

95153-3447 SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA P.O. BOX 23447 Address:

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE by Mike Ewell

The election was held at the January meeting. The club has a full team for 1988. Bill Schult took over the job of Editor, Kevin Daberkow became Treasurer, and John Wente is the Vicepresident. All the other officers remain the same. Thank you to all the people who helped last year.

The demo at the meeting was on the PEB and how to open it up down to the power supply and put it back together!! The demo chosen was timely as before the meeting I found out how!? to destroy every card in the PEB with a single touch. You could too just by accidently dropping a small bit of foil or metal into the box with the power on. If you jump the negative low terminals to the next connecter, it is all over for any card that is in the PEB at that time, ANY CARD! So, if you wanted to check your PEB voltages, DO NOT!! do it with cards in the PEB unless you are in need of new paper weights.

It was suggested at the January meeting, that members might mention which utilities they are using so that alternatives! could be suggested and/or be demonstrated. Such as: You use disk manager 2 - someone suggests DM-1000 or you use TE-2 - someone suggests Fast-Term or 4A-talk.

A problem arose to delay! the January newsletter as you must know by now. The next issue, this one, will be for Febuary.

Please give Bill any help YOU can with the Newsletter!!!!!!

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D	[]
[] The Febuary SBTIU6 meeting will be held at 7:11 P.M.	[]
[]	[]
[] THURSDAY, Febuary 4, 1988	[]
[] The meeting will be held in the Saratoga Public	[]
[] Library. The library is located at 13650 Saratoga	
[] Avenue. From 280(680), take the Saratoga Avenue exit	
[] SOUTH. The library will be on your left, just past	
[] the Fruitvale intersection. This is about four miles	
[] from the 280 exit.	[]
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	IL:

Chris Schram had one of his articles published in the latest issue of MICROpendium!!!! You do subscribe to it, don't you?

If you want to subscribe to MICROpendium, the address is:

MICROpendius P.O. Box 1343 Round Rock, TX 78680

I have a working M-DDS for the 9640 and some demo items that will be shown after they are unarchived and tested!

X NOTICE XX NOTICE XX NOTICE XX NOTICE XX NOTICE X MARCH AND APRIL MEETINGS X The March meeting will be held on 3-3-88 which is the first Thursday. The APRIL meeting will be held on 4-7-87 which is the first Thursday. The first Thursday will continue to be the first choice X for our meetings, but please read the dates carefully to avoid a wasted trip or missing a meeting. X NOTICE XX NOTICE XX NOTICE XX NOTICE XX NOTICE X

SBIJUG CLUB OFFICERS AND OTHERS

PRESIDENT	HIKE ENELL	408/370-7988
VICE-PRESIDENT	JOHN WENTE	408/559-1680
TREASURER	KEVIN DABERKOW	408/281-7435
SECRETARY	NORMAN KNUDSEN	408/267-6193
LIBRARIAN	HELMUT FUCHS	408/263-8339
EDITOR	BILL SCHULT	408/446-1182
	PAT MICETICH	
*ASSISTANT	How about YOU!!!	408/???-????
	24-HRS/DAY?	
	KEITH FELIX	
*REMOTE SYSOP	RON SPRINGER	408/225-8670
	FRANK CONTINGLA	
	DON APTE	
ARCHIVER/NEWSLETTER	SHOY COLE	SEE AT NEETING

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>>	HELLO, I MUST BE GOING!	$\ddot{\alpha}$
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>>	by Kevin Daberkow	~~
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Well, it is hard to believe that sixteen newsletters have come and gone since I took over as editor for the SBTIUG. When one moves on from one project to the next, it is not unusual to take a step back and look to see what has happened. I had a number of reasons why I thought it would be a good idea to take over the SBTIUG newsletter, they were as follows:

- (1) I wanted to get more invloved in the users group. I didn't just want to be another face in the crowd, not really knowing what is going on. Well, involved is what I got, and I am happy to say it was everything I hoped it would be. I now feel confident to speak to other members about what I know of the TI and various programs it runs. By getting involved I have made some very strong and I believe lasting relationships with numerous club members.
- (2) I wanted to have TI information more accessible to me. What better way to get access to that information than by being newsletter edition. I got to see newsletters from other users groups long before anyone else. Also, by getting to know certain key members better, I could massily ask them my questions, or just here what they were up to.
- (3) I wanted to expand my knowledge of the TI 99/4A system and how to operate it. Again, I can say that my desires have been more than met. I now know how to operate my system much more effeciently than before. I know what software is good and how to put it to use. There are many more ways in which my "TI knowledge" has been expanded in the past sixtem months.

