THE FLUG TI ROUNDUP

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE FOREST LANE TI
USERS GROUP - DALLAS, TX

USERS OF THE TI 99 AND
COMPATIBLES

USA

OFFICERS FOR 1988:

PRESIDENT	Oscar Smith
VICE PRESIDENT	Roy Willis
SECT.	Al Herring
TREASURER	Ron Kuhlman
MEETING PROGRAM CHAIRMAN	James Carson

Committee Chairman for 1988:

TIBBS Committee	Richard Fleetwood
NEWSLETTER Librarian	
MEMBERSHIP Committee	Lee Dellenbaugh
SOFTWARE LIBRARIAN	Sam Lee

Next meeting of the Forest Lane Users Group is:

OCTOBER 2,1988 --- PROGRAM : Panic game

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IN THIS ISSUE:

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OCTOBER MEETING INFORMATION
By - Oscar Smith

Below are the planned activities for the October 2, 1988 meeting of the
Forest Lane TI Users Group.

2:00 - 2:30-BUSINESS MEETING
            Reading of the last Minutes
            TIBBS report

            ANY NEW BUSINESS
            Newsletter help
            Officers Meetings
            Suggestions for future demos (hardware)

2:30   END OF BUSINESS SECTION

2:30 - 2:40-QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

2:40 - 3:15 PANIC GAME DEMO

3:15 - 3:25 BREAK

3:30 - 4:00 OTHER EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE

4:00 - 5:00 LIBRARY SWAP--QUESTIONS, HELP, DISK TRADING;ETC.

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MEETING MINUTES
 - September 4, 1988
by Al Herring

Meeting called to order by Al Herring at 2:15 pm with nine members
and 1 guest present. Noting the dwindling numbers of members present
at meetings and fewer renewals recently, the floor was opened to
suggestions for increasing membership and participation. Jim Louis
suggested we advertize to buy used TI99/4A equipment. The person
taking the calls would inventory the items offered and also invite
the person calling to our club meeting. Either way club members
could pick up more equipment or the club could gain members needing
to learn. Al Herring noted that our club meeting was not always
noted in the newspaper. Followup is needed to keep our club meeting
dates and time regularly appearing. Wilson Taylor suggested we
contact past members for re-invitation to rejoin and, like larger
professional organizations, send an invoice for renewal just as
present memberships expire.
   As usual we need articles for our newsletter. Sam Lee said he
would provide a column about additions to our software library.
Marty will collect items from other newsletters.
   Richard reported the downtime of the BBS lately was caused by a
drive going out. We need that repaired and more work on software to
get Tex-Link on line.
   The Library report was given by Sam Lee. We now have approximately
100 disks of software available. You may get a copy of the library
catalog, either printed or on your disk for $2, or $3 on club
provided disk. Make your requests to Sam at (Metro) 817-572-7232.

Sam suggested we switch to flippy disks to save volume and requested the club buy a more easily transportable disk box.

We had Jim Newsom donate an authentic TI99/4A IEEE-488 card to the club. With this card one can connect analog test instruments, such as temperature probes or voltage meters, etc.

Richard Fleetwood gave a demonstration of Tex-Link, noting we will be limited to 125 users unless we get an 8K SuperCart which will allow 400 users. He led us through all the options of the main menu and the sub menus for messages and bulletins. Sam Lee made the motion that we get the hardware problems resolved before we install Tex-Link. Jim Louis seconded the motion and the vote carried the motion unanimously. We paused for a break at 4:16 pm.

Resuming the meeting at 4:28, Jim Louis gave a demonstration of DiskUtils 4.0. It incorporates a disk manager, sector editor, file printer, file or disk copier, and has several other great features. The author requests that clubs offer the disk without documentation as freeware. You then send your $15 to the author and he sends documentation. The alternative is to give the club $15 for programs and documentation and the club forwards your donation to the author. Either way you get one powerful program. Sam Lee pointed out that he had experienced three bugs in his explorations. The program, although it has the option on it's menu, will not reload Funnelweb. The printer TOF often has to be reset, the program either does not keep track or does not send new page characters to the printer at appropriate times. The printer default is PIO, not really a bug since the documentation shows which sectors and changes need to be made. (Secretary Note: I believe the docs or configure say the printer control codes are for an Okidata printer, therefore we need to get out our printer books and enter our printer's codes in configure for TOF or New Page.)

Sam Lee described the disk of the month program. It converts a graphic to Extended Basic code to be merged onto your XBasic program. Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:40 pm.

