
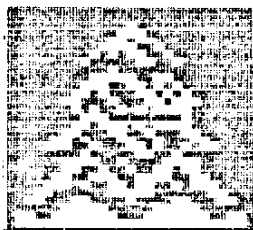


THE  **SMUGLETER**  
FROM THE SOUTHERN NEVADA USERS' GROUP

Volume 5: No. 12

December, 1988



NEXT MEETING

6:30PM MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1988

NEVADA POWER COMPANY MEETING ROOM

6226 WEST SAHARA AVENUE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy holidays everyone! I hope that you all had a nice Thanksgiving. Mine was spent moving from one residence to another but I did manage to squeeze in the traditional dinner. The move also caused me to miss the officers meeting this month but Cindy has filled me in and it sounds like it will be another good meeting. We will also be having a demonstration of the PRESS word processor coming up soon. (Hopefully next month if the program gets here in time...) For those of you who haven't heard about PRESS, let me fill in a few of the blanks. It is a big-league word processor with spell checker written to run on the TI or 9640. It sells for about \$60 dollars and compares with IBM programs which sell for hundreds. The features are too numerous to mention here but I will say that it was written in the "what you see is what you get" format, page breaks are displayed on screen as are any italics or special fonts, and the file size is not limited by the memory of the computer but by the size of your storage device!

At the last minute we received the MacFlix program from Genial Computerware so I will do a short demo on it at the December meeting. Remember, the programs that the group purchases for demos at the meetings will be raffled, so bring a few dollars with you and you may win some nice software. I have finally given up on the Myarc HFDC and sent it back for repair. So far the "two day" return time on the repair is over two weeks... So much for another Myarc promise... The "final" versions of the Geneve software will not be out until "mid December" (what year?) now so I am still running 9640 only... Bob Bieber volunteered to take care of the group program library for a few months but we

NEED a permanent librarian. Someone PLEASE volunteer...  
Hope to see you ALL at the December meeting.

\*Bob\*

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

by R. J. Bieber  
SNUG's Temporary Librarian

Because of personal and family problems Dee Wellman has resigned as SNUG's Disk Librarian. I've agreed to take the Disk Library for a couple of months. However, come January, 1989 somebody else will have to take over the honors. The benefits are many, the thanks are few and far between. You'll get programs dumped on you, many without docs. The fun is in figuring out how they work and writing up brief docs mainly for your own peace of mind and as a reminder in case you forget the next time you access the program. It's truly an educational experience. You'll be one of the first SNUG members to see some of the newest programs available and all courtesy of other TI'ers.

I'm in the process of reorganizing the 124 disk in the active disk library. Multi-segmented programs such as Fast-Term, DSKU, DM1000, etc. are being Archived into single files. Similar type archived programs will be stored on a single disk further reducing library size. This will make it easier for the next Librarian to keep track of program series and/or categories.

I have an additional 30 to 40 disks of new programs that

have been checked out but not yet sorted and/or archived. They'll probably reduce down to 25 disks once categorized and archived.

On the back burner is another 20 to 35 disks of programs gleaned from magazines and books that apply primarily to beginners in the TI community. They haven't been reviewed or categorized. If you are just starting out with a TI computer these programs may be just what you need.

SNUG's Master Disk Catalog with individual program/file descriptions has not been updated for over 2 years and occupies 38 printed pages. I figure I can save 5 to 10 pages by archiving program series under one file header and then deleting the associated file descriptions. This will help to reduce reproduction costs should I ever get the new catalog finished.

I have been working (on and off) for over a year on a new catalog, but too many interruptions have prevented me from making much progress. Once I pass SNUG's Disk Library onto another Caretaker I can get back to the business at hand. With any luck I'll have a new catalog finished in 3 to 6 months. Hopefully much sooner.

I will help whomever takes over as SNUG's Disk Librarian whenever I can. It's a thankless job, but it does have its many rewards. (Maybe we should give Bob a "BIG Thank You" for the job he has done for us. Ed.)

--- rjb ---



NOVEMBER RAFFLE WINNERS:

- Bob Sherburne chose Remind Me!
- Cordon Leonard chose a computer keyboard
- Ken Shorter picked up another joystick



Remember, the NEW PROGRAM that is demonstrated goes into the RAFFLE each month.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.

