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## **Turftalk** **Are You On-Line?**

by Roger Stewart

I recently began using the internal modem that came with the computer I received from Toro for my Irrigation Central Controller. It was a little intimidating at first, being the novice computer user that I am. However, after the first forays into this world of electronic communication, I was "hooked". It became something I looked forward to everyday. Using TURFTALK and TURFBYTE is fun, interesting, informative, and still growing! I would like to strongly encourage every Superintendent in the Chicagoland area who has a computer to get a modem and become an active user of TURFTALK.

Those of you who are thinking TURFTALK but just haven't done anything, need to get started now because you are missing a great opportunity. Let me give you some background. TURFTALK is a Bulletin Board Service for Chicago area Golf Course Superintendents that was set up originally by Russ Fink at Tamarack Golf Club in Naperville. Russ is what most of you would consider a computer "hack". That's a positive term meaning he has a great deal of knowledge about computers. Russ got TURFTALK up and running with the help of several vendors and the CDGA through financial contributions they all made to this endeavor. Russ did a fabulous job starting and maintaining TURFTALK for a couple years at Tamarack but with change in ownership at Tamarack, Russ unfortunately lost his job! Aside from this problem, Russ faced the problem of what to do about TURFTALK. Relocating it to his house was not a cost he could absorb at this time. I volunteered to help by running TURFTALK out of my computer. Russ accepted the offer and now TURFTALK is running out of Stonebridge. Thanks to Russ for all his help in moving TURFTALK and therefore preventing it's possible demise.

My main purpose today is to promote the use of TURFTALK to all MAGCS members. We currently have about twenty users of which only about 4-5 are regular contributor/users. The success of TURFTALK is greatly dependent on people leaving messages and information as well as retrieving their messages. The more messages that are left, the more information that is available. The best part about it, is that it is so easy to use. Once you have purchased the modem and communication software, the rest is easier than most computer novices think.

For those of you who don't have a modem, I recently checked some prices at Egghead Software and you can buy a 2400 Baud modem for \$59.95-\$79.95 and with top price you get Fax capabilities as well. ProComm Plus for DOS is a common software program and it sells for \$83.99. These will run on any PC, 8086 or 8088 or 8286 or 8386 or 8486 microprocessor. So, you can see, probably for less than \$200, you can get "ON-LINE" with the rest of us. Also, you can use your existing phone line. Remember, you also will be able to access TURFBYTE, the national BBS for superintendents in Lawrence, KS for the price of a long distance phone call.

The new number for TURFTALK is 708/898-6168 so come on and before you know it you will uploading and downloading like a "hack". If you have any questions, call me at 708/898-6139 or call Bruce Williams, Rory Bancroft, Ray Schmitz, Bob Maibusch or any other current BBS user and we will help you out.

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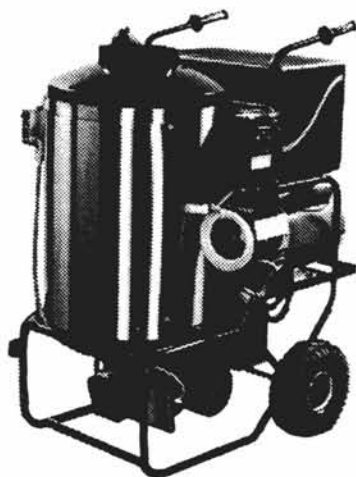
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