So, all in all I would have to say that it has been a good experience. Of course there were times that the newsletter deadline caused some headaches, but nothing good comes for free. I would like to take a moment here and thank a very special person who helped me along in the whole process: Pat Micetich. She helped me get up to speed on how to create the newsletter, then continued to help by continuing to do ALL of the copying and mailing. I did one month's copying and mailing, and believe me it takes some time and effort to get those newsletters in the mail. So if you see Pat, let her know that you appreciate the behind the scenes work she continues to do on the newsletter every sonth. A little positive recognition can really go along way in making such a job more enjoyable.

I know will be leaving the newsletter in the very capable hands of Bill Schult. It takes some courage to take on such a task, and I hope it is as rewarding for him as it was for me. Please HELP Bill by submitting articles for publication, or by assisting in re-typing articles from other newsletters. It is enough work just laying the whole thing out without all the extra time of creating all of the articles too. Believe me, Bill will be eternally greatful.

It would also be nice if we could have some "regular" columns every month. I know we are all quite busy, but it sure would help to make our newsletter a more unique item as well as help Bill fill up space.

Enough of the Soap Box routine, I would now like to use up my remaining space thanking various people for their contributions to the newsletter these past sixteen months. Below is a list of the people that either wrote articles for the newsletter, or re-typed articles from other newslettrs to be included in ours. They are not listed in any special order, so please do not take any offence by were your name appears. If I have accidentily left someone off the list I am truly sorry!

Nike Ewell
Ron Springer
Bill Schult
Pat Micetich
Keith Felix
Jim Van Scyoc
Helmut Fuchs
Chris Schram
Bud Popkin

Jim Widby Ray Keller Frank Continolo

Norman Knudsen

Rich Yacco

Again, I would just like to say <u>THAMK YDU</u> very much for the support that I received from all of you during the time I worked on the newsletter. I hope to continue receiving your support as I take over the office of Treasurer.

God Bless You All

SBTIU6 GENERAL MEETING 3 DEC, 1987

by Nora Knudsen

The December meeting of the SBTIU6 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, Helut 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 PROASE FILES reprinted from the SUNCDAST 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 PIO or whatever. I'm not sure I atotally understand what went wrong here, but I think something in the program overwrites spmething else, and, in order to clear it out hitting ERASE will but 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 SBTIU6 was held at the Saratoga Public Library and was called to order at 7:20 PM. There were 17 members and one quest 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 cadidate. Mike then read the proposed slate and a motion was made that nominations cease. The officers elected for the coming year are:

PresidentMike Ewell
Vice PresidentJohn Wente
SecretaryNorm Knudsen
TreasurerKevin 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 FI 99.

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

STAR PRINT-HEAD REPAIRreprinted from CIN-DAY NEWS

One of the attractive features of the Star Micronics Semini series printers (and also some of the later models) is the "user replacéable" print-head. As it turns out, there are a couple of drawbacks to this. Here 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 % 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 10% 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 reces, 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. (Iused 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 funts, etc; 17 screen display routines; 6 screen formatting, 8 plotting, 6 joystick nd 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, deductable 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 origional box with power supply, RF modulator and origional manuals and documentation. Asking \$50.00

If interested contact:

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

Bits & Bytes Jan Page 4

THANKS by Jim Van Scyoc

Those who attended the Movember 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 disasseabled 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 intermittant contact in the power supply. In any case, the problem was more mechanical than electronic, and may have been a result of inproper assembly at the factory.

Why do I go into such detail? I sav ed 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.

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

NSG #4
From: ROLF STROMM
TO FALL
Subj: FOR/SALE
SUN 01/18/88
TI/99/4A WITH PERIPHERAL EXPANSION BOX
32K, SERIAL AND PARALLEL PORTS
DISK CONTROLLER AND DISK BRIVE
TI-NULTIPLAN AND TI-WRITER SOFTWARE
FAST-TERM COMMUNICATION SOFTWARE
CARTRIDGE EXTENDER
AND A BEAUTIFUL TEAK COMPUTER DESK
PRICES NEGOTIABLE FOR ALL CLUB MEMBERS

R. STRDHM (408)734-5546

THANKS, RAY

FROM THE CALTEX \$1 BBS .

MS6 #1964 From: FRANK CONTINOLS 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 71994a and GEne ve. I left a message to sysop and hopefuly we will get a answer soon. Syst em has a 100 mag hard drive and autitasting AT-CLONE with inner chat mod e and 16 lines. Call and support this system \$25.00 option for chat . Sig n on as Suess , call back for password. numbers listed in File module under D, 415 and 408 numbers, Frank SysOp

--> CysOP <--

MSG #1975
From:SCOTT MUELLER
To :ALL
Subj:6S99E BBS
Thu Dec 17 1987
BS99er BBS IS Back ONLINE!
After a long disconection of the phone
line, 6S99er BBS is back up in time for
the holidays
Give It A call!
24 Hours
PC Pursuit Acessable
(201) 794-3175

MS6 #1981 From: HARDY LENIGK To :ALL Subj:T199/4A 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. Driginal 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;

HS6 #1783
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 TDDAY

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.