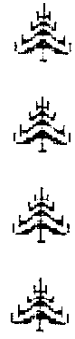
This last month I had the pleasure to meet a visiting TI'er and a very interesting man, Bob Stevens from Battle Creek, Michigan. John Martin and Bob Sherburne were kind enough to put some Geneve programs together for him. I have received a note from him and he sends his Thanks. At the December meeting John Martin will demonstrate Batch It from Asgard, and Bob Bieber will show SOOT! another menu program from John Johnson.

There will also be Holiday cookies and soda (even diet) at the meeting. Take a rest from your holiday shopping and join us.

A note to those that have J.Peter Hoddie's, Graphics Expander. Genial Computerware has V2.0 out. You can send in your original disk plus \$3 for an upgrade. Also, my copy and Bob Bieber's BIGTYPE don't work. I would be interested if anyone else has the same problem.

BEST WISHES AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!!

Happy Holidays  
CINDY MITCHELL  
SECRETARY  
SNUG USERS GROUP



MINUTES for the November meeting of SNUG. The November meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Bob Sherburne, President. Thirteen (13) members were present. Lance Wilson demonstrated Remind Me! by John Johnson. A graphical calendar with pop-up windows allows entry of data for each day. You can print out an entire monthly schedule, a selected range of dates, or just individual days. The program is ideal for a person with several appointments on a particular day. It was suggested to set the printer to condensed print to cut the printout down to two pages. The program seems user friendly and straight forward.

John Martin gave quite an extensive tutorial on setting up Telco V2.4. Then John went to SNUG's Bulletin Board and explained all the New features he has added.

IN MEMORY

News has come from the publications which SNUG receives that a dedicated supporter of the TI 99 has passed away. George Steffan was a founder of the LA 99'ers and a producer of software for our system. It was reported that he passed away in the New York area after a long battle with cancer. We wish to express our condolences to his immediate family and to those who were good friends of his. Many of SNUG's members had a chance to meet George in our exchanges over the years at the various gatherings of the TI 99 community.

HARD DIRVE INFORMATION

The following information was obtained from one of the information services by one of SNUG's members. It may prove useful to those who are becoming involved in the use of hard drives now that the Myarc HFDC is available.

Miniscribe Information Index

Model:	3053	3085	3438	3438P	3650	3675	6085	6128	8425	8425F	8438	8438F	9380E
Disks:	3	5	2	2	3	3	5	5	2	2	2	2	8
Heads:	5	7	4	4	6	6	8	8	4	4	4	4	15
Cyls:	1024	1177	615	615	809	809	1024	615	615	615	615	615	1224
Acstime:	25	18	85	55	61	61	28	25	68	40	68	40	16
Trk2Trk:	5	5	15	15	15	15	6	6	15	15	15	15	3
AvgPwr:	12.4	12.4	14.5	14.5	18.6	18.6	18	18	9.9	12.5	9.9	12.5	22
Size:	HH	HH	HH	HH	HH	HH	FH	FH	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	FH
MTBF:	30k	30k	20k	20k	20k	20k	25k	25k	20k	20k	20k	20k	30k
ActTyp:	RVC	RVC	LRP	LRP	LRP	LRP	LVC	LVC	LRP	LRP	LRP	LRP	RVC
EncMtd:	MFM	MFM	RLL	RLL	MFM	RLL	MFM	RLL	MFM	MFM	RLL	RLL	ESDI
SctrPt:	17	17	26	26	17	26	17	26	17	17	26	26	36
AutoPk:	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	*	*	*	*	YES
Media:	O	O	TF	TF	O	P	O	P	S/P	S/P	S/P	S/P	P

