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**BOSTUG**  
**Sinclair/Timex Newsletter**  
**September/October 1989**

\$1.00/copy

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome back to the world of print! As a result of some real effort by members we are publishing again. How many more newsletters appear depends on how much we have to publish. That's a HINT!

The QL sub-group is still active, although we have lost several members through relocation. Mike Padlipski has taken a job in the LA area and Alan Hodge has pulled up stakes to move to San Diego. We wish them luck and, as a personal note, I will miss their friendship.

A contingent of 6 from the BCS were at the CATS Fest in May. We can report that support for Sinclairs is alive and well, though another 50 people at the show would have been a real shot in the arm. I wish we had had an article on the show in this issue. We draw your attention to TWO (2) shows of interest in 1990 as discussed elsewhere in this issue.

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On the negative side we are faced with a real problem with our second bulletin board. Jim Rodlin's education has forced his restructuring of the TIMEWARP BBS to take a back seat. Whether or not it comes back is in the hands of the Gods. Any takers out there for the BCS owned equipment? Operating expenses and a dedicated phone line are covered by your membership dues allocation.

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As a final note, we have a 24 pin printer to produce the copy. We think that the output is vastly superior to 9 pin and close to what you can get with a laser.

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The Sinclair/Timex Newsletter is the official publication of the Sinclair/Timex User Group of the Boston Computer Society (BoSTUG).

Annual membership for New England residents is \$40.00 (otherwise \$34.00) per year. Subscription to BCS/Update and one other newsletter is included without cost.

The newsletter has an exchange policy with Sinclair/Timex User groups willing to reciprocate. Please forward exchange issues to Joyce Blaho, 971 Fellsway, Medford, MA 02155.

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## MEETING NOTES

There will be no October meeting of the BoSTUG. The next scheduled meeting is the QL sub-group on Saturday, November 4, from 11 am to 4 pm. The location is not yet set. Call me at (617) 889-0830 if you are not a regular in the QL group for directions.

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### NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE by Joyce Blaho

You may not be aware that our group exchanges our newsletter with other Sinclair Groups across North America.

A library of these newsletters is available at meetings to read. A sampling of offerings is often reprinted in BoSTUG.

The following are some statistics of topics found in newsletters during 1989 that we exchange.

#### % OF NEWSLETTERS THAT COVER THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| TS-1000 & ZX-81     | 20% |
| TS-2068             | 42% |
| QL                  | 23% |
| Z88                 | 10% |
| Electronic hobbyist | 39% |
| Dues & small talk   | 87% |

The percentage is of newsletters that cover a particular topic. For example, only 20% of all newsletters have had one or more articles on the TS-1000 or the ZX-81 during 1989.

This can give you a feel for what is written in the newsletters.

Clearly, from the numbers most newsletters have columns that pass on information about new products, what is heard in the press, or club dues, meetings and location.

Few newsletters print programs written by the members. It seems that few Sinclair computerists are developing new programs. Granted, Sinclair computers are not new, but there must be more people out there doing something new with them.

A number of newsletters reprint just from other newsletters - little that is original from within the group.

The most popular computer is the TS-2068. There's a lot of support for them. This is where you'll find a good number of electronic hobbyist articles. Much of the support for the TS-2068 is due to the large installed base in North America and the development of the Larken Disk Drive system that extends its functional life into the 1990's.

Few newsletters support the Z88. This is unfortunate, since many Sinclair enthusiasts have more than one computer, but it may simply reflect that the Z88 is less a hobbyist's computer.

It's a shame there are not more original programs or personal insights, tips and discoveries by users.

The information may be out there, but you and I will never know until people take to the keyboard and distribute their experiences in their local newsletter.

Editor's note: There are many still using ZX-81/TS-1000/TS-2068 computers who would benefit from reading these newsletters, even if the active group can't.

This would be a great reason to reactivate the General Meeting if there is demand.