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PREZ TALK
by Oscar Smith

My how times flies. It will soon be Halloween, Thanksgiving, and then Christmas, time for you to elect some new officers for the year of 89. I hope this has been a good year for you and that you have really begun to understand that little orphan you have gotten out of the closet during the year of 88. Let's try and learn to use some new programs before the year ends, maybe buy some as Christmas presents. Let's all put more effort into keeping the club alive and going strong. As I attempt to write this article I have one eye on the Hotel window, Gilbert is due to hit town mid-afternoon. The plywood is up and the sky is dark, the wind is blowing and everyone is quiet with their eyes gazing up into the heavens. What a trip.

It has been a very busy year for me as President of the club. I have had to beg/borrow/steal at times to get different ones to participate or head up different functions and etc.. We never could get a body to take care of Editoring the newsletter. I want to first stop and thank all of my fellow officers for their support this year and I wish them the best of luck in the next years election. Let me pause here and say that whatever task you take on give it your best and if you don't have the needed time to perform that function please let it be known up front. It is really depressing when the President goes to an E/C meeting and finds out that he is the only one there.

The BBS is going through some hardware problems and is due to be fully operational before the next meeting. After a short duration the new BBS software package will go on line. Richard has assured me that the change over will be easy and will entail minimum downtime. He has a couple of co-sysops to help him now so the board will have no reason not to be kept updated.

Thanks to Jim Louis for letting us use his house for a meeting place this past weekend. We discussed pros/cons to the new BBS and also some pros/cons to finding a new home for the BBS in the near future. Richard has expressed some desires to give up the BBS and carry on with some other projects he has in the works at the present time. If any of you have ideas concerning these matters or suggestions to get more board activity, please let me know.

Thanks to the new librarian for his support and additions he has done to the Library. He seems to be always thinking of ways to make it better. I like working with thinking men/women.

We apologize for not having the Newsletter to Ed and Marty for their articles. As soon as the holder of the key gets it together you will get those letters.

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CO—SYSOP'S CORNER
by Jim Louis

The following article was downloaded from Cys' board in Florida.

NOTE: THIS PROGRAM IS BEING SOLD BY THE QUEEN ANNE COMPUTER SHOPPE..MASTER CHG AND VISA ACCEPTED... BARB WIEDERHOLD, OWNER (206)522-6558
****
                    TI-BASE
                    Report Card

    Performance.................................A+
    Ease of Use.................................B+
    Documentation...............................A
    Value.......................................A+
    Final Grade.................................A

Cost $24.95 + 1.50 Postage and Handling Manufacturer: INSCEBOT Inc., P.O.   Box 291610, Pt. Orange, FL 32029

Requirements: Disk system, 32K, Extended Basic, Editor-Assembler or Mini-memory. Printer optional. A RamDisk is optimum storage.

Shipped with 2 SSSD disks, manual and overlay strip.
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TI-BASE ver 1.01 A review by, Barry Long, CPUG Harrisburg, PA

    Recently our Users Group was contacted by INSCEBOT with an inquiry as to whether we might be interested in demonstrating their newly released TI-BASE. As the Secretary for the CPUG, I replied back that yes, we would. To my surprise, Dennis Faherty responded almost immediately by return mail with ver 1.0 of TI-BASE. (That's plus #1)
    I have used or tried many of the 'other' TI related Data-bases over the years since I purchased my machine, and I was a little skeptical when I read the letter, but, I am always on the look-out for the "perfect" Data-base, boy was I surprised!
    The program comes with a very good documented manual, as manuals go. It comes with two disks. The first is the actual program disk while the second is a TUTOR disk.

I read the "Start-up" introductions and proceeded to load the main program disk. It did seem to take awhile to load, but, I guess all good things are worth the wait.

The first item is a Title Screen after which the program prompts you for the date. Once the date is entered, it loads the first command file called "Setup". This displays your system parameters. If you have only one disk drive, or a serial printer, you will have to MODIFY the Setup to work properly. The manual instructed me to load the "TUTOR" disk and follow along with the program. This lasts about 20 minutes or so, depending if you want to 'Pause' or not. Pause is controlled by depressing the 'Space Bar'. Resume is done by pressing the 'S' key. The TUTOR program is well done and it shows the author spent some time on it. After the TUTOR is finished, you will be sent back to the main program.