Seagate Information Index

Model-ST:	125	138	138R	157R	225	225N	238R	251	251N	251-1	277R	277N	4096
Disks:	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	5
Heads:	4	6	4	6	4	4	4	6	6	6	6	6	9
Cyls:	615	615	615	615	615	615	615	820	820	820	820	820	1024
Acstime:	30	30	30	30	65	65	65	40	40	30	40	40	28
Trk2Trk:	8	8	8	8	20	20	20	8	8	8	8	8	6
AvgPwr:	10	10	10	10	14.8	16.8	14.8	11	13	11	11	13	23
Size:	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	HH	HH	HH	HH	HH	HH	HH	HH	FH
MTBF:	20k	20k	20k	20k	20k	20k	20k	20k	20k	20k	20k	20k	15k
ActTyp:	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	LVC
EncMtd:	MFM	MFM	RLL	RLL	MFM	SCSI	RLL	MFM	SCSI	MFM	RLL	SCSI	MFM
SctrPt:	17	17	26	26	17		26	17		17	26		17
AutoPk:	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Media:	S/TF	S/TF	S/TF	S/TF	S/TF	S/TF	S/TF	S/TF	S/TF	S/TF	S/TF	S/TF	S/TF
Megs:	21.4	32.1	32.7	49.1	21.4	21.4	32.7	42.8	43.1	42.8	65.5	64.9	80.2

RVC = Rotary Voice Coil

LVC = Linear Voice Coil

HR = Helical-band Rotary

\* = Shock Mounted Not Necessary

S = Sputtered

P = Plated

O = Oxide

TF = Thin Film

(hrs)

ActTyp = Actuator Type

AutoPk = Auto Parking

EncMtd = Encoding Method

Trk2Trk = Track to Track (ms)

SctrPt = Sectors Per Track

AvgPwr = Average Power Consumption

Acstime = Access Time (ms)

MTBF = Mean Time Between Failure

Common Hard Drive Terms

MFM - Modified Frequency Modulation, 17 sectors per track, 5 megabit transfer rate.

RLL - Run Length Limited, 26 sectors per track, 7.5 megabit transfer rate. Need approved drive for this. Drive must have very high quality media.

ARLL - Advanced Run Length Limited, 34 sectors per track, 10 megabit transfer rate. Since it is extremely hard on the drives, the drives must be of super high quality (i.e. plated).

SCSI - Small Computer Systems Interface, relatively new to the personal

computer world. Apple has been using it for years. Very fast,

and can chain up to seven drives off of one controller. Drive has built in intelligence. Drive is only SCSI encoding.

ESDI - Enhanced Small Device Interface, also very new and very fast. This is quickly replacing standard drives in large network environments because of the speed. 34 sectors per track, 10 mb transfer rate. Drive must be specifically designed for ESDI.

ADRT - Advanced Data Recording Technology, 31 or 34 sectors per track, 9 or 10 mb transfer rate. Latest in technology. Information is stored at 2.5 to 5.5 mb per second, but is retrieved at 9 or 10 mb per second. Puts less strain on drive than MFM. Doubles space.

Technical Assistance Numbers

Controllers:		Drives:	
Western Digital	1-800-847-6181	Seagate	1-800-468-3472
Adaptec	1-408-432-8600	Miniscribe	1-800-356-5333
OMTI	1-415-964-5700	PTI	1-805-581-1000
DTC	1-408-727-8899	HDI	1-602-967-3133
Perstor	1-602-998-5033		

HELPFUL HINTS:

by R. J. Bieber  
Southern Nevada Users Group  
December 1988



- 1) Check to be sure the program/file is on the designated disk.
- 2) Make sure you have typed-in the correct information in your OLD DSK#.FILENAME Statement.

Can't get a program to load from a Cassette Tape you found stashed away in an old box of junk. Can't get some Basic or XBasic programs to load from disk. Do you keep getting I/O Error 02 or I/O Error 50 during disk loads. Does your program load but crashes with a Memory Full Error. Here's a few hints that even I forget about from time to time.

I/O ERROR 50 usually indicates the Program is in Memory Image format and must be loaded via E/A Option 5 "Run Program File", FNLWEB Option 3 "Program", or thru a M/I program loader such as Barry Boone's E/A Option 5 Loader or Systex Loader. Most M/I Programs are in blocks of 33 or 34 sectors, some are less.

I/O ERROR 02 covers a multitude of errors, but they all boil down to one final problem - the program cannot be located or it's too large to be loaded into memory.

If you are trying to load a program from Cassette Tape into just the basic console you are restricted to about 16k of console memory. Subtract another 2K (2072 bytes) of memory if you are using Extended Basic. If you have XB plugged into the basic console enter NEW and then do a SIZE command. You will see 13928 BYTES FREE. Adding in the loss of 2k for XB you actually have 14964 Bytes of memory to play with in Basic. As you can see bare console memory is very limited. If you don't have the 32K Memory Expansion (MX) Unit there isn't much you can do.

