

JULY, 1990

# LONGVIEW COMPUTER USERS GROUP

P. O. BOX 9284 , LONGVIEW, TEXAS 75608

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by  
Ray Coates

If the increase in membership is any indication, our project to contact everyone that did not renew their membership has been pretty successful so far. Our thanks goes out to Eddie Green and Johnny Case for the fine work they have been doing. We still do not have a chairman for the IBM SIG. Ken Bedsole handled the DOS class at the June SIG meeting while I talked with all visitors and new members. I shared with them how the club was organized, covered the various benefits of being a club member, described for them the "shareware" marketing concept, and talked a little bit about the club's BBS. I hope those I talked with found the information useful. We will try to do something similar following each general meeting.

At the June board meeting we decided to prepare a list, to be included in the newsletter, of software and the names of users that would be willing to assist new users. This list will cover all of the computer types in our club. I will need everyone's assistance to compile this list, though. I will create a form that will be different than any of the forms you may have filled out for us in the past. Most of the data we now have on members is old, incomplete, and inaccurate. The new form will be distributed to all LCUG members as an insert to the newsletter. Instructions will be on the insert. In order to make our database complete, please fill out the form and send it to us as soon as possible. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Another subject discussed at the June board meeting was the possibility of knowing the agenda for the board meeting in advance. We decided that those wishing to place an item on the agenda, including me, would leave a message on the BBS describing what it is they would like discussed at the next board meeting. Obviously, if you place an item on the agenda, you need to be at the board meeting to address the item.

Along the same line of thought, each SIG Chairman is being asked to include in their newsletter article a description of what took place at the last SIG meeting and what can be expected to take place at the next SIG meeting.

If you will take a look at the inside of the last page of this month's newsletter and compare it to last month's newsletter, you'll notice a rather large decrease in our advertising rates. If you know anyone that might be interested in advertising in our newsletter, please give them a call. Please note that Personal Classified ads from members are free. If you have something you want to sell, get the information to John Johnston by the monthly deadline date and he'll get it in the next issue of our newsletter. You might want to leave a message on our BBS, too.

We still need someone to head up our Public Relations committee. We have several people that have expressed a desire to serve on the committee, but the committee needs a chairman. The present charge to this committee is as follows: a. Come up with ideas to improve club membership. b. Develop and pass out a broacher/handout about our club and our training to schools (junior high, high, technical, college), libraries, computer stores, book stores, etc. c. Come up with ideas to improve relations with our local vendors (computer & book stores). If you would be willing to serve as chairman of this committee, please give me a call.

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# TI Report

by  
Leo DuBry

The world of TI99 is forever getting bigger. Some times it is nice to go back and see what has been offered in the past. A couple weeks ago Gene brought by a box full of disks, and they were marked PLATO. This is the material that was used by the schools a number of years ago. There's multiplication, grammar, addition with speech 1 through 6, Reading, Geometry 1 through 5. There are some 31 disks that were taken off cartridges marked PLATO. Years ago TI removed all their software from copyright and made it become public domain. They did not merchandise the material in a form which was easily copied.

This is where a number of hackers came into play. They constructed programs that would off-load the memory from grom chips in cartridges and place it on disks. A number of programs are available to do this today. The PLATO disks do require a special cartridge to operate, which is call a Super Cart, and it has an Editor Assemble program that operates the disks. These will soon be in the local TI99 library and also in the Tyler TI99 Users Library.

These programs are also available through Tex Comp in cartridge form and would not require the expansion system. They are listed at about a third of the original price.

This is a way that a child or an adult could learn today's elementary or high school subjects. It is also a way that a slow learner could compete with his class mates. To use the local copies of the programs these are the requirements: a TI99 with an expansion box and disk drives attached, plus a monitor. There would have to be a Super Cart cartridge for the computer to run the disk programs.

This month we will demonstrate the use of these programs at the TI SIG meeting.

The year is passing very quickly and the time of the fair is not far off. It is time that the SIG's start planning what their part will be. We will have a double booth again. The local Junior Chamber of Commerce has given us the same booth as we had last year. We are going to need tables to extend twenty feet across the back of the booth. About twelve feet at the front of the table will hold material about the computers and the Users Group. The table in the back will be used to display computers belonging to the members. In the past, I have taken my computer home each evening from the Fair as I use it in my business. I suggest that each member do the same as the computers could become sticky to someone's fingers. The people that man the booth are the average members. People asking questions are usually those that know very little about computers; some don't know how to turn a computer on. This qualifies every one in the users group to be a booth person. The people that help with the booth are the ones that really gain. First they make new friends in the users group, plus this is a wonderful place to learn how to use a program that you have been having trouble with. Nine chances out of ten the person with you has used the program and you are a winner.

We need some people who love to decorate. There will be a booth ten by twenty feet with a blank back wall and the front of the literature table crying for help. Don't hold back - call me and we will get together. I have been the chairman of the Fair operation since the first exhibit, and I would love to have some more help in setting up. Each SIG is responsible for its demonstration at the Fair. Yes, the SIG Chairman has the ball and he needs help.

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