

THE



SNUGLETter

FROM THE
Volume 11 No10

SOUTHERN NEVADA USERS' GROUP

October 1992

The Last Partition

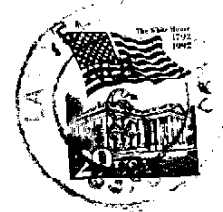
With regret, the Southern Nevada Users' Group wishes to inform those users' groups with which we have been exchanging newsletters for the past years of some measures that have been recently voted upon by our group that will have some drastic results for those users' groups. Almost a year ago SNUG announced that, due to financial shortfalls, the group would be suspending the exchange of newsletters in favor of some other mechanism of exchanging newsletters. With a couple of lucky breaks the group has been able to forestall the newsletter suspension. However, the situation has become critical with SNUG now being unable to continue the newsletter exchange and another financially viable alternative has not been found. Therefore, to relieve our treasury of further deficits, *SNUG is making this issue of the SNUGLETter the last one that will be sent out in the newsletter exchange.* We do not expect that other groups will continue a unilateral exchange to the benefit of SNUG, therefore we request that SNUG be removed from other groups' mailing list for the exchange of newsletters. A great deal of discussion of many aspects of SNUG's operations and future

directions preceded this and other internal changes which are necessary to continue the operation of the group for the remaining members. Another item of note is that SNUG is discontinuing the post office box which has been maintained for many years. *Future mail contact should be directed to the Southern Nevada Users' Group, c/o Rudy Johnson, 6317 O'Bannon Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89102.* SNUG will be continuing the operation of the group's BBS at the same telephone number, (702) 648-1247, for those who may wish to contact the group via that method. It should be emphasized that SNUG is not disbanding, but only reducing the number of contacts that we will continue with other members of the TI/Geneve community. We will continue to subscribe to various TI publications and to some key users' groups newsletters, and will leave some tracks on some of the national information services. We have enjoyed the continuous exchange of information and programs for the past years and hope that some new avenue opens in the future.

Hope to see ya'll around about!

Rudy Johnson, SNUG President

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



TO

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



**From
The
President
by
Rudy Johnson**

Even though I was fashionably late for the monthly officers' meeting I did manage to pick up a few items that are of concern to some of us. With the number of members that SNUG now has, the officers are questioning the need to continue paying for some of the items that we currently support. This is in response to the abysmal bank balance that we have. In fact, the bank account is one of the items that we are looking at. With the recent acquisition and integration of Valley Bank into Bank of America we are looking at the account costing us at least \$100 per year. With as few checks as we write for SNUG business, it doesn't seem very cost effective to continue paying the service charges on this account. The second item that came up was the need for continuing the post office rental of a mail box. The cost of the box is currently \$30 per year, and as all items which are connected to the Post Office, it is likely to increase. And to quote George, "It is not necessarily a source of joy for the old man," in reference to picking up the newsletters and also to editing the newsletter each month. And, finally, continuing discussion occurred with regard to the newsletter exchange. Other than George and me, none of the officers are aware of anyone having taken any interest in looking at the newsletters which we exchange for several years - and George and I only scan the newsletters for topical information which there is damn little of these days in most of the newsletters. The serious discussion tended toward terminating our newsletter exchange. We could still have a local newsletter to support SNUG activities and business, but this would relieve us of the biggest dollar outlay that SNUG incurs. I suggested to Delphi a year ago that a newsletter exchange area be set up. After a brief flurry of interest nothing became of it. And I haven't had enough time to pursue any further details in that area. I don't feel that the clearing house BBS that Central Ohio UG formed is really an option

for exchanging newsletters for us. If one considers the limited time that is available for use by most people on a BBS with even 50 active users calling just twice a week you get an idea of the problems that are involved there. And if you are like me, you only have limited times in which to do these sort of things anyway, and having to fit into another schedule would just ruin my day. Of course, we haven't even mentioned the fact that the long distance charges would chew up as much money as the newsletters cost so we haven't gained anything but frustration. And I've never met anyone who is looking for that.

