

# DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP

OCTOBER 1983

Meetings: 7:00pm, 3rd Friday each month  
At Northlake College, Room B-206, Irving, Texas

President: Rod Paulson -- Secretary: Doyle Kelly  
Treasurer: Gene Williams -- Editor: Robert Leo Hoffpauer

This newsletter is the official publication of the DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP, a non-profit organization serving member/users of the Texas Instruments 99/4A HOME COMPUTER. For more information send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP, P.O. Box 4082, #8000, Texas 75098.

Surprise, surprise! We'll just bet that many of you had given us up, not having received a newsletter for some time; and if you haven't attended any of the last several meetings (how were you to know for sure that we were having a meeting, since you hadn't received a newsletter?) you may have assumed that the DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP had faded away. Well, the good news is that we are still here, and now that one of our members has decided to take sole responsibility for publishing the newsletter, we hope that we can send it out each week regularly -- and that more of you will attend.

## LATE NEWS

The September meeting was spent in a general discussion of our organization, and the possibilities for improving its value to our members. One of the primary topics discussed was the need to more evenly spread the workload among our members. One of the facts of volunteer organizations is that all too often, the tasks involved in keeping the organization running fall too heavily on the shoulders of just a few, and as a result the few get "burned out."

Other topics included the problem of finding a semi-permanent location for our meetings, which could include a secure storage for club-owned equipment which we might purchase if such a location was available. This would lend immeasurable returns to our ability to both make presentations at meetings and to make our club library of programs available to our members. Your help, if you know of such a location, is needed now -- contact us with your suggestions/leads. Kieth Alther has volunteered to provide refreshments (this December) and Glenn Ashe has volunteered to chair a group investigating ways to make our library more available.

## COMMITTEE'S NEWS Rod Paulson

As new president of the DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP, I want to express my regrets at having to accept the resignation of Bill Kaeth. Bill did an excellent job for us, virtually running the club single handedly for most of the past year. That effort, plus the increasing demands of time and travel in his business, made it necessary for Bill to step down as our president. I'm sure I speak for the entire club in thanking you for your contribution to the club, Bill. I hope you will stay on with us as actively as your time allows.

Also, as the new president of the users' group, I want to express my appreciation to those members who stuck with us during these past difficult months. I'm especially grateful to those who stepped forward and volunteered their services on committees -- specifically these new committee heads:

Kieth Alther -- Hospitality Chairman  
Glenn Ashe -- Library Chairman  
Robert Hoffpauer -- Newsletter Editor

Also, a big thanks to Doyle Kelley for his efforts in the transition of these responsibilities.

We still have opportunities in the committees, and I will be soliciting the assistance of other interested members for help in these areas.

## NEXT MEETING Friday, 21 October, 1983

We are working on getting some samples of the newly released (at long last) PLATO educational software to demonstrate. Our meeting place (Northlake Community College) is located in Irving, on Mac Arthur Boulevard. The best way to get there is to take Highway 114, West, staying in the left lane, and turning left (South) at Mac Arthur. Continue South, past Walnut Hill Lane, and look for the Northlake College entrance on your right. Our meeting will be held in room B-206. Look for the gym, and enter the lower level of the Business Building across from the gym. B-206 is down the hall on your right. See you there!

## LATE BREAKING NEWS No 99/8 This Year!

Last Thursday it was reported in the Dallas Times Herald and in the Wall Street Journal that Texas Instruments had decided not to release the rumored 99/8 computer, at least for this year. TI reportedly would not elaborate on what this means for the future, however, a TI user (named Gil) posted a notice on the Source last week that TI had completed their first production run of the new computer. Whether this last item is reliable or not is open to question. If so, we might expect a release next year, but then we might see TI revamp their plans to introduce a product designed to compete with IBM's new Peanut. Reporting in both newspapers was mostly speculation by industry observers as to the report of TI's decision, with mixed messages as to its meaning. It was reported that TI has inventory to build as many as three million 99/4A's, and some speculation centered around thoughts that TI may be trying to reduce this inventory before entering a new product into the market.

**SPECIAL ATTENDANCE** - Jack Kishpaugh, one of our members from Fort Worth, attended our May meeting, sharing with us several of his activities. Jack has been very active in the support of Computer Aids for the Handicapped, and has received awards (and special engineering support from Texas Instruments) for the computer modifications Jack has implemented. The following reprint, (from Paraplegia News vol.36, no.10) describes some of his current activities. Also the Spring '83 issue of the TI Advantage Club Newsletter has a feature article on Jack as well as his picture on the front cover. Jack made an appeal for continued support of his projects for the Handicapped. If you know of anybody needing this special assistance or if you would like to help out in any way, Please Call or Write Jack Kishpaugh or contact Bill Kauth at the meeting. We really appreciate the Giving Spirit of this man, who has overcome many of his own handicaps, to go on and serve his community by "Getting Involved". Way to go JACK!

### **Kishpaugh receives handicapped award**

Jack Kishpaugh of Fort Worth, Texas has been named Texas Handicapped Person of the Year by the Texas Rehabilitation Association.

Kishpaugh, a quadriplegic for the past 10 years, is intimately familiar with physical limitations of the severely handicapped and with their need to be as productive and self-sufficient as possible. For the past two years, he has been working on computer applications for the disabled. He received national attention recently as one of the top 30 entrants in the John Hopkins First National Search for Computer Aides for the Handicapped.

Working with the National Paraplegia Foundation (NPF), Kishpaugh designed a "Mobile Computer Skills Evaluation Unit" to demonstrate that handicapped people can be trained on the use of computers and then be gainfully employed, working on computer terminals located within their own homes.

The project became a community effort. Kishpaugh designed the computer modifications mentally and directed less handicapped people to do the manual labor. Others donated equipment or served as arm-chair advisors.

With a 40-50 percent shortfall in the availability of computer operators to support business and industry's needs, the home-bound population is a significant untapped resource. The employer saves on the cost of officing and has an em-

ployee who can work at odd hours when there is not a heavy demand on the main frame and data bank. The employee saves on transportation, wardrobe, eating out, and, most of all, time.

NPF has already "sold" the idea to several Dallas-Fort Worth area employers. As more funds become available, the program will be expanded.

"Computers can open many doors for all people," Kishpaugh said, "but particularly those who are home-bound due to physical limitations or other circumstances such as caring for small children or early retirement."

In addition to the NPF project, Kishpaugh is working on several other computer applications for the handicapped.

Kishpaugh, with some ingenious electronic gadgets, can do many things for himself. He is constantly experimenting with new ideas and adaptations for the purpose of demonstrating first-hand how self-sufficient the disabled can be. He'll make suggestions to an engineer who'll take his ideas and make them reality. He is trying out voice recognition computer equipment that appears to have "unbelievable potential."

Kishpaugh's interest in promoting quality of life and health for the disabled spills over into the entire community. He serves on the Board of Directors of Texas Area 5 Health Systems Agency and National Paraplegia Association and is active with Texas PVA and the Veterans Administration.

**NOTE-** There are several new books out for the TI-99/4A. These will be available at the meeting for your inspection. Also some of you will receive with your newsletter an Invoice for your membership dues and a membership card for new members. If you have not sent in your Dues, please do so at this month's meeting.

**SEE YOU THERE!!** 7pm, June 17th at B-206 Northlake College.