TI-BASE is a very complex, inter-relational data-base. That's right, I said "inter-relational". You can open up to 5 different data files at one time and move from one to the other with the "SELECT" command. This allows you to scan different data-files for common related data and print or display it as you so choose.

This alone was impressive! But, there's more! (That's plus #2)

You have the ability to create a "COMMAND" file with a DV80 text editor. The "COMMAND" file will "run" and operate your data base for you. (up to a point). Similar to the "batch" files on the "other" system. (That's plus #3)

You "CREATE" your own data-fields. The prompts let you know how much space is available for the field title, etc. You may have up to 17 fields, and 255 characters in each field. The optimum storage will allow 16,129 records in one data-base. Note Ver 1.01 will only hold 8,192 records. (only, gee!)

You can SORT on any field (this can be slow if the Data-base is large), FIND any item in the Data-base in rapid time. You have 12 mathematical functions available, including SQR, LOG, SIN and ATAN to name a few. You can Contenate the characters, TRIM trailing blanks, 5 BOOLEAN commands as well as several LOGICAL commands. The DATE is preset for Month, Day and Year. ie: 06/21/88. This is handy for entering dates in your assigned field (if you create one). (Plus #4)

You can MOVE data from one slot to another at your will. EDITING is fast and you can EDIT either by record or by Paging forward and backwords. Or, using the FIND command to locate a particular file. You may DELETE an individual record or the entire Data-base with one keystroke (warning, it is FAST).

The APPEND mode allows you to input data and will add the data into the file as quickly as you can hit either Enter after the last field or F-8 (EXECUTE). F-9(ESCAPE) will ignore your last input and return you to the master command prompt. You may MODIFY your fields as you choose, but, like any good data-base, you could lose data if your field length is different than originaly created. A warning prompt will respond if this can happen, and the decision will be up to you to proceed. (Plus #5)

My demonstration of this unique and exciting new program appeared to go well with our Users Group and I did place several orders with INSCEBOT for the package.

In closing, I must state that TI-BASE is definately not for the 'Novice' TI user. You must have 32K, RamDisk (optional), several disk drives (preferred), with a printer (optional). It will work out of Extended Basic, Editor-Assembler or Mini-Memory.

Some of the drawbacks are: 1. Slow loading 2. Slow sorting 3. Manual could be improved both in content and choice of print. 4. A sample data-base included with the program might help to illustrate the various features in actual use. The TUTOR file is nice, but an actual hands-on file would be better.

The pluses are: 1. Speed of the actual search and commands. 2. The ability to sort on any field. 3. The ability to find your particular data FAST! 4. Automatic saving of your data prior to quiting. 5. The large (extremely) storage capacity. 6. The interaction between up to 5 data-bases at once. 7. The large mathematical capabili- ties. (CFS is the closest). 8. The inter-relational capabilities.

This is the first I have ever seen for the TI. (ACORN 99) was too complex and slow. TI-BASE is FAST! For the small investment that INSCEBOT is asking, $24.95 + SH, I would highly recommend it to anyone who needs a GOOD Data-Base. If Texas Instruments would have introduced this back in the beginning, there would not have been a "Black Friday". This has anything that I have seen on the '64' put to shame.

The service that I received from Dennis Faherty has been superb. I discovered a mild 'bug' in ver 1.0. I called INSCEBOT the following morning and Dennis returned my call that evening. Version 1.01 was shipped out the very next day. I talked to INSCEBOT today (6/21), placing my order and giving him my gripes and pleasures. He indicated my suggestions were very welcomed. I like dealing with INSCEBOT and would recommend them to any and all.

Now, if only the authors of FIRSTBASE would respond to my earlier request, I could make a fair comparision.

Respectfully yours,
Barry Long
Central PA 99/4A Users Group
P.O. Box 14126
Harrisburg, PA 17104-0126

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U.S. Consumer Products
Suggested Retail Price List
June-December,1982