The DOS Partition

The only item that I have this week is some messing around that I have been doing with the RESTORE command in DOS. A while back (April 24th) I actually had made a back-up of all the files on my hard drive. (Didn't know that anyone actually did that did you?) I did this when I started to have some glitches on the drive and I reformatted it, but I actually did a DOS BACKUP. (FYI it took 29 3.5-inch HD floppies to backup 50 to 60 megabytes of files.) Well, I had finally found a file that I had not made a copy of anywhere else, so I was forced to resort to the backups. It turns out that using the RESTORE command is not nearly as bad as it seems. Even when the file I needed was on the 27th floppy! The RESTORE command has a lot of options to look at the files that are on the floppies (a catalog, sort of), as well as recovering only specific files based upon the name, date, time, and existence or nonexistence on the destination disk. I suppose this would make a good demonstration if anyone is interested. Let the officers know of your interest in this sort of topic.

The 4A Partition

I have little to report here this month. I have not been on Delphi for several weeks, so I have nothing to report from that front, and I haven't received my MICROpendium which normally arrives just before I sit down to write this column. I did upload the files to the SNUG BBS that I mentioned in the last SNUGLETter, so they are.

(continued on page 3)

Secretary's Report



by Cindy Mitchell

Monday, September 14, 1992 is a day John Martin and the members of SNUG will not forget for a long time. The demonstration for this meeting was "Anti Virus" programs. Preparing for the meeting John discovered the Michelangelo Virus in his computer. To say the least this could not have been more timely, at least for the demo. Needless to say John was not that happy about it, since Michelangelo is one of the most destructive viruses around.

For the demonstration John used "Norton Scan" to identify the virus, then a copy of "VirusCure" by McAfee that Don Mitchell had brought in. Then Gordon Leonard ran the shareware antivirus program "Scan" by McAfee. Two of the programs identified the virus as Michelangelo and one as the Stoned virus. The decisions were numerous, which program to use to rid John's computer of this virus. Which virus to remove? How did John get infected? Could the virus be copied to a floppy? The tension was growing. The Michelangelo was not active and was simple to remove but removing the Stoned virus could destroy the partition table. There really was no choice. Michel would have to go.



After several tries to get the virus on a system diskette John decided to use McAfee's "Scan". Michelangelo was removed painlessly and quickly. All the programs are good, but the user has to utilize one every time the computer is turned on or a new program is acquired.

There is a Friday the 13th in November, so beware. John has found the virus on some of his floppies but has not identified the source.

There will be two interesting demonstrations at the October meeting. Fred Guise will run "Quicken", an electronic finance program for home and small business. John Martin will bring in "Microsoft Money" for Windows another electronic financial-management

program. If you are thinking about investing in this type of package here is the chance to compare the features and ease of using first hand.

There will also be some **IMPORTANT CLUB BUSINESS** which concerns all the members. Another good meeting, so be there. We need you.

 Cindy
Mitchell 

SECRETARY
SNUG USERS GROUP

President's Report (continued from page 2)

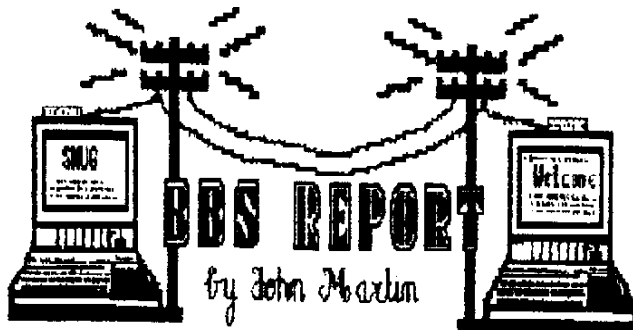
available. As an item of interest to those who still use their 4A or Geneve machines, I will inform you that while some things are much more user friendly on the PC, some things are damned difficult. I kept up the mailing list information on TIBase on my Geneve before PC.

After a lot (read that LOT!) of work I managed to port the information over to the PC into a database in Microsoft Works for Windows. Updating the information in the Works environment is quite a bit quicker and easier on the PC. However, (Isn't there always a glitch) I had to work almost as hard to get a copy of the labels into a file to send to John as I had to get the information to the PC in the first place. There is no direct print to file capability in this particular program. Oh! the joys of being able to specify print to DSK1.LABELS and have a file of the information!

I think that we are going to have a look at both Quicken and MS Money for maintaining personal financial records at the next meeting. We also have some items to discuss at the next meeting regarding the directions to take with the club's financial set up. So, be there if you have any input to the topics which I mentioned earlier.

See you Monday, October 12th.

Rudy



The BBS is humming along without any problems. I've been waiting 7 years to be able to say that! There hasn't even been so much as a hiccup this month. The only problem with this scenario is that I don't have much to write about for this column.

