 & 8 in the normal Page Pro format so you can really see the BIG difference in pages.

Anyway, starting with the January issue, I will be publishing a large amount of articles that have appeared in past issues of VAST News. My good friend Jim Ely drove out to the house Dec. 3rd. & gave me ALL of the TI disks he had, including ALL of his past newsletter disks. Needless to say, I now have in my posession a GOLD MINE of TI articles to use.

THANKS JIMMY!!

BUT, I still would like to receive some articles from our membership. How about giving me a little help here folks!

Future issues will contain a series of articles on the use of programming, sounds, TI-Writer, hardware tips and many other useful articles.

Also, be on the lookout for an upload I will make to the VAST BBS that will contain the "dummy" page files I use to compose VAST News. This one's put to bed!

Ralph.



WANT ADS

FOR SALE:

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
PERIPHERAL EXPANSION BOXES
These PE boxes have been COMPLETELY disassembled by and throughly cleaned and tested.

Each box contains: T.I. Interface card/cable. T.I. Disk Controller Card. T.I. 32K Memory Card. SS/SD Disk Drive.

In addition to the above, I have reversed the cooling fan to help quiet the noise generated by it and added a shroud around the fan guard to increase cooling.

PRICE: \$125.00 per box

Ralph E. Rees 18815 North 13th Avenue Phoenix, AZ. 85027 602-869-8145

TRADE:

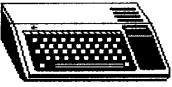
I am collecting II and 3rd party command modules. Ask for my list and maybe we can trade duplicates and make each other happy.

Ralph E. Rees 18815 North 13th Avenue Phoenix, AZ. 85027 602-869-8145

FOR SALE:

II99/4H Console

Cassette Drive



& Several Command Modules

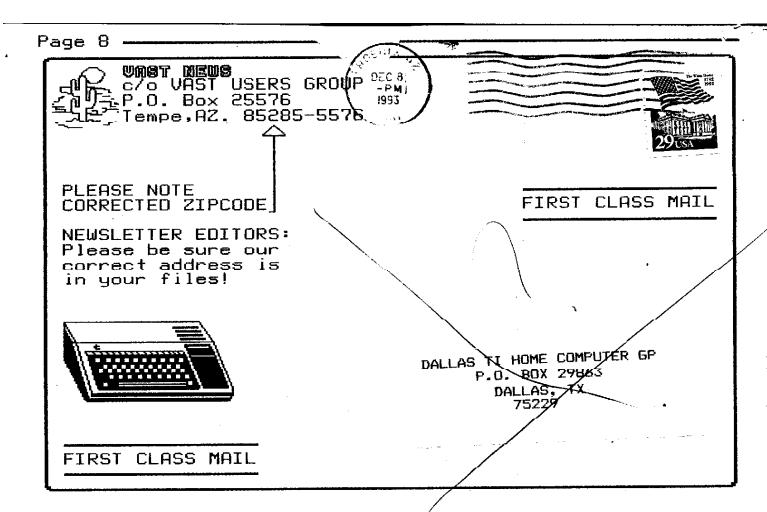
CALL Alan Knoll - 437-1911

Volume 9

Number 12

VAST News

December 1993



VAST USERS GROUP INFORMATION

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

CURRENT OFFICERS

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

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

NEWLETTER 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**

MEETING JAN. 08TH PYLE ADULT REC. CENTER

Volume 9

Number 12

"AST News

December 1993