Model	Name	Suggested Retail
CONSOLE		
PHC 004A	TI-99/4A Home Computer w/Color TV Adapter	450.00
PERIPERALS		
PHP 1200	Pheripheral Expansion System*	249.95
PHP 1220	RS-232Card*	174.95
PHP 1240	Disk Controller Card*(one disk manager module)	249.95
PHP 1250	Expansion System Disk Drive*	399.95
PHP 1260	Memory Expansion Card*(32K RAM)	299.95
PHP 1270	P-Code Card*(32K RAM memory expamsion required)	249.95
PHP 1280	Pascal Development System**-Includes P-Code Card (PHP 1270),UCSD Pascal Compiler(PHP 5063),UCSD P-System Assembler/Linker(PHP 5064) and UCSD P-System Editor/Filer/Utilities(PHP 5065) (32K Memory Expansion,Disk Drive and Controller)	499.95
PHP 1500	Solid State Speech Synthesizer	149.95
PHP 1600	Telephone Coupler(Modem)(RS232 required)	224.95
PHP 1770	RS-232 Accessories Interface	224.95
PHP 1800	Disk Drive Controller(one disk manager module)	299.95
PHP 1850	Disk Memory Drive(disk drive controller required)	499.95
PHP 2500	TI Impact Printer**	750.00
PHP 2200	Memory Expansion (32K RAM)	399.95
PHP 2300	Video Controller(the video controller is intended for industrail and commercial use,it is not intended for use in the home)	699.95

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PHP 2400      P-Code Peripheral (32K RAM memory required)..............399.95
PHA 2100      R.F. Modulator (TV Adapter)..............................  49.95
PHA 4100      10" Color Monitor.......................................399.95
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\# Available in Second Quater 1982
** Available in Third Quater 1982

These prices were taken from a 1982 suggested retail book for
retailer's. Enjoy looking and be glad we don't pay these prices
now.   Co/Sysop Jim Louis.

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GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY

Are we the cause of the death of the TI community? Some groups/people don't
show or have concern for users with the cassette or a new disk drive owner. Are
we the ones that move to more advanced and more powerful machines? Do we really
care about or cater to the people just starting out on the TI?
    What about the users groups that have contributed to the community such as:
Ottawa User Group and it's DM1000? Hunter Valley User Group and it's
Funnelweb environment? Plus all of the others that have contributed to all our
benefits with a lot of fine programs? Do we show any support?
    TI User Groups are dying out in numbers, the Chicago User Group are
presently loosing members and some groups are even dying out. The Minneapolis/
St. Paul User Group disbanded about six months ago, and smaller goups are
dying all around the country. With a 3 million + potential of users worldwide
you would think that we would have more members than we could handle, but as
you can see we don't, the big question is WHY??? Do you have an answer?, if so
let us hear it.
    The above article is a summary of the Editorial from Asgard News Vol. 1
No.2.

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FROM THE SOFTWARE DEPARTMENT
   by Sam Lee

Enter download request or <H>elp?

****
Number: 2452 Name: GRANDRAM
Address: B.NEAL Date: 880720
Approximate # of Bytes: 2520
Number of Accesses: 30 Library: 4
Description:
This file contains information concerning possible legal actions against
Innovative Programming, et al., regarding the non-shipment of goods paid for in
full (Grand Ram). A member of my users group has been in contact with a
California attorney and is looking to communicate with others who were stiffed
as he was by Innovative Programming. If you ordered a Grand Ram from
Innovative Programming and have nothing more to show for it other than your
cancelled check, give this file a look. Pass along to other users who were
taken as well. 8 sectors.
Keywords: GRAND RAM, INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING, LEGAL, RIP OFF
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I am looking for users who placed an order for the Grand Ram with
Innovative Programming and have not received either the product or
their money back. There are two users in my group who were stung by
this shady outfit, both paying for the goods but never received. Well
one of them has taken matters into his own hands and has been in
communication with an attorney in California. This has already turned up
some interesting information concerning Databiotics and Inovative
Programming.

It has been suggested that while individually it would be next to impossible
to seek damages as the time and expense would hardly be worth it more
many who have been stuck, a class action suit would be more beneficial for
those involved. With that, the user in my group, Dave, is looking to
see how many users were taken for their cash, and if enough response is
found, is VERY willing to coordinate the suit. You see Dave has an upper
hand on many of the average users as this attorney I have spoke about is
one of his sons which just happens to live in California.

If you, or anyone you know of has been stiffed by Innovative Programming
please leave me your name, address, etc in either a message or forward
correspondence to: TI Users Group of Will County, PO Box 214R, Romeoville,
IL  60441. All letters will be forwarded to Dave and he shall be in contact
with you.

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                    THE LIBRARY CORNER
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THE FOLLOWING IS THE LIST OF UPDATES TO THE LIBRARY TO DATE. I AM IN THE
PROCESS OF CHANGING OVER TO FLIPPIES AND CONDENSING THE PROGRAMS IN THE
LIBRARY. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL DUPLICATE PROGRAMS FOUND ALREADY. I AM ALSO IN
THE PROCESS OF MAKING A BACKUP OF THE LIBRARY.