There is something I would like to discuss that doesn't necessarily fall into the category of "BBS REPORT". At the last officer's meeting, we found ourselves discussing club finances. As it turns out, we have technically been insolvent for the last several months. Due to the dedication of a few individuals, the club has continued to run as if nothing were wrong. The main expense for our group has always been the newsletter. For the last few months, the entire expense of producing the SNUGLETter has been absorbed by George Tilley and Dave Gaberel. If they had been reimbursed for copying and postage expenses, we would be deep into deficit spending by now. We have all known for some time now that we have been spending more money than we have been taking in. Over a year ago, we predicted that we would run out of money by December. We managed to prolong things by cutting down on our copying expenses and cutting back somewhat on our exchanges. We also had some extra money that wasn't spent when we bought the 286 computer to run the BBS on. Since that money was donated by the members for a specific purpose, it has been accounted for separately from the general fund. Even using that money to pay current expenses, we fall short. At the officer's meeting we discussed several possible courses of action that we could take to once again get the club back on firm financial ground.

One of the possible solutions is to eliminate the exchange newsletters altogether. This solution may

seem a bit harsh at first glance, but when analyzed, it begins to look better.

- Even when our group was in its heyday, there were no more than 3 or 4 people who regularly read the exchange newsletters. Most of us depended on people like George to sift through them each month and reprint the best of what he found there.
- Since the majority of us now use the PC almost exclusively, most of the information in the exchange newsletters is probably of no use to us anymore.
- Along the same lines, and for the same reason, most of the information in our newsletter is of little or no use to a predominantly TI user's group.

I know that it is hard to give up a tradition, especially one that has been such a source of information and friendship in the past. There are a number of us who have had articles reprinted in other newsletters and even in computer magazines. This is something to be proud of. I would not suggest such a drastic step if I could see a better solution. Please understand, George has not complained. Neither has Dave as far as I know, but it is not fair to ask them to continue to foot the entire bill for the newsletter. Something has to be done to make things more equitable.

I know, some of you might bring up the fact that the club hasn't been paying phone expenses for the BBS either. On the face of it, this would seem to be a similar situation, but there are several differences.

- I often use the BBS phone for personal use. I make phone calls when my own phone is busy.
- The BBS is like a second answering machine. Many of you have left me messages on the board when you couldn't get me by phone.
- The BBS is a great source for new software. have unlimited access, unlimited downloads, and a handy backup of many programs that I use on my own system.

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BBS Report (continued from page 4)

I get all this and more for a few bucks a month. It's cheaper than compuserve, or even some of the local BBS's and I get to "meet" a lot of people from all over the country. By contrast, all Dave gets for his money is a newsletter. George doesn't even get that much since he has to create the newsletter himself. I believe that we should discuss the option of dropping the exchange newsletters as well as any other possible solutions that the membership can come up with.

Well, enough of the ol' soapbox. Guess it's time to get down to the GOOD stuff!

New in the PC section this month:

DEBTR20.ZIP 155,648 09-07-92 Loan Organizer

Uploaded By: Rodger Hartley

SHIELL-92.ZIP 31,744 09-08-92 Programmers

Shell, Accepts Most Languages

Uploaded By: Rodger Hartley

KLOTZ.ZIP 46,464 09-09-92 A Tetris Like Game

Uploaded By: Geo Campbell

CPRTRAIN.ZIP 64,512 09-18-92 Train For Cpr Certification

Uploaded By: Murray Pennock

DOCSMA30.ZIP 48,000 09-20-92 Compresses 4

Pages Of Ascii Text Onto 1 Page

Uploaded By: Gordon Leonard

3PIRADA.ZIP 151,552 09-23-92 Casino Type Games (3)

Uploaded By: Henry Nitta

SDI2040.ZIP 179,200 09-25-92 Space Invaders

Type Game. Not Bad...

Uploaded By: Bob Sherburne

MORAF.ARJ 10,240 09-26-92 Nice Screen

Saver! Run For Documentation.

Uploaded By: Bob Sherburne

WVPORKY.ZIP 14,336 09-30-92 Windows Wav

File Of Porky Fig...