If you are trying to load programs from diskette other problems can plague you:

- 3) If the program is written in Basic and it's over 40 sectors long, it may be too large to fit into standard console memory. Again, if you don't have the 32K MX Unit there isn't much you can do.

But don't despair. If you have a 32K MX Unit then there are some more steps you can take. When you turn on the Computer TI-Basic reserves about 1.5K (1554 Bytes) for file manipulation which is equivalent to CALL FILES(3). If your program Opens no more than 2 files at a time then Enter CALL FILES(2) then Enter NEW. This will free-up an extra 518 bytes of memory. Usually this is enough to allow the program to load and run normally.

If your program loads but crashes with a Memory Full Error and it Opens no more than 1 file at a time try entering Call FILES(1) and NEW. This will free up 1K (1036) bytes of additional memory which may be enough to allow the program to Load and Run without crashing. If it continues to crash then it's time to go in and make some changes. During PreScan before the program executes all Variables, DIM'd Arrays, CALLs and GOSUB line numbers are stored in console memory. Some variables will be stored in the 32K MX Unit if it's available allowing for larger programs to be stored in the console. To save memory space don't use GOSUB's unless the SUB routine is used more than once, keep variable names short, dimension Arrays only in the size and quantities needed, and convert Numeric variables into String variables for storage in 32K MX.

If you have a 32K MX Unit here's another way of getting around a large Basic program load problem. Load it via XB and see if it will run. If it does then Save it to Disk (under a different filename). You'll notice the Disk Directory may show an I/V 254 file in lieu of a Program. I/V 254 is the format by which XB saves a very large program to disk. You probably won't need to use CALL FILES(1) and NEW to reload it, but XB is mandatory.

Each line number uses at least 2 bytes of memory. If a Basic program runs in XB then restructuring groups of single statements into multistatement lines could save you a lot of memory, especially in very large programs.

A good way to see how much memory a program uses is to do the following (32K Memory Expansion and XB Ver 110 used as a reference).

Select XB. Then with nothing loaded Enter SIZE. You should see:

```
11840 Bytes Stack Free
24488 Bytes Program Free Space
```

Now load your program via XB, but DON'T RUN it. Enter SIZE again. You'll notice the Program Free Space has decreased. The difference tells you how much memory the program has used.

Next, Enter RUN then press FCTN 4 and wait for the program to Break. Enter SIZE again and you'll see a change in both the Stack and Program Free Space. These second differences tell you how much memory is being used up by Variables, Arrays, CALLS, GOSUBs, etc..

In addition each time a file is opened or a Disk Drive is accessed another 518 bytes of memory is used until the file is closed or disk access stops. So if you open a Disk Catalog file #1 and a Printer Port file #2 and access a Disk Drive file #3 you are tying up 1534 bytes of memory until the files are closed.

If only a small quantity of memory is available after the program boots, there may not be enough room left for file and disk drive access or variable manipulation. Thus your program will crash. I advise leaving around 1k (1000+ bytes) of memory free for the manipulation of variables. If the program opens files, leave at least 2k (2000+ bytes free for variables and files manipulation.