THE SOFTWARE LIBRARY CATALOG IS AVAILABLE AT CLUB MEETINGS IN HARDCOPY FOR
$2.00 EACH, IT IS NOW OVER 25 PAGES LONG.

PROGRAMS ARE PROVIDED BY @COMPLETE DISK ONLY FOR A SERVICE CHARGE OF $2.00 PER
DISK (YOU PROVIDE THE DISKETTE) OR $3.00 PER DISK (WE PROVIDE THE DISKETTE).

I WOULD LIKE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION INCLUDED WITH ANY DONATIONS THAT WE
RECEIVE FOR THE LIBRARY. TYPE OF PROGRAM, LANGUAGE AND LOAD, A SHORT
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM.

I HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED SEVERAL DOZEN DISK'S OF PROGRAMS THAT I AM HAVING TO GO
THROUGH AND CHECK OUT.

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW.
SAM

                    @THE^FOLLOWING^FILES/DISKS^HAVE^BEEN^ADDED^OR^UPDATED.

@AUGUST,^1988

@DSKU,^COMMUN7000,^COMMUN7001,^DOCS1000,^DOCS1001,^DOCS1002,^XBSCUT2003.
@XBSCUT2004.

@DISK^OF^THE^MONTH,^AUG88DOM,^SEPT88DOM,^SEPT88DOM~.

@SEPTEMBER,^1988

@DOCS1001,^BASCUT1002,^XBSCUT2001,^XBSCUT2002,^XBSCUT2003,^XBSCUT2004,
@DOCS1000,^XBSCMU2600,^XBSCMU2601,^XBSCMU2602,^XBSCMU2603,^XBSCMU2603,
@BASCMU1200,^8ASCMU1201,^BASCMU1202,^FUNNELWEB^V4.12.

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**PLEASE SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE AND**
**EXCHANGE NEWSLETTERS TO THE CLUB AT:**

The Forest Lane Users Group
P.O. Box 743005
Dallas, Tx 75374-3005

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FOREST LANE USERS GROUP TIBBS INFO.
(214) 328-4880 24 HOURS A DAY
300 OR 1200 BAUD

 THE "ULTIMATE" TIBBS —Possibly the most advanced and useful bullentin
board in the country for the serious TI 99/4A user. We support QUAD DENSITY
with two quad density/double sided drives and two double sided/double density
drives. It is based around our own designed disk controller card. We also have
one Horizon Ramdisk card, and the MFB clock card. The program itself is
possibly the most advanced, most changed TIBBS around, and it makes use of all
TI features--Graphics, Sound, and Color. We also support XMODEM transfers, with
over 130 files to download at this time, with many more to come. To log on,
just call the number posted above with your modem, hit 'N' and press enter.
Follow the prompe after you have gotten your user number, you will be upgraded
to regular user level within 24 hours.

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 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

 A Forest Lane Users Group membership includes a monthly newsletter mailed to
your home, full access to the FLUG TIBBS, access to the FLUG software library
of public domain and fairware programs, and many other benefits. Annual
membership is $15. For more information Please contact the BBS or drop a card
in the mail to the membership chairman.

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 MEMBER NEWSLETTER INPUT

 Please send all newsletter input, articles, copies, pictures, files, or
letters to the Editors to Oscar Smith/Roy Willis at the FLUG PO BOX. Disk files
are appreciated and they can be uploaded to the BBS. All input must be received
by no later than two weeks before meeting date in order to make the deadline.

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 FLUG MEETING

 FLUG meetings are held on te First Sunday of every month at the main TI
plant on Central Expressway and LBJ in North Dallas. To get to the plant, take
LBJ east from Central Expy, take the first exit which will be Floyd Rd. Follow
Floyd Rd. around to the stoplight. This will be Walnut, go through this light
unto the next one and turn left into the entrance of TI. You will pass the
Texins Activity Center on your right after you have turned off of Floyd Rd.
After another 100 feet of so you will come to a stop sign, go straight ahead
and you will see a covered walkway on you immediate right. A sign hanging off
the end of the covered walkway will read Employment Center. Just park across
the street from the covered walkway and follow the covered walk to the SC
Cafeteria building. It also contains the TI Health center, the TI Employment
center, and other. Take the door on the left, and follow the signs to the
conference room in the back of the Cafeteria. The meeting starts promply at 2
PM, so try and get there on time.