Uploaded By: Bob Sherburne

Snug BBS
(702) 648-1247
On Line 24 hours a day
Give us a Call

New in the TI section this month:

AMS.TXT 0,003 09-15-92 Asgard 128k

Memory For Ti/4a Announcement

Uploaded By: Rudy Johnson

New in the Geneve section this month:

MDOS120 73,600 09-15-92 Interim Mdos1.20f

For Testing By Users

Uploaded By: Rudy Johnson

ABASIC.300 46,208 09-15-92 Interim Abasic

3.00 For Testing

Uploaded By: Rudy Johnson

DM132.ARC 20,352 09-15-92 Dm V1.32 To

Work With 0.98h Mdos

Uploaded By: Rudy Johnson

MDOSDEV.ARC 45,184 09-15-92 2 Delphi

Conferences Re: Mdos Buyout

Uploaded By: Rudy Johnson

WHTCON.ARC 41,344 09-15-92 2 Delphi

Conferences By Western Horz. Tech.

Uploaded By: Rudy Johnson

MDOSBUY.TXT 3,855 09-15-92 Letter From

9640news On Mdos Buyout Status

Uploaded By: Rudy Johnson

MISER.TXT 2,592 09-15-92 IId Backup Pgm

Announcement By Lgma Products

Uploaded By: Rudy Johnson

Well, Guess that's about it for this time. See ya at the meeting.

John-

Our Quote of the day:

*Never ask of money spent
Where the spender thinks it went.
Nobody was ever meant
To remember or invent
What he did with every cent.*

-Robert Frost



Librarian's Report

by
George Campbell

By the time this is published Nancy and I will have celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary (9/29), and will be back in Missouri to attend the Zimmerman family reunion. Which is a long winded way of telling you the library will be closed until about Oct. 20th. Note that the Geneve is enjoying a revival with the arrival of an interim new DOS which Pres. Johnson uploaded to the Geneve section of our BBS. Astonishing speed! - considering past performance of support for the Geneve. It looks like the few bucks sent in to support the MYARC DOS buyout was money well spent.

It seems to me that the PC world learned very little from TI (and apples) prior entrance into home computers. My PC uses its hard drive a lot more than I do. The TI hard drive wouldn't hold all the files that Mr. PC writes to its hard drive each time it is turned on. And woe betides me when I do very little from TI (and do a quick exit and don't give Mr PC time to write its ton of files to the hard drive. I suppose its possible to operate a PC without a hard drive, but think it would be like operating the TI console with just a cassette tape input. I would dearly love to know what the home computer world would be now if Texas Instruments had continued to support and grow in this field. I think we would be carrying a PC around in a shirt pocket now - or close to it. Its amusing to speculate on the □ results anyway.

My excursion into the IBM PC world the past three months or so has been more than an education in operating a PC. It is also a reminder of how dependent a computer user is on a library of software. We are blessed with good TI and PC libraries, both on the BBS and our own resources. I do know some computer users out in the sticks, and without a

modem, so that acquiring a program is a major undertaking. I have lived with the TI library so long that its hard to imagine doing without it. I aquired a PC with 60+ MB of programs on its hard drive, but not a scrap of operating instruction. Andy had a modem, and a program (bitcom) that reconfigured its-self faster than I could. Finally Cindy Mitchell gave me a copy of procomm that worked like a charm, and I could call our BBS, and download files. But they were zipped, and I couldn't unzip them. (The zip program comes zipped too.) After a week or so of that, John Martin casually mentioned that Xtgold among other things, zips and unzips files. He COULD have told me a week earlier. ---anyway the BBS now tells me that I have now uploaded 50 (TI) files, and downloaded 50 (PC) files. The point is that computing would be much harder without our librarians, --- and a little help from our friends.

- I'm gone and will see you at the Nov. meeting
Geo Campbell

SNUG TREASURER'S REPORT - 30 SEP 1992

(in lieu of 30 SEP 1992 bank statement)
Ralph F. Guise - Treasurer

FIXED ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

(see Nov 90 Newsletter for last revision)

BANK STATEMENT BALANCE (as of 8/31/92)	
(w/7.72 service charge).	+249.72
BB FUNDS,	+178.80
GENERAL,	+70.92
FUNDS STATUS - 30 SEP 1992	
COLLECTIONS-Membership Dues,	+54.00
EXPENDITURES (EST.)	
Postage - MAY-SEP 92,	-110.00
Copying - APR-SEP 92,	-113.54
(sub-total),	-169.54
BB BALANCE ,	+178.80
GENERAL BALANCE,	-169.54
PETTY-CASH (undeposited funds),	0.00
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE,	+ 9.26