--- rjb ---

SNUG TREASURER'S REPORT - 30 NOVEMBER 1988	
( in lieu of 30 November 1988 bank statement)	
Karen Rodgers--Treasurer	
FIXED ANNUAL EXPENDITURES:	
SNUGLETter ( Estimated cost per 100 )	
Publication Costs ( \$10/mo x 12 ) . . . . .	\$ 120.00
Postage ( \$25/mo x 12 ) . . . . .	300.00
P. O. Box Rental Fee ( \$22 annually ) . . . . .	22.00
Bank Account Service Charge ( \$8/mo x 12 ) . . . . .	96.00
SNUG B/Board Phone Line ( \$11/mo x 12 ) . . . . .	132.00
Long Distance Phone Calls ( Estimated ) . . . . .	44.00
Miscellaneous Expenditures ( Estimated ) . . . . .	90.00
-----	
TOTAL ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS ( Estimated )	\$ 804.00
Annual Dues Collection (Avg 30 mbrs x \$18)	540.00
ANNUAL DEFICIT ( Estimated )	
To be recovered through fund raisers, disc copying fees, special sales, etc.	\$ 264.00
-----	
FUNDS BALANCE ( as of 31 October 1988 )	\$ 466.83
(includes \$7.61 September 1988 service charge)	
COLLECTIONS ( during November 1988 )	
Bulk Diskette/Disc Box Sales . . . . .	25.00
Disc of the Month Sales . . . . .	5.00
Miscellaneous TI Equipment Raffle . . . . .	19.00
-----	
( Sub-Total )	49.00
EXPENDITURES ( during November 1988 )	
Postage - September-November SNUGLETter . . . . .	62.25
-----	
( Sub-Total )	62.25
-----	
FUNDS AVAILABLE ( as of 30 November 1988)	
Checking Account ( General Operating Funds )	\$ 368.58
Funnelweb Donations Trust Fund . . . . .	85.00
-----	
( Bank Balance )	\$ 453.58



Merry Christmas

## SUPER EXTENDED BASIC OWNERS!

Have four modules in one with:

# MULTI-MOD

The *MULTI-MOD* is an upgrade kit for owners of Triton's Super Extended BASIC module that provides Editor/Assembler, Disk Manager III, and TI-Writer in addition to Super Extended BASIC. Once installed, the *MULTI-MOD* will allow the user to select any of the four modules from the TI menu screen. Selecting any module is just a matter of pressing a couple of keys. No switches, cartridge expanders, or swapping of modules is required.

Not only does the *MULTI-MOD* save wear on the module port, fewer operating errors caused by poorly seated modules will result. The need for cartridge expanders can be eliminated, contributing to the ease of typing. Since all four modules can be accessed by the computer, the *MULTI-MOD* also allows the user to write programs that access the capabilities of the other modules.

The *MULTI-MOD* is completely compatible with the original Super Extended BASIC. The Editor/Assembler and TI-Writer provide all the functions of the original modules while the Disk Manager III provides convenient enhancements to the Disk Manager II module. With the new Disk Manager, drives up to an including DSK9 may be accessed as either single or double sided and single or double density. Help screens with complete listings of error codes are available and the PIO printer port is now selectable as a menu option. The Disk Manager is compatible with TI, CorComp, or Myarc disk controllers.

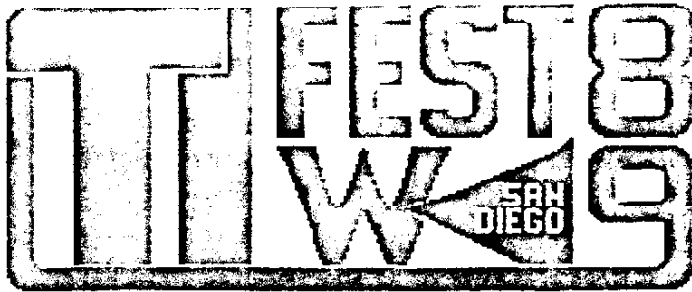
The only tool needed to install the *MULTI-MOD* upgrade kit is a flat-blade screwdriver (used to open the module case and remove chips). The *MULTI-MOD* plugs into existing sockets and no soldering is required. An illustrated installation guide is included in the *MULTI-MOD* manual. The *MULTI-MOD* may ONLY be used in a Triton Super Extended BASIC module.

The *MULTI-MOD* kit includes the *MULTI-MOD* upgrade, an instruction manual describing how to use the *MULTI-MOD*'s features, and one diskette with the necessary support files for Editor/Assembler and TI-Writer. (Note: Complete manuals for the additional modules are not included with the *MULTI-MOD*. These are available from Texas Instruments.)

To order, send \$22.95 (cash or check, please) to:

John Guion  
11923 Quincy Lane  
Dallas, TX 75230

(Super Extended BASIC is a trademark of Triton Products Company)



TI-FEST WEST '89  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COMPUTER GROUP  
P.O. Box 21181  
El Cajon, CA 92021  
BBS (619) 278-8155 300/1200 Baud  
18-19 February 1989  
Clarion Hotel at Balboa Park  
2223 El Cajon Boulevard  
San Diego, CA 92104

Announcing TI-FEST WEST '89 sponsored by the Southern California Computer Group of San Diego in conjunction with the Los Angeles 99er User Group and assisted by the Tucson 99er User Group.

Date/Time: 18-19 February 1989, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Admittance: \$4.00 (good for both days) at the door, \$3.00 if ordered in advance (minimum 6 tickets). Family members over 15 years of age, \$1.00, under 15 admitted free but must be accompanied by adult at all times.

Location: Clarion Hotel at Balboa Park (formerly Lafayette Hotel)  
2223 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego, CA 92104

Room Rates: Garden Room \$52.92\* (1 queen size bed, 1-2 persons)  
Manor Room \$63.72\* (1 queen-size bed, 1-2 persons)  
Cabana Room \$74.52\* (2 queen-size beds, 1-2 persons)  
\* 8% city room tax is INCLUDED in these rates

For more information on hotel and rooms call  
from San Diego: 296-2101  
from California: 800-423-1935  
outside Calif.: 800-843-9988

You may reserve your room directly by calling the numbers listed above but please make sure to indicate that you are attending the TI-FEST. Reservations must be received no later than 1 February 1989. Advance deposit for the first night is required and is refundable if cancelled at least 72 hours prior to arrival date.

5200 sq/ft of exhibit space are available. There is no charge for booths and tables for commercial exhibitors and user groups. To reserve exhibit space or for an information package, including hotel reservation form, write to TI-FEST WEST c/o the SCCG address given above or leave private message to SysOp with your name and full address. You may also download a hotel reservation form (TEXT file #2) and/or an exhibit space request form (TEXT file #3) from our BBS.

San Diego offers many outstanding attractions such as Sea World, its world-renowned Zoo and Wild Animal Park, shopping centers like Horton Plaza and Seaport Village and much more. So plan to come on down and bring the family. The Fest happens to fall on a 3-day holiday weekend so you will have an extra day afterwards to take in some of the sights.

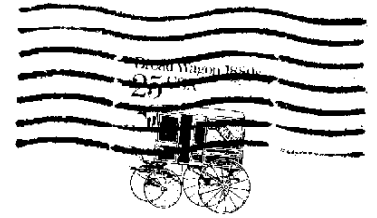
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SOUTHERN NEVADA USERS' GROUP
The SNUGLETter is published monthly by the Southern Nevada
Users' Group (SNUG). SNUG is a non-profit organization of
individuals with an interest in all aspects of Texas Instru-
ments' 99xx & 99xxx based computers including hardware
and software by third party vendors. The GROUP meets 6:30
PM on the second Monday of the month - currently in the
Nevada Power Company, Wengert Community Meeting Room.,
6226 West Sahara Avenue. Visitors and guests are welcome to
attend the meetings. Information on membership is available
at the meeting. Articles may be copied from the SNUGLETter
provided credit is given to both the author and the original
source and that the article not be used for profit.
(For-profit organizations wishing to use any articles from
the SNUGLETter will need to make prior arrangements with the
Executive of the Southern Nevada Users' Group.)

SNUG OFFICERS 1988-1989:
President: Bob Sherburne - 642-6972
Vice President: Gordon Leonard - 384-2302
Secretary: Cindy Mitchell - 871-0309
Treasurer: Karen Rodgers - 565-1930
Librarian: Bob Bieger - 878-3167 (temporary libraian)
Associate Librarian: Lance Wilson - 648-6452
Membership: ?
Youth Liason: Kim Wellman - 454-1376
SNUG Bulletin Board - (702)648-1247; 24hours 300/1200
*****
NEWSLETTER INFORMATION:
Editor: Rudy Johnson - 871-9583
Assoc. Ed.: George Tilley - 454-5735
Newsletter submissions can be sent to P.O. Box 26301,
Las Vegas, NV 89126. Articles using TI-Writer on disk
are ideal. They may also be phoned with a moden. also
a preferred method.
*****

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Southern Nevada Users' Group (SNUG)  
P.O. Box 26301  
Las Vegas, NV 89126-0301



Dallas TI Home Computer Group  
P.O Box 29863  
Dallas TX 75229

TO:



HAPPY NEW  
YEAR